# VEP NEWS

### • VEP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION •

Representing More Than 2,000 Families In The Blossom Valley Area Of South San Jose Since 1969



With rushing winds
and gloomy skies
The dark and
stubborn Winter dies:
Far-off, unseen,
Spring faintly cries,
Bidding her
earliest child arise;

March!

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The "VEP News" is the official publication of the VEP Community Association, published monthly during the months of September through May each year.

We appreciate and will, at the discretion of the VEP Executive Board, attempt to publish any and all articles that will be of general interest to our membership community.

The VEP strongly encourages local schools to submit news articles about events and achievements on their campuses. Articles written by students will be given extra special consideration.

Persons, schools, or organizations who are interested in submitting articles, letters, or information to be included in the VEP News are encouraged to contact the Editor of the "VEP News," Mrs. Rachel Witmeyer. Email: vepeditor@gmail.com // Phone: 408-728-7296

### **VEP Community Association Membership**

Persons who would like to join the VEP Community Association may send their name, address, and \$20 yearly dues to:

VEP Community Association P.O. BOX 18037; SAN JOSE, CA; 95158.

Please, do not send cash. Make checks payable to "VEP."

### VEP Community Association ~ Executive Board of Directors



President - Marilyn Rodgers
Vice President - Katherine Decker
Secretary - Adina Pierce
Treasurer - Position Open
Director - Helen Castillo



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### **VEP COMMUNITY MEETING**

► Tuesday, March 27th ◀

Meeting @7:30pm ~ Late Arrivals O.K.!

Vista Park Community Room 475 Hyde Park Drive

**Everyone** is welcome. Invite your neighbors!

### **AGENDA**

★ Evergreen Senior Housing Initiative ★

\*\* Mackenzie Mossing \*\*

Almaden Valley Resident
Member of "stopthedeception" Community Group

**★** Homeless Concerns of San Jose ★

Presentation by **Art Nino, Director** 

★ VEP Business Meeting ★

**Announcements & Updates** 

Councilmember Khamis and Staff Updates on District 10 and City of San Jose Details and Planning for Branham Lane "Wall Painting Party"

Upcoming Events
Save the Dates

Branham Lane "Wall Painting Party" Saturday, April 28th

Annual VEP Neighborhood-wide Garage Sale (Includes Salvation Army Donation Truck) Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>

VEP's Next Meeting - Tuesday, April 24th

**★** Your Concerns and Ideas ★

Your chance to voice your opinion and/or to seek VEP's help.

# **♦ 2018 is VEP's 49th Year!**

### VEP's March Meeting Preview

By Marilyn Rodgers

- ▶ Meeting Speakers: Mackenzie Mossing, Almaden Resident and Member/Volunteer Coordinator for a grassroots community organization "stopthedeception," will provide an overview of concerns/issues with wealthy developers, coming from out of the area, who are circumventing City requirements and protections to build this project. Second speaker Art Nino, Director of Homeless Concerns of San Jose, will provide an overview of the processes used, funding sources, and services the nonprofit organization provides to homeless individuals in San Jose.
- ▶ VEP Business Meeting / Announcements: Additional informational items and announcements will be provided including updates from Councilmember Khamis and Staff regarding issues of interest on District 10 and the City of San Jose.
- ▶ Your Concerns & Ideas: We want to hear from you! Together we can work toward positive resolution. This approach continues to make VEP neighborhoods strong, healthy and attractive.

We look forward to seeing you, your friends and neighbors at 7:30pm on Tuesday, March 27th. (Please Note: Late arrivals are always welcome!).

### **February Meeting Synopsis**

By Marilyn Rodgers

President Rodgers welcomed everyone to the meeting. She thanked everyone for making a special effort to attend on a rainy evening and commented on the fact that while everyone was appreciative of the rain coming to our area, the temperature was indeed on the cool side. Earlier in the day, she made a point of coming to set up the Community Room, and most importantly, to turn the heater on so that it would be more comfortable for meeting attendees. She then introduced VEP Board Member/Treasurer Ginger Cardona followed by informing everyone that there would be a "drawing for a free membership" at the end of the evening to "kick off" VEP's annual membership drive. She asked that everyone be sure to sign in on the attendance sheets, and to take and fill out a membership remit envelope for a chance at the free membership. She also mentioned that VEP has "open membership" and that while the traditional boundaries of VEP focus on the neighborhoods of Vista Park, Carson, and Parkview, anyone outside of these areas are also welcome to become members of VEP. President Rodgers also introduced the Past Presidents of VEP who were in attendance, and stated she always wants to acknowledge and thank them for their service and continued commitment to this organization.

