

VEP NEWS

• VEP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION •

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

OCTOBER

2014

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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: 408-226-2935

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 18111; SAN JOSE, CA; 95158.

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

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VEP'S MEETING

7:00 p.m. - Wednesday
► **October 29th, 2014** ◀

Pearl Library Community Room
4270 Pearl Ave.

★ MAYORAL CANDIDATE FORUM ★

Candidates: Dave Cortese & Sam Liccardo

VEP's October Meeting

By Marilyn Rodgers

We look forward to seeing you, your friends and neighbors, on **October 29th**. Please join us at October's meeting, featuring:

► **The Mayoral Candidates Forum**, in lieu of the regularly scheduled monthly meeting. **Please Note: Change in Meeting Date & Location: Wednesday, October 29th at Pearl Library.**

Doors will open at 6:30pm and program will begin promptly at 7:00pm. Note - parking at Pearl Library is limited; additional parking available in shopping center parking lot next to fire station.

VEP will be joining Erikson and Pinehurst Associations for this event. This will be a final opportunity for residents to hear from both candidates running for election to Mayor of San Jose. Attendees will have an opportunity to hear from each candidate as they individually respond to prepared questions as well as questions from the audience. Don't miss this opportunity to see and hear the candidates in person!

The full meeting agenda is as follows:

Mayoral Candidates Forum 7:00pm – 7:30pm Sam Liccardo
7:30pm – 8:00pm Dave Cortese

Erikson School Business 8:00pm-8:30pm
Stephen McMahon, SJUSD Chief Business Officer, will give a presentation about the continuation high school program (Liberty H.S.) proposed for the Erikson School site, 2015-2016.

Don't forget to VOTE on Tuesday, November 4th!

Vista Park Community Room will function as a polling place site for this election. If you forget to mail in your absentee ballot, you can turn in absentee ballots at any polling place.

◆ 2014 is VEP's 45th Year! ◆

September Membership Meeting Synopsis

By Marilyn Rodgers

President Marilyn Rodgers welcomed everyone to the meeting. She introduced the VEP Board members, and the past presidents who were in attendance: Dave Noel and Bob Aquino. Introductions of special guests included Virginia Holtz, Board Member for Open Space Authority, and Council Aid for District 10, Rayshelle Brant, who as a newly-wed, will now be known as Rayshelle Edmunds. Ms. Rodgers stated the agenda was quite full and will be an informative and exciting meeting.

The first speakers introduced were Eric Goodrich, Park Manager for Martial Cottle Park and Phil Hearin, Supervisor for Park Rangers for the area that includes Martial Cottle. Mr. Goodrich provided an update on the park construction. All of the buildings have been completed, and are currently locked (for security) until the opening of the Park and Trail. The work on the Trail is continuing at a fast pace. In August, the two bridges over Canoas Creek were put in place. Landscaping along the Trail will begin over the next several weeks. An attendee asked whether there would be trees along the Trail. Eric said yes. Marilyn added that trees will be planted in clumps of 3 trees, which will be placed every several hundred yards. This will provide sporadic shade for Trail users. The goal and commitment by Parks staff has been to have the Park and Trail completed by year's end. That goal is on target. Therefore, the "Opening" is being planned for the weekend of December 13 & 14, 2014. An attendee asked a question about incidents which had recently occurred on the Trail – an entre for Mr. Hearin to speak, as the Park Rangers are responsible for security. He indicated his concern about the occurrence of several incidents recently – specifically, the burning of the bench and trash can which occurred at approximately 2am, the racing of a small sports car on the Trail, and the numbers of people on the Trail after dark. Phil was pleased to announce that additional Park Rangers will be hired by the County, starting in March. There is a strong possibility that one Ranger will be assigned to Martial Cottle Park & Trail. Once the additional Rangers are hired, they will not be immediately available however, as several months of training will be required before they assume their responsibilities. Ms. Rodgers reminded people that the Trail is only open during daylight hours, (essentially Sunrise to Sunset) and with Fall arriving, daylight hours are significantly decreasing. An additional issue for those homeowners along the Trail is Trail users who may be on the Trail early in the morning and speaking in a loud voice. This is often the case when using a cell phone. Homeowners are appreciative of those Trail-users who are sensitive of the fact that sound on the Trail is greatly amplified toward the homes. (Note: County Parks has expanded the Private Security Patrols for the Life Estate to include the Park and the Trail. Patrols on the Trail are taking place at random times all during the hours of darkness.)

