

# VEP NEWS

• VEP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION •

Representing More Than 2000 Families In The Blossom Valley Area Of South San Jose Since 1969

February 2012

## VEP'S MEETING

7:30 p.m. Tuesday  
► February 28, 2012 ◀

Vista Park Community Room  
475 Hyde Park Drive

## AGENDA

### ★ Update on Martial Cottle Park ★

a presentation by

**Alicia Flynn**  
Santa Clara County Parks  
Project Manager, Parks Development Unit

**San Jose City Parks and Foundation**  
**Mollie Tobias**  
Volunteer Management Unit  
San Jose City Parks and Recreation

and

**James Reber**  
Executive Director  
San Jose Parks Foundation

★ VEP Business Meeting ★  
Announcements & Updates  
CPR Classes  
Membership Drive Continues  
Community Service Awards  
Candidates Forum Scheduled for April 28th

★ Your Concerns and Ideas ★  
Your chance to voice your opinion and/or to seek VEP's help.  
Everyone is welcome. Invite your neighbors!

## VEP's February Meeting

by Marilyn Rodgers

February's general membership meeting:

► **Update on Martial Cottle Park** - featured guest speakers will provide information on VEP area parks. The first presenter will be **Alicia Flynn**, Project Manager, Santa Clara County Parks Development Unit. Ms. Flynn oversees Phase I of the

## VEP Membership Drive Continues!

( See information and application on page 7 )

Development Design for Martial Cottle Park. She will provide an overview of work accomplished since the Master Design Plan was approved one year ago, including information on timelines for development planning. **Molly Tobias**, San Jose City Parks and Recreation Department, Volunteer Management Unit will provide an overview of San Jose City Parks with a focus on the five (5) San Jose parks in the VEP area – Parkview I, II, III, Meadows Park, and Vista Park. Ms. Tobias will also provide information on volunteer opportunities such as the Adopt-a-Park and Doggie Bag donation program. **James Reber**, Executive Director of the San Jose Parks Foundation will provide an overview of the Foundation's priorities and programs.

### ► VEP Business Meeting/Updates/Announcements.

► **Your Concerns and 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 the February 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. Please join us!

## January Meeting Summary

*Katherine Decker and Adina Pierce*

We had a great turnout for our January VEP meeting. It was a Valentine's theme. Treats and goodies were provided at the sign in table.

Captain **David Honda**, Lt. **Rob Milard**, and **Rey Cedeno** from the San Jose Police Department were introduced by Board Member **Katherine Decker**. Topics included neighborhood gang activity, graffiti, and a neighborhood crime update.

It was enforced if you see something, say something. This means call the police. The more calls they get the more of a priority the event becomes. You can call 911 for crimes that are currently taking place, or 408-277-8911 from your cell phone.

To report graffiti, call the Anti-Graffiti Hotline at 866-249-0543. Alternatively, you can email [antigrffiti@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:antigrffiti@sanjoseca.gov) or download the free San Jose Clean app for iPhone or Android device.

2012 is VEP's 43rd year!

es.

**Hewitt Joyner III** gave a presentation on Gang Activity Prevention. You can contact him at [joynerhewitt@comcast.net](mailto:joynerhewitt@comcast.net).

Candidates running for the District 10 Council Seat were introduced:

**Johnny Khamis** <http://johnnykhamis.org>

**Brian O'Neill** <http://www.oneillfordistrict10.com/>

**Denelle Fedor** <http://votedenelle.com/>

Nancy Pyle staffer **Laura Cowan** gave a brief update about upcoming events in District 10.

The **Olsen family** was recognized for winning the "VEP Best Christmas Decorations" contest. They won a gift card to Giacobbe's restaurant and a free VEP membership.

We held a drawing for attendees that turned in their 2012 VEP Membership dues, and the winner was **Johnny Khamis** who won a free 1 year membership.

Katherine ended the meeting by announcing "If you see a new neighbor, let them know about VEP so we can grow".

### San Jose Reusable Bag Ordinance

*From the Office of Nancy Pyle*

San José is now shopping greener than ever. All grocery and retail stores in San José can no longer provide free carryout bags with handles at checkout as of January 1, 2012. You have the option to bring or purchase your own reusable bags or purchase recycled content paper bags. Consider the following to help you remember your reusable bags and avoid the bag charge: Keep reusable bags by the door, in your car, or near car keys.