President Rodgers announced that she had just received a call from Domingo Candelas, District Director for State Senator Jim Beall, who was scheduled to provide an update on the status of homeless encampments along Chynoweth, next to Gunderson High School, and the VTA Ohlone/Chynoweth station. This is the section that is the property of Caltrans – located underneath Hwy 87. Unfortunately, he has the nasty flu bug that has affected so many people, and will not be able to attend this evening's meeting. He apologized, and said he hopes to come to a future meeting. Ms. Rodgers said she would provide a brief update after the featured speaker for the evening.

President Rodgers then introduced the featured speaker for the evening, newly appointed principal for Gunderson High School, **Mark Camillieri**. Mark thanked President Rodgers for the opportunity to come and meet with VEP, and started by saying that Ms. Rodgers had asked him to provide some information about his background and experience. He is very proud that he is a native San Josean, born and raised in the area. He attended grade

school close by at Booksin. He has a Bachelors degree followed by earning a Masters Degree in Education in Los Angles at LaVerne.

He worked for several years at Ravenswood, finally returning to San Jose Unified School District, and to Gunderson, where he has been Assistant Principal, prior to becoming Principal.

He is very excited about the opportunity to work with faculty and students at Gunderson. It is a large high school: 1100 students, with a diverse population. Academics and test scores have improved. As most of the residents of VEP already know, Gunderson has very nice facilities, which are often made available to groups through San Jose Unified School District Offices. Ms. Rodgers interjected with yes, one such large organization is that of the Vietnamese School, that takes place a majority of Sunday mornings throughout the year, and does cause some issues of concern in terms of traffic. Mr. Camillieri smiled and said yes, however the Vietnamese School does hire Police Officers to assist with traffic at the main intersection of Chynoweth and Gaundabert/New World.

Mark mentioned several areas that he would like to work more closely with the community – 1) Scholarships – one given in honor of Dave Fadness (Ms. Rodgers provided additional information to Mark as VEP also has scholarships available, but unfortunately the last couple of years have not been distributed due to lack of enough VEP volunteers to assist with this project.) 2) Volunteer activities - he was pleased that there has been opportunities in the past, and Ms. Rodgers indicated that VEP was always looking for as many volunteers from Gunderson as possible. He explained to the attendees that yes, high school students do need to obtain 40 hours of community service hours to qualify for graduation, and was very glad to hear that VEP was interested in assisting students with that goal. He will help to facilitate more student participation with VEP. 3) Mark is also concerned about the homeless encampment situation along Chynoweth which backs up to the Gunderson property. He has gone out and talked to several of the homeless individuals in the past. He does have Security for the high school and they do make rounds all over campus - and he personally helps in this regard as well.

Everyone seemed appreciative of Mark's interest and enthusiasm. Ms. Rodgers stated she would be following up with him in terms of a teacher contact at Gunderson for students who want/ need volunteer hours for some upcoming projects with VEP. Ms. Rodgers thanked him for his very informative presentation.

Ms. Rodgers did a brief presentation/update on the situation with the homeless encampments along Chynoweth under Hwy 87 between Gunderson High School property and the VTA/Ohlone Chynoweth Station property – this is the property of Caltrans. She briefly reviewed the progress that had been made in terms of cleanup, and thanked both the City (and Councilmember Khamis' office) for providing leadership and working with State Senator Jim Beall's office to facilitate the work with Caltrans in this area. She briefly reviewed what the issues and challenges had been (for more detail, please refer to article in February edition of the VEP newsletter).

Dora Gonzalez, Council Assistant for Councilmember Khamis also joined her in this part of the presentation/conversation. Dora indicated that Councilmember Khamis had been in contact with Senator Beall's District Office to let them know, this area was a priority concern. Ms. Rodgers also discussed the progress that had been made in terms of the couple of instances of inappropriate aggressive behavior by homeless individuals (usually most homeless people are not aggressive). At the request of Senator Beall and Councilmember Khamis both, the California Highway Patrol

Continues on Page 3

### Continued from Page 2

(acting on the part of the State property) had made at least 3 arrests and/or detained these individuals – based on input from VEP and specifically from Ms. Rodgers. Additionally, Councilmember Khamis had made arrangements to have SJPD periodically patrol this area as well. Ms. Rodgers voiced appreciation for this support, and that it had at least temporarily, made a difference.