To give the next speakers an opportunity to complete their setup of audiovisual equipment for their presentation, Ms. Rodgers utilized the time to provide the audience with an update on Dave Fadness' status. As many members are not on e-mail messaging from VEP, they were not aware that on June 2nd Dave Fadness, while at his home, fell from a ladder and suffered a critical injury. This injury resulted in permanent damage to his spinal cord. Dave has been hospitalized continuously since that time. He recently was transferred to a Skilled Nursing Facility and is hopeful that he will be able to be transferred home in the next several weeks. Dave and Aiko continue to say how much they appreciate everyone's concern and kind thoughts.

The next speaker was Captain Shawny Williams, the Southern Division Commander for SJPd. Ms. Rodgers stated that Captain Williams had provided attendees at the VEP meeting in May with a very helpful and encouraging presentation. He was return-

ing to provide additional information on our neighbors' progress in crime prevention and safety issues. Captain Williams reviewed some very hopeful statistics for all of Southern Division – which is divided into 4 sections, represented by the letters A, T, X & Y. Those sections are further delineated by 5 subsections, such as X1 and so forth. SJPd tracks on statistics in each of these subsections. For example: the number of home burglaries (and attempted burglaries) first by month, and then by year. The VEP neighborhoods are included in the X1 subsection. Good news is that while there was a significant number of home burglaries in July, that number then decreased significantly in August (a slight increase is currently trending for September). In contrast, Almaden Valley had fewer home burglaries in July, but then had a significant increase in August.

Additional positive feedback for VEP neighbors was the fact that residents in our VEP neighborhoods have greatly increased the number of calls alerting/notifying police of both serious incidents, as well as those of a "suspicious activity" nature. Captain Williams also clarified the use of 911 and 311 calls. Previously, residents were under the impression that only "crimes in process" should be 911 calls, and 311 calls were for anything else including "suspicious activity." However, some "suspicious activity" should be called in using 911, as they may be one step from being a crime in process.

Captain Williams also provided information on "Community Policing," including philosophical and theoretical concepts, in which Community Partners are a major positive contributing factor. The police, in any community, need to have the trust and assistance of community residents, businesses, and other organizations in order to provide the services required by the community. One major factor is that people in the community – or "people on the street" – are invaluable resources for the Police. Police need our eyes and ears so they can adequately do the job we expect them to do.

Attendees asked questions in terms of priorities or abilities of SJPd to respond, or actively be involved in, including: 1) drug prevention/enforcement particularly in and around our neighborhood parks, and, 2) involvement in discouraging ongoing graffiti Artists/taggers (example: anti-graffiti contractor had to be called at least weekly all during the summer months to remove graffiti close to Gunderson High School, under the freeway overpass along Chynoweth including the sound walls up the embankment). Captain Williams indicated that patrol officers do indirectly get involved with possible drug issues particularly if the individuals are exhibiting suspicious behavior related to another crime, i.e. Home burglaries. Otherwise it has had to be rendered a lower priority as an issue of not enough staffing. The same is true for graffiti. In the past, several officers were specifically assigned to track on repeat offenders of graffiti including possible prosecution resulting in large fines and mandatory community service hours and or jail sentences. Unfortunately those officers had to been reassigned to higher priority issues.

Captain Williams encouraged everyone to continue to call and report incidents of a suspicious behavior. Ms. Rodgers thanked Captain Williams for his presentation, and emphasized her personal appreciation of his efforts and leadership to increase SJPd police presence and visibility in the neighborhoods. She stated she knew that this was a challenge with decreased staffing; however it is making a difference. She particularly wanted to thank him for his leadership and his support of his officers in this regard, as the numbers of patrol cars in the VEP neighborhoods have increased three fold in the last several months. Captain Williams said it would not be possible to accomplish all they do, if it were not for many officers willingness to come in on their "off duty" time.

Continues on Page 3

He had previously given examples of officers efforts - one of which was that of an officer who had apprehended a multiple offender in home burglary cases. This suspect was apparently involved in home burglaries from Morgan Hill to Sunnyvale.

Captain Williams introduced Crime Prevention Specialist Sonia Azevedo, who had also been assisting him with the audio-visual presentation. Ms. Azevedo passed out handouts that briefly reviewed what Neighborhood Watch is and does, as well as a list of important phone numbers. Ms. Rodgers apologized as the time allotted for each speaker had been exceeded, and there still was another speaker remaining. She invited Ms. Azevedo to come back for a longer opportunity to speak and present an overview of Neighborhood Watch. Sonia provided a quick review of several important numbers on the list. **The Emergency Number for San Jose when using cell phones is 1-408-277-8911.** This should be used rather than 911 which is transferred automatically to the California Highway Patrol command post located in Vallejo. She also provided her contact number which is 1-408-277-4133. Additionally, there is a new app for cell phones called CityConnect, available by logging on to the San Jose Police Department website at: www.sjpd.org.