Keep foldable bags in pockets, backpacks, or your purse.

Give your friends and family a reusable bag, and encourage them to start using them today.

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### VEP Is Looking for Board Members and Volunteers!

Maybe you have a neighborhood concern you want to champion, or maybe you just want to get to know your neighbors?



With the election season quickly descending upon us it is good to remember that not only do we need to find great people to run the country, we all so need great people to focus on the neighborhood. If you have a few hours a month and would like to help make sure the VEP continues to make a positive impact. Board Members at Large are non specific roles that provide input and guidance to VEP. If you are interested, please contact Marilyn Rodgers at 408-225-7553 or [mrodgersm@aol.com](mailto:mrodgersm@aol.com).

# VEP helps you solve community problems

## Be a VEP volunteer!

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## Thank you to Volunteers – Membership Drive Mailing

by Debra Suydam, Katherine Decker, Marilyn Rodgers

January begins the new year, and also starts the annual VEP Membership drive. Members receiving the January edition of the VEP newsletter also receive a membership remit envelope to facilitate renewing their membership in VEP. Residents of the VEP geographic area, who are not current members, receive a recruitment letter encouraging them to join their community association. To prepare the newsletter and recruitment letters for mailing, VEP holds a “mailing prep party” each year. We would like to thank the following volunteers for their assistance:

Bob Aquino	Katherine Decker
Retna Edwin	Josie Supencheck
Debra Suydam	Roland Zechmaister

Additional thanks to:

Debra Suydam for coordinating this important project for VEP  
Bob Aquino for taking this large mailing to the main San Jose Post Office (including completion of required post office paperwork)

Adina Pierce who maintains and updates the membership database

Susan Iverson for printing out the large number of required address mailing labels, as well as the ongoing role of Newsletter Editor

The membership drive continues through March. If you have not already done so, please complete your membership renewal and return it today. For your convenience, there is an application included in this newsletter. The application is also available online at the VEP website [www.vepca.net](http://www.vepca.net). Complete the information requested on the application, include a check for \$20.00, and mail it to: VEP Community Association, P.O. Box 18111, San Jose, California, 95158.

Congratulations to Johnny Khamis, the winner of the drawing for a free VEP membership for 2012!!

**Invite your neighbors  
to join VEP**

## Pie For a Year

By Kathy Wood, Baker

Hearts pop into my mind when I think of the month of February. The color, red, and the flavor, chocolate also make an appearance (chocolate is always on my mind, so this doesn't only happen in February!). When it comes to decorating the house, the red carries through from Christmas with the snowmen being replaced by various sizes of hearts.

Wearing red during this month symbolizes heart awareness and how we need to take care of our hearts through healthy eating, exercise and reducing stress. All three of these items can be accomplished just by enjoying a piece of pie (in my world; may not apply to all people). **Healthy eating:** eating lots of fruit and vegetables should be included in our diet every day, so if the pie is apple or some other fruit, pumpkin or some other vegetable, this category is covered. **Exercise:** the act of lifting that pie-covered fork from plate to mouth several times strengthens fingers and improves hand-to-mouth coordination. Standing while eating burns more calories and placing your used plate and fork in the dishwasher involves bending at the ever-increasing waist (touch your toes while you're there for further stretching). **Reducing stress:** I feel less stressed when I eat a piece of pie, don't you? My problems have entered that “don't care” limbo cloud and remain there until every crumb on my plate has been consumed. The wonderful taste makes you happy and happiness=reducing stress. To summarize: eating a piece of pie is heart healthy (my doctor and yours may not agree with this theory-consulting with him/her would be wise).

This recipe for English Apple Pie came from my great-grandmother and is very simple to make. Ingredients: 1 egg,  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup granulated sugar,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup all-purpose flour, 1 teaspoon baking powder, 1 cup chopped apples,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup chopped nuts, 1 teaspoon cinnamon. Instructions: Mix egg and sugar together in a large mixing bowl. Add in flour and baking powder, mixing well. Stir in apples and nuts then spread in a pie plate. Sprinkle the cinnamon over the top and bake in a preheated 350 degree oven for 25-30 minutes. Top with a dollop of whipped cream or a scoop of ice cream to serve.