Ms. Rodgers than stated that while she herself had become somewhat of an expert in determining who the appropriate "property owner/agency" was in the VEP are, and that additionally Council Staff were very helpful to residents in determining the appropriate "property/agency owner" when residents called to request that information, she hoped that a different resource would soon be available. This new resource, she hopes, would be one contact person who would:

- 1) Determine the appropriate property owner;
- 2) Follow-up with requesting the appropriate resources needed for the homeless individuals;
- 3) Arrange for removal and cleanup of encampments.

Ms. Gonzalez stated that hopefully in the very near future an "app" will be made available for just that purpose. Ms. Rodgers expressed her appreciation, stating "that would be wonderful."

Ms. Rodgers announced that VEP would be undertaking a major volunteer project in April – tentatively set for Saturday, April 28th – to paint the wall along Branham Lane starting at Vistapark Drive going eastward. More details will follow.

Ms. Rodgers then followed up with additional announcements. The first was to remind everyone of the upcoming Oakridge Mall "Senior Walk" which would take place on Friday morning, February 23rd. This is an annual event sponsored by Councilmember Johnny Khamis, as well as Councilmembers Rocha and Jimenez and is very popular with the "mature adults" in the VEP area.

Next activity was the drawing for the free VEP membership. (worth \$20.00) The winner was Linda Owens. Congratulations!

President Rodgers thanked everyone for coming and asked for their assistance in stacking chairs and cleaning up the community room. Next VEP meeting is scheduled for March 27th!



### Volunteers Needed: VEP Neighborhood "Flyer Walkers"

By Helen Castillo and Marilyn Rodgers

Do you enjoy walking and would like to volunteer as well? VEP needs assistance with distribution of VEP flyers to all of our neighbors regarding upcoming events – ie. participation in the Branham Lane Wall Painting, and the annual VEP neighborhoodwide garage sale.

If you have 2 to 4 hours that you could assist in this important volunteer activity, please contact VEP Board Member Helen Castillo at hcastillo@vbprop.com or 408-981-5902.

Volunteers will probably be needed during the last week in March and/or the first week in April, however, Ms. Castillo can discuss the schedule with you for flexibility.

# Plan to "Open the VEP Bylaws" for Review and Revision

By Marilyn Rodgers

It has been some time since VEP has formally reviewed and/ or revised the Bylaws of the organization. This has become an increasing concern, as overtime, needs and priorities of any organization change.

In recent months two items have become of particular concern:

- 1. The need to consider increasing the number of Board Members. The current number of members of the VEP Board is seven. The amount of work and activities provided by this group warrants an increase in numbers to accomplish priorities, possibly to 10.
- 2. The need to consider changing certain aspects of the Community Service Awards (Scholarships) for High School Seniors. Currently we are "out of compliance" as these awards have not been awarded for the last 3 years, due to a lack of availability/interest by either Board Members and Members to do the required work. Tentative recommendation by the Board: while there continues to be a value around this activity, and a hope that it can be regenerated in the near future, consideration needs to be brought up through bylaws revision to remove it from the bylaws and make it a "project not mandated to happen every year."

A request for an additional option: look at the possibility of making one award available for a relative (child/grandchild) of a Board Member who has provided outstanding volunteer service to VEP. (Currently that is not allowed.)

3. The above two items are a priority, however, upon review of the Bylaws, there may be additional recommendations.

The Board is putting the request forward to the Membership to approve a committee made up of Board Members and other Members, who have interest, to "open and review the Bylaws" over the coming Summer months (while VEP is in Summer recess) and return in the Fall with recommendations for consideration and approval by the Members.