The last presenter was Andrea Mackenzie, General Manager for Open Space Authority. Ms. Mackenzie provided an enthusiastic and informative presentation which included an overview of the purpose, responsibilities, and land area covered by the Open Space Authority. The Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority was established in 1993 by the voters. Their mission is to balance growth by preserving and restoring open space, natural area, water resources and wildlife habitat, and providing nature based outdoor recreation close to home. It is governed by a 7-member voter-elected board and serves the majority of the unincorporated area of the County, and the cities of San Jose, Milpitas, Santa Clara, Campbell and Morgan Hill.

Ms. Mackenzie quickly reviewed a few of the current projects the Authority is working on. She wanted to highlight and assure the public that an overriding goal is to be as effective as possible with the limited funds the voters have entrusted to them. They continue to leverage these funds by utilizing a number of partners. These partners are both public entities and private funding (foundations, etc). The Three Creeks Trail was a partnership with the City of San Jose Parks. The program Rails to Trails purchased land rights from Union Pacific of railways that are no longer in use. Another project was the Green Space in Campbell on Union Avenue. She also quickly discussed the Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve. Located west of Monterey Road, North of Morgan Hill, and nestled up against the west foothills. (Author's note: a beautiful area and easily accessible to the public.) They had just completed the Coyote Valley Family Harvest Feast on Saturday, September 27th. A large turnout of residents took advantage of the opportunity to enjoy local foods, entertainment, and information about the Preserve.

The most recent acquisition for the Open Space Authority, and one that Ms. Mackenzie was very pleased about, is the new Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve. This has just taken place and we are the first residents to hear the announcement. This new acquisition is an example of leveraging the OSA's funding. It was purchased with \$2million dollars from OSA, in combination with 6 other partners for the total price of \$8.6 million. The property was worth in excess of \$13 million. It is estimated to take approximately 2 years for the complete approval of the project. This time is required to go through all partners' processes for final approval. The land purchased was part of the property previously used by United Technologies Corp, who in the 60's and 70's provided in excess of 750 jobs and specialized in secret development of rock-

et systems and missiles such as the Titan. The excitement over this area is that it supports several natural resources and is habitat to wildlife that is either only found in this area, or considered in some cases to be rare and endangered species, such as the Tule Elk and Checkerspot Butterfly. The land also connects roughly 130,000 acres to other protected open space from Henry W. Coe State Park to Joseph Grant Ranch County Park.

The OSA additionally supports a specific program for assistance in developing Urban programs such as Martial Cottle Park. These funds are specifically for planning and for development of trails.

An additional component of the program is to support water resources and agriculture. Thus two important partners are the Santa Clara Valley Water District and the Farm Bureau. There is currently only 27,000 acres of agriculture still remaining in this Valley. This agricultural land is an important buffer for the 10th largest city in the Country.

Ms. Mackenzie briefly mentioned Measure Q which is an initiative on the Ballot in November. It is a request from the Open Space Authority for an additional \$12/year per household. This money is needed to continue with the Authorities' goals and ability to continue current projects.

A little over a year ago the Authority developed the Santa Clara Valley Greenprint, which identifies the most critical remaining open space and natural resources for protection and stewardship in Santa Clara County. The priorities included: water resources, trails, farms and ranches, and wildlife habitat. There are 30 projects that the Authority is currently working on or hopes to work on for the benefit of the residents of the South Bay including San Jose, which OSA continues to remind everyone, is the 10th largest city in the country. See the website, openspaceauthority.org for additional information about its importance to Santa Clara Valley residents current and future quality of life.

Ms. Rodgers thanked everyone for not only attending and participating in the meeting, but in their patience and in staying 30 minutes later to hear the final speakers. The next meeting will be the end of October, with a tentative goal of having an election forum. Watch for additional information.

Notice of Date Change: Nov/Dec VEP Meeting

The November membership meeting this year is being changed to the **first Tuesday in December**. In recent years, members often are too busy preparing for Thanksgiving and are unable to attend the November meeting. As a result, the VEP Board of Directors decided to change the meeting date which would have been November 25th to the first Tuesday in December - **December 2nd**.

Update on Dave Fadness

By Marilyn Rodgers

Dave Fadness continues to be hospitalized (as of this writing). He recently was transferred to a sub-acute Skilled Nursing Facility in Mountain View. Dave and Aiko remain hopeful that it will not be too much longer before he can be transferred home for continuing care. However, this may not be for many more weeks, as he continues to have intermittent medical issues. The good news however, is that he is now able to receive visitors!