To view a picture or to obtain other pie recipes visit [pieforayear.blogspot.com](http://pieforayear.blogspot.com).

“As easy as pie!”



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## GUNDERSON NEWS



Spring is springing along at Gunderson High School as we gear up for graduation! The semester has been a busy one so far and Gunderson PRIDE continues to gain ground with lots of student activities and events filling up the school calendar. You can check out all event details at: <http://gunderson.sjUSD.org/>

January and the beginning of February were recruitment months. Gunderson representatives visited middle schools, 8<sup>th</sup> graders shadowed Gunderson students and an informative parent night was held. Gunderson continues to grow not only in student numbers, but also in our sense of pride and our place in the community. There was a great turnout of interested parents and students.

Student groups are often involved in a number of charitable drives throughout the year. Right now the students are donating old jeans for the "Teens 4 Jeans" clothing drive. Additionally, The Princess Project is providing 40 junior and senior girls with prom dresses. Leadership just completed a successful blood drive.

As our seniors are getting their acceptance letters from universities all over the country, here at home we are supporting them with informational Cash 4 College workshops and other services through CalSOAP and the College and Career Center.

Students are beginning to consider their schedules for next year, and many are opting to take one or more of the many AP classes that are offered at Gunderson. These are college level courses that challenge and prepare our students for their continuing education. A special AP Information Night will be held in March.

The College and Career Center will be holding a Freshman/Parent Information night on March 1<sup>st</sup> from 6-7:30 pm. A wide variety of topics will be covered including strategies for creating success in high school.

The Girls' Varsity Basketball team won their division championship and will be playing in the upcoming CCS tournament.

The Boys' Varsity Basketball team ended the season on a positive note. The team worked very hard despite obstacles, and displayed a tremendous amount of Grizzly PRIDE with their determination and discipline.

Be sure to check out the athletics web site at:

<http://www.gundersonathletics.com>

The athletics page is full of information including schedules, profiles of athletes, statistics and so much more. There is a lot of new Grizzly Athletic Gear, with more to come in the near future. Consider REPRESENTING Gunderson Athletics with some GHS swag.

Principal Bejarano holds chats at 6pm on the FIRST Thursday of every month. The next chat will be Thursday, March 1. Stop by, meet Mr. Bejarano and let your voice be heard.

GRIZZLY PRIDE!

## Retirement Musings

By Bob Aquino

Hi, I'm Bob Aquino, a long time member. I used to write a computer advice column for the newsletter, but things got pretty stable from the users' point of view, so I didn't see the value in it any more.

I've been retired for about nine years, so I have I thought that it might be a good idea to do some reflections for those who do not go to work on a regular basis due either to retirement or downsizing.

While some people relish the prospect of nothing to do, in large doses it gets to be a drag. Travel is a great way to spend your retirement, but most of us can't afford to do it continually. So the answer is volunteering on a regular basis. But where?

Since this is a VEP publication, the most obvious suggestion is ...VEP. What a surprise!! But VEP's opportunities would not suffice to fill your calendars. So where else?

Churches always need help, especially in this economy. Whether it's folding letters, entering data in a computer, or babysitting during services, or serving the hungry, there are many needs. I know of a group of ladies who crochet items for premature babies, and another that makes blankets for sick people.

Due to budget constraints, schools may fill in the holes in their staffing with volunteers. Generally speaking, if you volunteer to work with children, there is a requirement for some form of training, fingerprinting, and a background check.

Then there are soup kitchens. I work at Martha's Kitchen on Willow street preparing vegetables and fruit for their meals and the meals of several other soup kitchens.

This has just been an introduction to the subject of doing meaningful volunteer work for the voluntarily or involuntarily retired crowd. If you have any suggestions about volunteering, places with requirements for volunteers, or any related subject, drop me a line at [baquino@bobaquino.com](mailto:baquino@bobaquino.com).

I'll be back next month to talk about some specific volunteer opportunities.