Interested members please contact VEP President Marilyn Rodgers at 408-225-7553 or <a href="mrodgersrn@aol.com">mrodgersrn@aol.com</a>

# VEP Members and Residents Attended the Annual Senior "Winter Walk" & Resource Fair Event at Oakridge Mall, February 23rd

Article By Marilyn Rodgers & Katherine Decker Photographs Provided by Katherine Decker

VEP members are always well represented at the annual "Winter Walk" event sponsored by Councilmember Johnny Khamis. This year included a very special "surprise guest" (and a very popular one at that!)... **ELVIS** made big hit with all in attendance!

Enjoy the photos on Page 4!











City of San Jose District 10 Councilmember Johnny Khamis, Santa Clara County District 1 Supervisor Mike Wasserman, and Santa Clara County District 3 Supervisor Dave Cortese





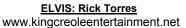






VEP Vice President Katherine Decker, serenaded by ELVIS!







**VEP Member Aiko Fadness** 



## Save the Date: Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>

# **VEP's Annual Community-wide Garage Sale!**By G. Cardona, H. Castillo, M. Rodgers and R. Witmeyer

Are you ready for the big garage sale? This is a great opportunity for everyone in the VEP neighborhoods to sell their stored "treasures" – and make room for some needed space in your house and/or garage. Encourage neighbors to join in with you – and make it a really big and fun event for your street!

Each year, VEP tries to make sure everyone has advance notice in plenty of time to participate!! Who can participate? If you live in the VEP neighborhoods of Vista Park, Carson, or Parkview – you are welcome to join in!!

VEP pays for the major advertising and provides large banners in several areas around the neighborhoods. All you have to do is get all of those goodies ready to sell and put up small signs to direct traffic to your house and/or cul-du-sac. Don't hesitate to encourage your close neighbors to join you. Garage sale "junkies" like to stop when the garage sale includes 2 to 4 homes participating - they know it means more items to look at and bargain over!!

Contact VEP Newsletter Editor Rachel Witmeyer if you plan to participate and would like to have your street(s) specifically listed on Nextdoor.

Don't delay in your planning! Because of the publicity, this event attracts many people and encourages a lot of "traffic" coming into the VEP neighborhoods – so be sure to take advantage of it and then sit back and let the cash register ring!!

VEP is currently working to coordinate with the Salvation Army to provide a pick-up location on May 5th, so that neighbors can donate whatever they cannot sell. Please watch for updates in the April edition of the VEP News, as well as in VEP Email Alerts.

### VEP Volunteer Project: "Wall Painting" for Branham Lane Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>

By Marilyn Rodgers

Councilmember Johnny Khamis and the District 10 Staff are sponsoring a "wall painting" party in the VEP neighborhood. Councilmember Khamis has sponsored several "wall painting" projects in the Almaden Valley area of District 10, but this will be the first one in the VEP area.

The wall that will be painted is along Branham Lane – starting at Vistapark Drive and going east. This is a large wall and indeed is in need of painting – that is both removing old paint, and then providing a coat of new paint.

The last time this wall was painted was under the volunteer activism of Dave Fadness, who requested/made arrangements with a homebuilder/developer (homes built at the corner of Vistapark and Branham) who had the wall restored and painted. That was over 12 years ago.

**Need for Volunteers** - this will be a large volunteer project, requiring a significant number of volunteers working for a particular shift. More than one shift will be available to accomplish this task.

Please note: While we do encourage adults, and high school students in particular, to volunteer for this project, we do caution that children under age 11 may not be appropriate due to the possible danger. The wall is in close proximity to Branham Lane with significant amounts of cars/traffic driving at 40 plus miles/hour along this stretch.

### How can you help right now?

- **1.) Sign-Up to help!** See Page 8 of this newsletter for the official event flyer with all the important details and event staff contacts!
- 2.) Provide the event staff with any contacts you might have, which would help us gather more volunteers:
  - a.) High school students who need Community Service Hours
  - b.) Local churches who are interested in a community project
  - c.) Clubs and service groups ie. Boys and Girls Scouts for example (again need to be older ages), and/or Lions etc.







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VEP membership is based on a calendar year, January through December, so it's time to renew your membership. Please be sure to fill in the information requested, enclose your \$20 check made payable to VEP, and mail it to us as soon as possible--while it's still fresh in your mind. That's all there is to it!

In a very real sense, renewing membership is your vote of confidence and support for the work we do as VEP volunteers. Yes, we get an occasional "thank you," but proof positive of your appreciation is your willingness to renew membership each year. We also appreciate the nice comments many of you offer along with your renewal—for that, we offer our thanks!