The Fadnesses state that currently the best time for visitors is on the weekends, any time after 10am. If you would like to visit Dave at the hospital, please contact Marilyn Rodgers at 408/225-7553 or MRodgersRN@aol.com for additional information and updated status on Dave, prior to hospital visits.

VEP Members Honored by Our City Forest

Article By Marilyn Rodgers

On August 2nd, VEP Members were acknowledged for their many years of dedication to the urban forest in San Jose, as shown by the planting and caring of over 400 trees in and around the VEP neighborhoods. This included planting trees at Gunder-son High School, Parkview Elementary School, and open spaces in areas such as the corner of Narvaez and Branham Lane. Neighborhood parks, particularly Vista Park were also the recipient of VEP volunteers planting and continuing to help care for many trees. Volunteer efforts were famous for the care and planting of the Palm trees along Chynoweth Avenue (under the dedicated leadership of Dave Fadness).

The event on August 2nd was sponsored by Our City Forest to honor their many volunteers over a 20 year period. Our City Forest has been an invaluable partner for VEP. We look forward to that partnership continuing and expanding as OCF will also be one of the partner organizations with space at Martial Cottle Park.

The enclosed pictures show President Marilyn Rodgers accepting the awards honoring VEP members. In addition, District 10 Councilmember Johnny Khamis, an avid volunteer himself and dedicated supporter of Our City Forest, assisted in the presentation of awards. He assisted in the presentation of awards given to VEP and several other District 10 organizations and residents, along with Founder and CEO of Our City Forest Rhonda Berry and other OCF Staff.

Note: Please be sure to see the September edition of the VEP News for an article and pictures highlighting the commendations given to VEP member, Dave Fadness. One of the commendations had been given by Our City Forest to Dave for his outstanding dedication and service. Our City Forest presented Dave with its highest acknowledgement – the “Life Ambassador” award.

Photographs Contributed by Ms. Afsi Nasiri, mother of an OCF Honoree!



Did You Know?

October 17th was the 25th Anniversary of the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake! ...and most Bay Area residents are not truly prepared for the next —big one.” In the months ahead, VEP News Editor, Rachel Witmeyer will be writing a series of columns about emergency preparedness. Watch for more!

Update on Martial Cottle Park and Trail

By Marilyn Rodgers and Adina Pierce

The construction of the Park and Trail is continuing. All of the newly constructed buildings have been completed, and are currently locked for security reasons. The pace of the Trail construction has increased. Over the Summer months, one very exciting and obvious addition was the placement of the two bridges over the Canoas Creek.

Plans for landscaping along the Trail will be obvious in the next several weeks. This also includes the planting of trees – planted in clumps of 3 trees. These will be placed approximately several hundred yards apart along the Trail. In addition to trees aesthetic value, main purpose of course is to provide for some shade for Trail users.

Parks staff had a goal of having the Trail and the current parts of the Park to be completed and open to the public by the end of the year. This goal is on target. Park Manager Eric Goodrich announced at the VEP meeting in September that the Opening is scheduled for the weekend of December 13 and 14th. Watch for additional information in the coming months!

Martial Cottle Park: Private Security Patrols

By Marilyn Rodgers and Adina Pierce

In response to concerns voiced by VEP, County Parks have initiated increased security efforts for the Park and the Trail.

Over the Summer months, a few incidents occurred which increased everyone's concern about safety for the property, for Trail users, and for homeowners along the Trail.

The first incident which raised concern included a seriously chemically impaired young man who chased and verbally threatened several Trail users including women and young children. A VEP Board Member who happened to be on the Trail at the time, called San Jose Police who responded, and took the young man into custody. Two other incidents happened at night. One occurred at approximately 3am: a small sports car had gained access to the Trail and was racing at very high speeds on the Trail. The second incident which also happened at night (approximately 2am) was that of a trash can and visitor bench being intentionally torched and burned. This unfortunate incident caused special concern due to the Trail's close proximity to houses along the western edge of the Trail where this incident occurred, as well as the realization of the significant danger as it occurred during a time of severe drought and high risk for fires in general.

Private Security Patrols have been initiated for the Trail and will be done randomly all during the nighttime hours. The Patrols for the Trail were initiated the first of September. Private Security Patrols have been used for several months to provide additional security protection in and around the Life Estate.

Vigilance on the part of Trail users and homeowners along the Trail continues to be strongly encouraged! Emergency numbers for everyone to use are 911 for a crime in process, and 311 for suspicious activity.