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## 1,000 Hearts for 1,000 Minds

1,000 Hearts for 1,000 Minds is an initiative of the City of San Jose and the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, supported by the Cities Association of Santa Clara County, aimed at narrowing the academic achievement gap in Silicon Valley. By leveraging the creative energy of our workforce and residents—some of the world's most innovative—to support students who struggle in the core areas of literacy, math and science. We hope to transform the educational trajectory of 1,000 Silicon Valley students.




Show your support by becoming a volunteer through 1,000 Hearts for 1,000 Minds! We are seeking volunteer tutors who can donate just one hour a week, for as little as eight to 12 weeks. All it takes is just a little of your time to have an enormous impact on the lives of children! Through the 15 non-profit partner programs, opportunities are available at times and locations convenient for everyone.

If you are interested in volunteering for this great cause, please visit: <http://www.hearts4minds.org/volunteer-opportunities/> and fill out the survey so that you can be matched with the most convenient opportunity. To find more information on how to volunteer as an individual or a group, please send an email to [volunteer@hearts4minds.org](mailto:volunteer@hearts4minds.org)



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## March Madness

By John Marks



Haven't you noticed, weeds come slithering out of the soil with the slightest tug. Now's the time to scout around gathering up those milk weeds, so start pulling up those milk weeds and others you can spot. But what about those little six-packs of tomatoes and peppers that are beckoning from the nursery shelves? Go ahead and buy them, but keep them indoors in a sunny window to help them grow bigger and stronger (you'll save a bundle from what you'd have to pay later for the same size plants). Move them to four-inch containers, then to one-gallon buckets outside as we move towards May. What exactly are we waiting for before planting them? Daytime temperatures of 70 degrees.

Cold, damp weather will bring out snails and slugs in droves. They will feast on the tender new growth of bulbs and winter plants. Hand pick, or use a bait, but don't let them go unchecked because they will mow down the garden. You can prune now, also, especially roses and fruit trees. Right now, plant winter vegetables such as broccoli, cabbage, peas and beets for a spring harvest. Put in pansies, snapdragons and calendulas.

When will the soil be ready for general planting? squeeze a handful of soil, and if it sticks together like putty, it's too wet. If it crumbles and falls from your hand, it's OK to dig and plant. It takes at least five rainless days for soil to dry out. Rake up leaves you might have missed earlier, to help the soil dry out, and get them off the lawn. Leaves provide hiding spots for overwintering insects.

And what about feeding the birds? They're building nests and starting families. You can attract hummingbirds to fee in your garden by planting fuchsias. Planted now in partial shade away from drying wind, fuchsias will bloom from early summer until frost. Fuchsias can be planted in the ground or in containers, and trailing types do well in hanging baskets.

The trick to fuchsias: lots of moisture using a potting mix that retains moisture. They also benefit from mist spray. In containers, use wood or light colored plastic; dark plastic pots retain too much heat, and feeder roots can be burned. Encourage bushy, flowery growth by pinching dead blossoms, and use liquid fertilizer. The more small pinches you make now on growing tips, the more flowering branchlets this summer.

Use herbs as landscaping plants. Chives and parsley add attractive foliage among blooming flowers. Rosemary and woolly thyme will take off and make attractive, drought-tolerant ground covers. Wildflower seeds can still be sown and are suitable in many areas where other plantings don't seem to thrive. Plant summer-blooming bulbs, corms and tubers, including begonias, calla lilies, canna lilies, dahlias and gladioluses.



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## TITANIC the Musical

By Cathy McFall, Valley Christian High School

Valley Christian High School's award-winning Conservatory of the Arts will present the Tony Award winning hit TITANIC the musical on its main stage this March.

One of the greatest tragedies of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the ill-fated maiden voyage of the RMS Titanic, is recounted in this epic, award-winning musical production. Drawing inspiration from real-life stories and characters, *Titanic the musical* follows the journey of passengers and crew as they sail towards destiny. A beautiful score and dazzling staging combine with a powerful story to make an evening of theatre you won't want to miss.

Valley Christian High School's (VCHS) Conservatory of the Arts is in its fifth year and is known as one of San Jose's premiere, performing arts academies. The VCHS Theatre Department, led by Director of Theatre and Dance, Matthew DeMeritt, recently received the American Musical Theater's Showcase Honor Award and Stage Direction Magazine's regional award for Best Theater Program. The stage production features a live student orchestra each night and conducted by Mr. Dave Gregoric.

Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. The theatre is located in San Jose at 100 Skyway Drive. To view performance dates and to purchase tickets online, visit [www.vctheatre.net](http://www.vctheatre.net) or call our ticket line at 408-513-2441. Tickets will go on sale Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

The Valley Christian High School Conservatory of the Arts offers an array of courses for the budding young theatre artist. Its mission is to equip students with spiritual, artistic, academic and technical excellence in theatre.

Valley Christian Schools is committed to a Quest for Excellence in all of its educational programs and provides comprehensive kindergarten through twelfth grade curriculum with a rigorous college program. Firmly founded on Christian values, VCS challenges youth to aspire towards lives of character, service and influence while pursuing their individual Quests for Excellence.

## Comments of Renewing Members

by Marilyn Rodgers and Adina Pierce

One month in to the three month membership drive, memberships are flowing in. **We really appreciate your continued support of VEP!!** We also enjoy reading the comments many of our members share with us. Here is a sample:

I am so proud of VEP's "can do" attitude!  
Thank you to the Board of Directors for all of your hard work  
I enjoy and read all of the articles in the newsletter –  
lots of good info  
Thank you for VEP  
A million thanks to VEP and all its volunteers for keeping our neighborhood safe and beautiful!  
Thanks to all for your work and dedication – it's appreciated!  
Keep up the great work  
Thank you for the great work provided to our community  
I appreciate all you do  
Several – thanks for all you do for our community  
Several – we appreciate all of your efforts  
Several – thank yous

## Keeping SAN JOSE CLEAN is Now Just a Click Away

From the Office of Nancy Pyle



The Department of Parks Recreation and Neighborhood Service's Anti-Graffiti / Anti-Litter Program has launched a free application called SAN JOSE CLEAN. This App allows residents with smart phones to point, click and send photos of graffiti, litter and City park conditions. Along with the picture, users can provide a brief description of the violation to assist staff who will be assigned to address the request and choose an option to receive status updates. This application is available as both a Droid and iPhone application. Residents still have the option to report graffiti directly to the Anti-Graffiti Program by email [antigrffiti@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:antigrffiti@sanjoseca.gov) or by phone 866-249-0543. Litter can be reported by email to [antigrffiti@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:antigrffiti@sanjoseca.gov) or by phone at 408-277-3208. City park conditions can be reported by email to [park.concerns@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:park.concerns@sanjoseca.gov) or by phone at 408-793-5510.

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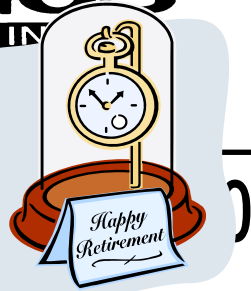

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## The Changing Reality of Retirement

For years, the common vision of retirement was endless days of playing golf, visiting grandchildren, volunteering within the community and receiving adequate pension payments to cover living expenses. But with the first of the 76 million baby boomers just starting to retire, it's clear that the new generation of retirees will redefine what retirement means. Today's retirees will be more active, live longer and spend more on everything from travel to health care. While prior generations relied on pensions and Social Security, new retirees will need to count much more on personal savings and investments – and in the process have to face the very real problem of potentially outliving their retirement savings.

The risk of baby boomers outliving their assets is high, according to the 2009 National Retirement Risk Index developed by the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College. The index shows that even if people retire at age 65, tap into a reverse mortgage, and receive annual distributions from their accumulated wealth, 51 percent will be at risk of being unable to maintain their pre-retirement standard of living in retirement.

For a long time, the conventional wisdom was that as one neared and entered retirement, investments should become more conservative and one should increase the amount of a portfolio invested in bonds. Given the longer life spans of today's retirees, along with higher medical costs and inflation, it is important for one to maintain an adequate amount of stock holdings that provide the growth potential needed for longer term financial security.

The financial services industry is responding to the very real problem of retirees potentially outliving their savings by creating investment vehicles that seek to provide stability of income plus market growth potential to make money last longer. One example is the Thrivent Diversified Income Plus Fund, which includes all of the most important income-producing asset classes – high yield bonds, dividend-paying stocks, real estate investment trust equities and investment-grade bonds – in one investment option.