VEP membership is the best value you'll ever experience. Renew today and ask your neighbors to join our growing family.

Thank you!

### **About the VEP Community Association**

- -VEP is an all-volunteer organization of your neighbors working to improve our neighborhoods.
- -VEP sponsors many projects and events that improve safety, our quality of life, and the appearance of our community.
- -VEP volunteers make our neighborhood's needs, views, and concerns known to government at all levels.
- -VEP was founded in 1969. We are one of the largest, most successful, and most continuously active and enduring grass roots volunteer organizations in Santa Clara County.

### Why join VEP?

- -To receive our newsletter nine times a year.
- -To receive monthly email alerts.
- -To keep our neighborhoods beautiful, safe, strong, and prepared.
- -To participate in and support effective neighborhood activities and representation.
- -To support VEP's annual *Community Service Awards* for high school graduates.
- -To be part of an outstanding volunteer community organization with 49 years of success in our neighborhoods.



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Contact VEPeditor@gmail.com

### **VEP Membership Application / Renewal**

Note: None of the your personal information will ever be shared with any third party.

### \*\* Please type or print legibly \*\*

Last name(s):						
First name(s):						
Street address:						
Telephone #						
Email address(es):						
Comment(s):						
Can you give VEP a few volunteer hours?						
I am willing to volunteer for:						
☐ Beautification/clean-up projects						
<ul><li>□ VEP News/mailing prep</li><li>□ Large Event/Festival, i.e. 4th of July</li></ul>						
□ Distribute flyers						
□ Serve on a committee						
□ Serve as a VEP officer or committee chair						
□ Other:						
Please let us know:						
☐ I prefer to receive my newsletters by email only.						

Mail your \$20 check to:

☐ I prefer to receive my newsletters by email and mail.

VEP P.O. Box 18037 San Jose, CA 95158

Thank you!

# SUPERVISOR MIKE WASSERMAN

As residents of the highly populated Bay Area, we have all experienced some form of traffic problems in our daily commutes—be it the bumper-to-bumper traffic along the State highways, the cars speeding through our neighborhoods, or the outdated road infrastructure that may not efficiently move traffic. All of these examples become most evident during the weekday rush hours. While there is no magic spell to eliminate these traffic issues, the County of Santa Clara, along with several partners, have begun to work on methods to tackle these complex circumstances.



One nontraditional strategy that we are trying is connecting with Waze, the popular navigational app, to brainstorm and offer advancements to their method of routing vehicles. Without a doubt, navigational apps are great tools to use; however, the challenge we are faced with is finding a balance between efficient transportation and more importantly, producing safer roads. While it may be

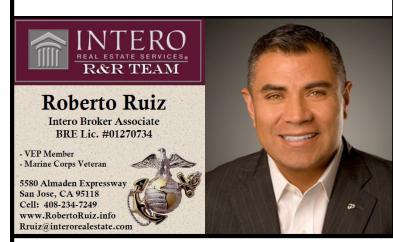
quicker to use a neighborhood street to avoid traffic, these shortcuts through unfamiliar neighborhoods may create unsafe conditions. Working along with local cities and counties, Waze may gain a better understanding of the unintended impacts of their online tools.

The County's Roads and Airports Department is constantly studying roads to learn where improvements need to be made. As part of their infrastructure improvements, they also help by adjusting the traffic lights and timers by individual intersections. Almaden and Capitol Expressways, for example, are frequently being analyzed and improved to reflect the demands of the traffic they receive.

If you would like to report an area of concern within an expressway, please fill out the service request form at the Roads and Airport's website at: sccgov.org/sites/rda/info/pages/service.aspx

As you can see, traffic operations consists of a wide network of public and private involvement. We will continue to find ways to upgrade our public roads and make them safer for everyone.

Mike Wasserman Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, District 1 www.supervisorwasserman.org





# California Highway Patrol (CHP) Take on Highway Litter

One of the most frequent complaints we hear from our constituents is the poor appearance of our highways, with all of the litter and debris along them. This is a difficult concern for the City Council to address, since the highways are under the jurisdiction of the State of California and must be maintained by Caltrans. Residents are encouraged to file a Maintenance Service Request (MSR) online ( https://csr.dot.ca.gov/ ) when you see litter, debris, or other maintenance issues on and along our highways, but we realize that Caltrans may not always get to your requests as soon as we would like due to their staffing shortages, financial constraints, and massive backlog of work orders.