Just a friendly reminder: the Trail is **only open during daylight hours**. With Fall arriving, the number of daylight hours is quickly decreasing, so plan your Trail activities accordingly. No one should be on the Trail at, or after dark.

**PARK
CLOSED
FROM
SUNSET
TO
SUNRISE**

Parents: VEP News Editor Seeks Your Help!

By Rachel Witmeyer

The VEP News would like to hear from parents and students in the community! We need a few volunteers to help make sure that our local schools are well-represented in the VEP News.

First Area of Need: Important Dates

We attempt to include as many "school events" as possible each month, on the "Community Schools Calendar," but we don't always have access to the most current information. As a parent contact for the VEP News, you will send brief emails to notify the Editor of any important dates for your child's school, including: Special Events, Fundraisers, Family Nights, School Closures, etc.

Second Area of Need: Short Articles

In each issue, we would also like to feature short articles that highlight the events and achievements at our community schools. The articles can be written by school staff members, students, or families. We would also make every effort to print any photos you send us. As a parent contact for the VEP News, you will submit short articles once per month (September through May).

Which Schools?

Elementary Schools: Carson (SJUSD) and Parkview (OGUSD)
John Muir Middle School, Gunderson High School

If you, or any other families you know, would be willing to help, please send an email to: vepeditor@gmail.com Thank You!



SeniorNet Press Release

By Joyce Monda, Public Relations Coordinator, Willows SeniorNet

Willows SeniorNet has been offering computer education for the senior adult (50+) community since 1994. We are a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. We are also a 100% volunteer run organization. No one is paid, not even the teachers. This allows us to offer classes at very affordable prices. For example: workshops are \$10, 4-week classes are \$15, and 8-week classes are \$20.

Willows SeniorNet offers classes in many different technologies. We have classes currently in session (4 sessions per year). There are still openings in our 2-hour workshops, all held from 9:00-11:00 AM: **10/28**, iPhone Apps. **10/21**, iPad Intermediate. **11/4**, Creating Calendars w/Shutterfly. **11/18**, iPad Multimedia

All classes are held at the Willow Glen Community Center, 2175 Lincoln Avenue (1 block north of Curtner Avenue). For more information, please call 408-371-3999, or see our website: www.snicsj.org/willows



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because...

❄ Santa is Coming ❄



...to the
**Vista Park
Community
Room!**

475 Hyde Park Dr.

Sunday, November 30th
Santa Hours: 2 pm to 4 pm

Photos with Santa Claus ❄ Arts & Crafts ❄ Hot Cider
Canned-Food Drive ❄ Holiday Toy Drive ❄ Bake Swap

Bring the kids or the whole family, for a free holiday photo with Santa Claus himself.

You may have your photo taken by a VEP photographer, or you may bring your own camera.

NEW: Baked Goods Share & Swap!

This year, bring your favorite holiday baked goods to "trade" with your neighbors. Anything homemade is welcome: pies, cakes, cookies, brownies, muffins, breads.

There may even be a prize awarded!

Volunteers Needed to help with the afternoon activities! We need one or two enthusiastic **photographers** who will help take pictures free for participants.

If you can help, please contact Helen Castillo: at 408/981-5902, or hcastillo@ybprop.com

Be sure to read the November Edition of the VEP News for more information about VEP's Santa in the Park event!

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Water District Construction Projects Update

Guest Column By Linda J. LeZotte

Director, Santa Clara Valley Water District

It's difficult to miss the very visible major construction projects in Santa Clara County. Who hasn't noticed cranes erecting new high-rise condominiums in San José? The BART extension is well on its way. Levi's Stadium is now hosting 49ers games, and the San José Earthquakes will soon be in their new home.

But what about water-related projects? While they are often not as visible, they are no less important. Santa Clara Valley Water District had 56 active construction projects in the fiscal year that ended last June. They are all in various stages, from early planning to active construction.

These projects fall into five categories: water supply, flood protection, water resources stewardship, buildings and grounds and information technology. Let's take a look at some of the major project highlights.

In water supply, we are in the design phase for the very important Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project. In addition, seismic retrofit projects for the dams at Calero and Guadalupe reservoirs in the South County are progressing.

The oldest of our three water treatment plants, Rinconada Water Treatment Plant in Los Gatos, will soon go through a major transformation. It will be almost entirely rebuilt. We are basically taking a 50-year-old facility and giving it 50 more years of life. Its capacity will increase from 80 to 100 million gallons a day, providing greater water supply reliability to cities on the west side of Santa Clara Valley. The facility will be seismically sound and will incorporate ozone disinfection, which will improve the water's taste. Furthermore, solar installation at the Plant will reduce energy costs.