By investing in mutual funds that actively change the investment mix based on market conditions, retirees have a better opportunity to overcome the invisible risks that can erode their retirement savings. These risks, unlike the ups and downs of the market, often go undetected, and include inflation, being overly conservative and not rebalancing one's portfolio on a regular basis.

While dreams of what an ideal retirement looks like vary from person to person, what doesn't change is the need to plan ahead, identify and manage risks and make sure that



one's investments continue to work throughout one's retirement.

The Fund may invest in debt or equity securities. Debt securities include high-yield, high-risk securities commonly known as "junk bonds." High-yield securities are subject to greater price fluctuations and increased risk of loss of principal than investment grade bonds. Equity securities include securities of REITs, which are subject to the risk that changes in real estate values or economic downturns can have a negative effect on issuers in the real estate industry. The securities in the Fund's portfolio are also subject to market risk, which is the risk that security prices may decline over a period of time, and interest rate risk, which is the risk that security prices may be adversely affected by changes in interest rates. These and other risks are described in the Fund's prospectus.

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## Become a life saver

*By Dave Fadness*

On Christmas Eve, Frank, a good friend and long-time VEP volunteer died--briefly. His heart stopped. Fortunately, Frank's son was visiting and is familiar with CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation). He kept up his CPR efforts until firefighters and paramedics arrived, thereby saving his father's life.



This story plays out many times every day. Sadly, it doesn't always end well because the victim is either alone or no one nearby knows what to do when a heart attack occurs. Diseases of the heart are leading killers of Americans, young and old. Fortunately, in cases like Frank's, death can be prevented by simply knowing what to do and taking immediate action.

Do you know CPR? I don't, but Frank's story reminds me that it's time I (and we) learned.

If you and enough other people are interested, VEP will make arrangements for a group lesson. Contact me ([drfadness@sbcglobal.net](mailto:drfadness@sbcglobal.net)) or Marilyn Rodgers ([mroddgersrn@aol.com](mailto:mroddgersrn@aol.com))--do it today, before you forget.

Become a life saver!

**VEP, truly  
a friend in need!**

## BART—It Knows the Way to San Jose!

By Susan Iverson

If you happen to be one of the many commuters traveling from San Jose to the East Bay, relief is on it's way. Albeit about 3 to 4 years away. A combination of projects are currently underway to bring a real life BART train to San Jose. Maybe not downtown San Jose, but at least north San Jose.

The extension to the Warm Springs area of Fremont is currently underway. Preparation projects have been ongoing for almost 3 years, including creating a subway under Lake Elizabeth. The extension will eventually extend the existing BART system 5.4 miles into south Fremont. A new station will be built along Warm Springs Blvd, south of Grimmer. The location of the station is important, because it is significantly closer to 680 than the current Fremont Station.



For anyone who commutes to Fremont to take BART, you know that the current Fremont Station is not convenient to either 880 or 680. The Warm Springs station will be a mere 1 intersection from 680!

The second extension project will bring BART to the Berryessa neighborhood of San Jose. While you may have heard a lot of hype recently about the Downtown San Jose extension, the interim extension to Berryessa is already underway. Preparation projects are ongoing, and Federal funding was recently released to assure that the 10-mile extension from south Fremont to North San Jose will be able to accept riders by 2016.

While we all look forward to the day that BART effectively loops the Bay through downtown San Jose, for those of us that commute the 880/680 corridor, we happily look forward to BART being closer and more convenient.

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## Filoli Gardens

By Debra Suydam



We are all very lucky to be able to call the Bay Area our home and as residents, we often experience sites first hand that many will only ever see in movies or on television.

One of the "must see" spring outings is the Filoli Gardens.

Filoli Gardens is a 654-acre estate in Woodside, California. Its grandeur, once showcased in the opening scene of the popular TV series, *Dynasty*, as well as in movies such as *Heaven Can Wait* and *The Joy Luck Club*, is never more beautiful than in spring.

Even though it's slightly tucked away, Filoli Gardens and Estate is known throughout the world for its magnificent flower gardens that are recognized for their historic significance and beauty.