One of the best solutions is to prevent litter and debris from ending up on our highways to begin with. To that end, I reached out to California Highway Patrol (CHP) Lieutenant George Gori and expressed the community's concerns of littered highways and asked if his unit could provide additional enforcement for uncovered loads. Over the past couple of weeks, Lieutenant Gori was able to accommodate this request. He sent out two of his Mobile Road Enforcement Officers to conduct enforcement on uncovered loads that were spilling debris along the state highways that traverse Santa Clara County. During this period, they successfully issued the following citations:

73 violations, 9 specific to uncovered loads

11 vehicles were placed out of service for mechanical violations

4 drivers were placed out of service

1 vehicle was impounded

Although uncovered vehicle loads are not the sole reason there is litter along our highways – for example, people throw trash out of the car window, litter is generated by homeless encampments near on-/off-ramps, and debris blows in from other areas - it is one of the major causes.

I understand this will not solve all our highway litter issues, put it is a great step in the right direction. Lieutenant Gori and his team will continue to proactively look for violators with uncovered loads.

I look forward to our continued work to reduce litter and debris along our roadways and I am grateful to Lieutenant Gori and his CHP enforcement team for helping to make a difference!





# WALL PAINTING BRANHAM & VISTAPARK SAT. APRIL 28TH

# Shifts Available:

- 8-IIAM: 30 volunteers needed
- IIAM-2PM: 30 volunteers needed

Please contact Michele Dexter to sign up for a shift at 408.535.4978 | michele.dexter@sanjoseca.gov

Wear appropriate clothing for painting & closed toe shoes. All ages welcome and can count towards volunteer hours.

Litter pick up
supplies will also be
available for those
that want to pick up
litter around the
neighborhood.

Paid for by City of San José

# **VEP Community Calendar**



■ March / April 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
18	19	20 hello spring	21	22	23	Friends Of The Dr. King Library Book Sale \$1 hard covers 50¢ soft covers 10am - 5pm
Friends Of The Dr. King Library Book Sale \$5/bag sale 1pm - 5pm	26	VEP Community Meeting and ~ 7:30 PM ~ @Vista Park Community Room	28	29	30	31  Cassoverole
1 Happy & Easter	2	3	District 10 Office Hours 8:30-9:30am @Almaden Valley Community Center (6445 Camden Ave.)	5	6	Friends Of The Cambrian Library Book Sale 10am - 3pm \$5/bag: 2-3pm
8	9	10	11	12	HAPPY BIRTHDAY THOMAS JEFFERSON	District 10 Office Hours 10:30-11:30am @Hub's Coffee (630 Blossom Hill Rd.)

### **★** Coming Soon in the VEP Neighborhoods★

### **VEP's Meetings**

Tuesday, April 24th Tuesday, May 29th

Everyone is Welcome! Invite a Neighbor!





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Contact the "VEP News" Editor vepeditor@gmail.com

### **VEP Community Events**

☆ Branham Wall Painting ☆

Saturday, April 28th (Details on page 8)

**Annual Community-Wide** ☆ Garage Sale ☆

First Saturday in May! (May 5th)

4th of July ★ Fireworks & Festival ★ @Almaden Lake



# Happy Spring

Be sure to attend this month; WEP Community Meeting! Tuesday, March 27th @7:30pm

in the Vista Park Community Room - 475 Hyde Park Drive

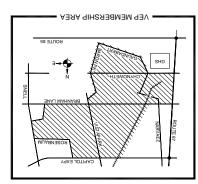




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schools and government officials serving our membership area. For membership or paid advertisement information, contact our Treasurer or write to the address listed above. This newsletter is mailed monthly to all members in good standing, to our advertisers, and to sua improvement in its membersnip area as weii as to active invoivement in civic attairs. Blossom Valley area of southern San Jose. VEP is dedicated to neighborhood maintenance

volunteers established in 1969 to serve and represent more than 2000 homes in the Published monthly by VEP Community Association, a not-for-profit organization of

Email: vepca@vepca.net P.O. Box 18037 **VEP Community Association** 

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