We're also expanding the purple-pipe recycled water system in the region. We're extending the recycled water pipelines in the South County to approved residential development and local businesses. A new recycled pipeline is also in the works in Sunnyvale to bring recycled water to the new Apple campus.

Completed last year, the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center in north San José now produces up to 8 million gallons of purified water a day. This product is currently enhancing the quality of recycled water used for industrial and irrigation purposes. Additionally, this facility, the largest of its kind in Northern California, is demonstrating proven technologies to produce purified water that can be used for a variety of purposes, including po-

tentially expanding Silicon Valley's future drinking water supplies.

Mercury is a serious problem affecting water quality in the Guadalupe River watershed. A project to reduce mercury in Almaden Lake is in the planning stage. The project will also improve conditions for fish migration by separating the lake from the creek that currently runs through it. Our staff has done extensive outreach and engaged various community leaders in developing the project alternatives.

Even during a drought, the water district is looking ahead to the threat of flooding. Several flood protection projects are progressing, including projects on Lower Berryessa Creek, Upper Llagas Creek, Upper Guadalupe River, Coyote Creek, Sunnyvale East and West Channels, Upper Penitencia Creek, Lower Penitencia Creek, Lower Silver Creek, Permanente Creek and San Francisquito Creek. All of these projects will reduce the risk of flooding to both homes and businesses, while reducing flood insurance costs.

The South San Francisco Bay Shoreline project will provide tidal flood protection and restore tidal habitat. It will also help to provide protection to dozens of major Silicon Valley corporate campuses, wastewater facilities and low-lying communities, such as Alviso.

Providing flood protection on the Guadalupe River has been a major effort over many years. This month, crews will begin construction on the Upper Guadalupe River between Blossom Hill and Branham Lane. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is our partner on this and many other projects. Additional sections of this flood protection project are slated for construction in 2016 & 2017.

Unfortunately, some of our projects that were scheduled for construction in 2014 are experiencing delays in obtaining regulatory permits. Also, the lack of federal funding has delayed some projects and forced us to reduce the scope of some projects so that they can be completed without federal funds.

In all, the water district spent more than \$135 million last fiscal year on these, and many other, capital improvement projects, providing both jobs and economic investment within our county. Each of them, in one way or another, is helping to provide Silicon Valley with safe, clean water for a healthy life, environment and economy. Stay tuned, we look forward to more progress in 2015.

Please remember to use water wisely.

www.valleywater.org/drought2014
www.save20gallons.org



As always, I am available for questions or comments as your District 4 representative for the City of Campbell and the San Jose neighborhoods of Cambrian, Willow Glen, Blossom Hill and North Almaden area. Feel free to contact me at (408) 265.2600.

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Our Neighborhoods: VEP, District 10 and the City of San Jose

By Peggy Golden, VEP Board Member
Secretary for the District 10 Leadership Coalition

How it all works:

In 1978, San Jose voters passed Measure F, which was a ballot measure that instituted San Jose's current legislative structure of ten City Council Districts and the Mayor.

Since then voters have elected council members from among candidates living within their districts.

Our VEP neighborhoods of Vista Park, Carson and Parkview sit within the geographical boundaries of District 10. In November of 2012, Johnny Khamis was elected District 10's councilmember and took office January 1, 2013. One of Johnny's goals as a Councilmember is to be involved and accessible to the community and individual residents as much as possible. He holds Community Office hours twice a month out in the district giving residents the opportunity to meet him face to face to discuss their concerns.

To further foster direct communication between the residents and his office, Johnny reached out to the leaders of neighborhood organizations located in his district and helped them start an organization called District 10 Leadership Coalition. VEP is an active member.

Since September of 2013 this group has been holding meetings once every two months on a Saturday morning at the Almaden Community Center on Camden Avenue. Any resident who wants to be actively involved in their community is welcome to come and share their ideas and concerns. As with all new groups it takes a time to develop structure, purpose and common goals. To be honest, it seems to be an ongoing process.

Some of the agenda items to date have included updates from city leaders such as SJPd Chief of Police, Larry Esquivel; SJPd Southern Division Commander, Captain Shawny Williams; as well as Mayor Chuck Reed. We've had presentations from various San Jose City departments explaining community resources and what services they provide.

On a little more controversial side we've had pro-con facilitated discussions on local development projects and their impact on traffic, safety and quality of life in their respective neighborhoods.