Based on European design, the San Mateo County mansion features 43 spectacular rooms to tour, and exquisite gardens that include soothing water gardens, and magnificent terraced displays.

Filoli estate is nestled in the foothills of Woodside on the San Francisco Peninsula and is open to the public There is no better time to plan a visit.

Filoli is located at  
86 Cañada Road  
Woodside, California 94062  
[www.filoli.org](http://www.filoli.org)  
Phone: (650) 364-8300

### What is VEP Community Association?

- VEP is an all-volunteer organization of your neighbors working to improve our neighborhoods; VEP is our community's "homeowner's association".
- VEP volunteers participate in a variety of activities, all of which originate in and benefit our neighborhoods.
- VEP volunteers make our neighborhood's views and needs known to government at all levels.
- Founded in 1969, we are one of the largest, most successful, and most active and enduring grass roots volunteer organizations in Santa Clara County.

### Why join VEP?

- To receive our newsletter nine times a year, keeping you up-to-date and informed.
- To participate in and support neighborhood activities and representation.
- To contribute to our annual VEP Community Service Awards for area high school graduates.
- To be part of an outstanding community organization with a long record of success for our neighborhoods.



## It's Time to Renew Your VEP Membership

VEP membership is based on a calendar year, January through December, so it's time to renew your membership. You'll find a remit envelop in this newsletter. Please be sure to fill in the information requested, enclose your \$20 check made payable to VEP, and mail it back 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.

### What is 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 40 years of success in our neighborhoods.

### Where is the Vista Park Community Room?

"Vista Park" is a city park; it's at the intersection of Hyde Park Drive and New Compton Drive, here in our VEP community. We meet in the Community Room which is on the east side of the park, at 475 Hyde Park Drive. It's easy to find...

From its intersection with Branham Lane, take Vistapark Drive south to Hyde Park Drive (that's where Vistapark Drive ends). Turn right on Hyde Park Drive and drive a few blocks to just beyond the bridge over Canoas Creek. The parking lot and Community Room will be on your right. (If you get to the stop sign at New Compton Drive, you've gone too far.) We look forward to seeing you there!

**Invite your neighbors  
to join VEP**

## \*\* Membership Application \*\*

*Note: none of the following information will be shared with any third party.*

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

Last name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

First name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email address(es): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Comments): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Can you give VEP a few volunteer hours? \_\_\_\_\_

### I am willing to volunteer for:

- Beautification/clean-up projects
- VEP News/mailling prep
- Memorial Day Parade & Festival
- Distribute flyers  Serve on a committee
- Serve as a VEP officer or committee chair
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Please let us know:**  I prefer getting my newsletters by email.

Mail your \$20 check to VEP, P.O. Box 18111, San Jose 95158.  
Thank you!

**\$ CASH REWARDS \$**

**For Tips On Crime**

**You Get A Code Number**

**No One Knows Who You Are**

**Call: 408-947-STOP**



**CRIME STOPPERS**

**Volunteer Service Agreement & Release  
Volunteer Code of Ethics**

**One Day Events**



**PERSONAL CONTACT INFORMATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please check: Yes, I would like to receive emails concerning volunteer opportunities with the City of San Jose.  
 Emergency Contact/Relationship/Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Background – Please note any physical or medical conditions that should be considered in your assignment.  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, agree to volunteer my services to the CITY OF SAN JOSE ("City") and to comply with the City's volunteer Code of Ethics.

I acknowledge that there is no salary or other compensation, or prizes of any kind to be provided by the City for my services as a volunteer. Rewards or prizes for volunteer service to the City may be offered by other persons; however, the City is not responsible for the payment of any such reward or prize to me.