Johnny and his staff always weigh-in, giving first hand reports and information on important memorandums, referendums, and/or proposals which will come before the City Council. Johnny uses this group as a sounding board as well as to obtain quick input from local residents who also represent their neighborhood groups.

All in all, the group's mission is to foster working relationships with government and other community groups, and encourage development of leadership, active community service, and engagement. If you, as an individual or as part of a group, would like to work directly with your councilmember on issues and projects that are important to you, please let us know. You can contact myself or Marilyn Rodgers at the email addresses on the back cover of this newsletter. We would like to hear how others are helping the community and we are always eager for new voices to give their ideas on how to help our neighborhoods become safer, stronger and better places to live.

Remember: *Democracy thrives when people and communities are informed and engaged.*

Neighborhood Commission Report

By Rich Giammona

The City of San Jose Neighborhood Commission met on October 8, 2014 at City Hall. We discussed many issues, but one in particular is the issue of homelessness and poverty. Many have expressed their concern via conversations, email, and on the online-forum, Nextdoor. Homelessness is an issue that has many different layers of which there is no easy or quick fix.

Ray Bramson, City of San Jose Homelessness Response Manager, gave an overview of current activities in San Jose regarding Homeless Population. He highlighted a couple of key points which were startling.

Approximately 4,770 people in San Jose are experiencing homelessness on any given night. In the City of San Jose, there are an estimated 257 homeless encampments and 1,230 people counted. The actual numbers are thought to be much higher.

Ray did inform the Neighborhood Commission that his team has Outreach Members. His team will come out and serve as a community contact in giving assistance and resources to individuals in need. They can be reached via phone at: 408-510-7600.

Detailed Information - In regards to the U.S. Department of Urban Housing and Development:
<http://www.sanjoseca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/31106>

Commission meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m., in City Hall, Wing Rooms 118&119.

Contact: rich@wonderfulworldlearning.com



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Gardening, with John Marks

Tis' the Season to be Pruning

What is the Best Way to Prune Orange Trees?: Orange trees need little pruning compared to other fruit trees. In fact, they prefer to have a skirt of leaves all the way to the ground. This protects the trunk which can get sun scald when exposed to strong sunlight. Citrus trees bloom and bear fruit on new growth, so cutting off branch tips will reduce the size of your crop. If desired, you can prune off the dead twigs and small branches found on the inside of the tree, but be aware of their sharp thorns, they scratch!

How to Prune Lavender

Some say that lavender should be cut back almost to the ground in the early winter. But that's a care technique applicable only in the Eastern U.S. Lavender in California should be pruned after flowering in mild-winter areas. You can use hedge shears to cut them back, or prune off stalks that have spent flowers on them. You'll get better results if you prune off the stalks. Make your cut just above a junction, leaving at least 1-inch of leafy stem. Your lavender will be more bushy and compact.

Keeping Ants Off Fruit Trees

Ants will climb into plants, shrubs, and trees to get access to the sweet exude of certain sucking insects (aphids, mealybugs and scale). They use the exudate as a food. Prevent their access to any shrub or tree that you see them invading by spreading —~~the~~ Tanglefoot Pest Barrier" around the stem or trunk. Wrap a 3-inch-wide band of masking tape around the trunk, near the base.

Spread a 2-inch, or so, wide band of Tanglefoot over the tape. Ants can't cross the gooey, sticky stuff. Replace the tape and Tanglefoot as needed.

Growing Parsley in Pots

Parsley is easy to grow in pots, and with restricted sunshine. But nursery transplants, since the seeds aren't reliable, often take several weeks to sprout. Use a commercial potting mix. Keep the mix moist. Fertilize monthly with a water-soluble complete fertilizer, such as Jobes or Miracle-Gro. Your parsley will grow all winter, but it is best to plant anew in spring.



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A Year of Salads, Sandwiches, & Soups

Online @ ayeurofsaladssandwichessoups.blogspot.com

By Kathy Wood

It all started with a funny picture of my cat, Tango. He fell asleep between my sewing machine and the bedroom wall, scrunching himself into that tight space just as all cats have the ability to do. I pulled out my phone, snapped a picture and posted it on a certain social media site.

Within a few minutes, comments were returned in the form of questions, "What are you making?" "Can we see what you are sewing?" I was putting together a couple of reusable bags to use at the grocery store since the ones sold at most stores are rather boring. I posted pictures of the finished products, receiving compliments and recommendations for selling the bags. After agreeing on a price, five women ordered a bag immediately.