**I understand that during the course and scope of my (or my child's) volunteer services to the City, I (or my child) will be covered under the City's Workers' Compensation self-insurance. I also understand and agree that my sole remedy for any injury that I (or my child) may sustain during the course and scope of my (or my child's) volunteer services to the City, which is covered by Workers' Compensation, shall be through the City's Workers' Compensation self-insurance coverage. I waive any other right or remedy that I (or my child) may have against the City of San Jose, its employees, officer, and agents (collectively referred to as "City") available to me for an injury as described above (including an injury arising out of the City's negligence). Further, I release the City from all other liability arising from my (or my child's) volunteer service or activities as provided hereunder.**

I understand that the City of San Jose may photograph or videotape the volunteer events or activity in which I am (or my child is) participating. I give my permission for the City to use photographs or videotape of me (or my child) for the purpose of promoting the City of San Jose and its services/programs. I give my permission with the following understanding: **No compensation of any kind will be paid to me (or my child) at this time or in the future for the use of my (or my child's) likeness.**

I also acknowledge and agree that my (or my child's) services are provided for the convenience of the City and may be terminated for any reason or for no reason and at any time by the City without prior notice or hearing. I, the undersigned, certify that the information stated on this agreement and release is true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and is made in good faith. Any false statements made by me may be used as a basis of rejection for this application or termination of volunteer services.

This agreement shall remain in effect until terminated in writing by either party. Additional information may be provided on the attachments.

**City of San José Volunteer Code of Ethics Agreement**

Volunteers are an important asset of the City's workforce and make it possible for the City to deliver services to San José residents. As a volunteer, you represent the City of San José. As such, it is important that you adhere to the City's Volunteer Code of Ethics.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, as a volunteer with the City of San José agree to:

- Conduct myself in a professional manner; maintaining high standards of integrity and honesty.
- Treat all members of the public, employees, and other volunteers with respect and courtesy.
- Avoid any activity that could be seen as a conflict of interest, such as accepting gifts or favors from individuals or businesses that could be seen to be an attempt to influence a City decision.
- Respect confidential information that is available to me as a result of my volunteer work with the City, and refrain from using it for personal gain or for personal, non-City business related reasons. Bring any violation of this confidentiality to my supervisor.
- Promptly raise questions and concerns regarding possible violations of City policy or local, State or Federal law with my immediate supervisor or another manager within my department.
- Reinforce the City of San José's commitment to equal employment opportunity and a work environment free of discrimination and harassment, including sexual harassment. Please see Section 1.1.1., titled Discrimination and Harassment Policy, in the City Policy Manual.

I understand that I may be released from my volunteer position with the City of San José for not adhering to the above Code of Ethics.

Volunteer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian if under 18 yrs old \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

# VEP Community Calendar

## February / March 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
19	20	21	22 Ash Wednesday Washington's Birthday	23	24	25
S.JUSD Ski Week—No School						
26	27	28 VEP Commu- nity Meeting— 7:30 PM— Vista Park Community Room	29	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Daylight Sav- ings Time— Spring Forward	12	13	14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day
18	19	20	21	22	23	24

### Dates to Remember!

#### VEP Community Meetings

February 28, 2012  
 March 28, 2012  
 April 24, 2012  
 May 29, 2012

#### Community Events

Community Garage Sale - Saturday May 5, 2012

# THE VEP NEWS



## VEP Community Association

P.O. Box 18111 San Jose, CA 95158  
 Email: [vepca@vepca.net](mailto:vepca@vepca.net) Website: [www.vepca.net](http://www.vepca.net)

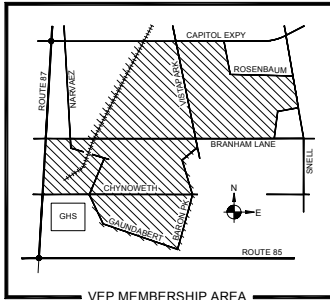
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Published monthly by VEP Community Association, a not-for-profit organization of volunteers established in 1969 to serve and represent more than 2000 homes in the Blossom Valley area of southern San Jose. VEP is dedicated to neighborhood maintenance and improvement in its membership area as well as to active involvement in civic affairs. This newsletter is mailed monthly to all members in good standing, to our advertisers, and to schools and government officials serving our membership area. For membership or paid advertisement information, contact our Treasurer or write to the address listed above.

### VEP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vacant			
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Prefer your newsletter via Email?  
 Let us know at [vep@vepca.net](mailto:vep@vepca.net).



Check our website: [www.vepca.net](http://www.vepca.net)

Community Room

Vista Park

in the  
 7:30 pm

Be sure to attend  
 VEP's  
 February 28th Meeting