A friend in Virginia who owns a shoe repair shop inquired about buying ten of them to sell in his store. Since then, he has ordered six more in specific designs or themes. His daughter ordered two for her small children to take to daycare. My recent accomplishment is what I call —~~int~~-size bags." These are for the —~~pint~~-size" people (kids) we all have in our lives. My granddaughters are going to love their —~~fozen~~" bags, according to their mother.

I sew at night quite often but I have learned to listen when my body reminds me it is tired. If not, the results found the next morning are anything but good, usually ending up with rip-outs and replacement of buttons that look a different color in the daylight. My iron and I have not seen eye to eye on occasion. Or shall I say, I have not seen my iron with my eyes and the iron always wins. I have the scorch marks on my fingers and arms to prove it.

My mother sewed some when I was small making cute little dresses for me. She enjoyed cutting out squares of fabric and making a simple quilt out of them. I don't remember her teaching me to sew, though. My home economics teacher, Mrs. Jackson, was my greatest influence. I was so excited to take that class because we got to make things! Little did I know, there are procedures to everything and if you try to take shortcuts, the finished product shows it. I learned that the hard way. During cooking class, I thought it ridiculous that we had to get everything ready ahead of time, put ingredients in individual prep bowls, cut up all vegetables, meat, etc., have all pots and utensils in front of you, before you can start. That's a lot of work, but to Mrs. Jackson's credit, that's the way I cook today. Preparation is everything.

So, now I'm spending more time in the sewing room than in the kitchen (maybe that's the secret to losing weight), but this is an easy and tasty salad that could be called a dessert.

Snickers Caramel Apple Salad

Ingredients:

- 6 regular Snickers™ candy bars
- 4 medium apples
- (1) 5.1 oz. package instant vanilla pudding mix, dry
- ½ cup milk
- (1) 16 oz. tub cool whip, thawed
- ½ cup caramel ice cream topping

For instructions on putting this sweet salad together visit ayeurofsaladssandwichessoups.blogspot.com. You will also find a picture and other recipes, most of which are less sweet. ☺

Special Note: If you are interested in owning one of my hand-sewn bags, please email me at kathykay59@yahoo.com. Or look me up at "In The Bag" on Facebook.



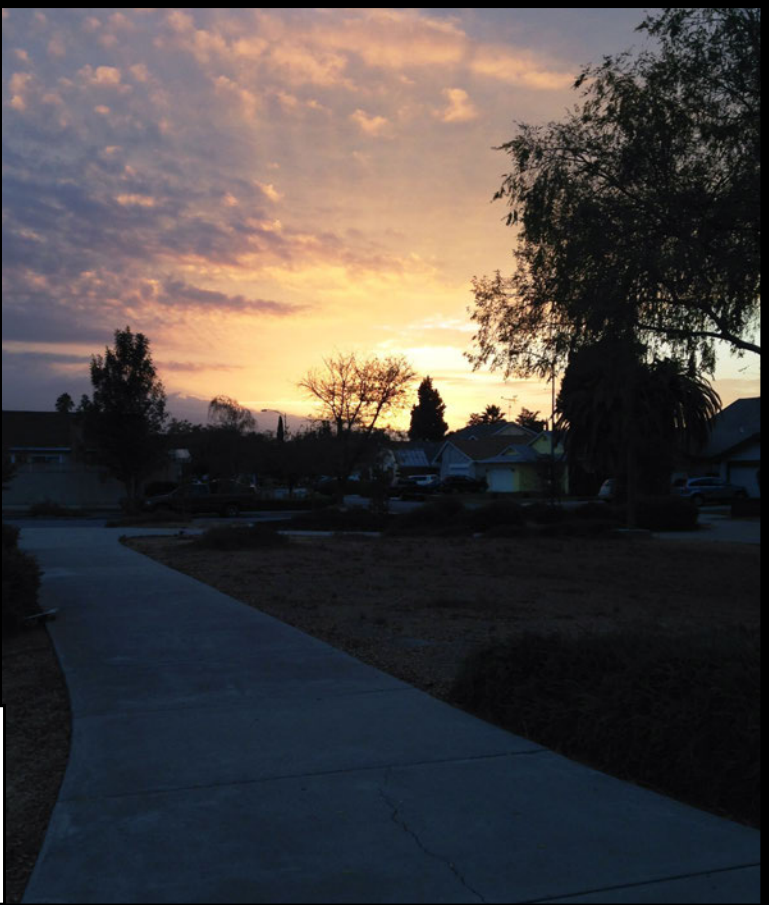
"IMAGES OF FALL SPLendor IN THE VEP COMMUNITY"

Photos by Adina Pierce: New Trail Construction at Martial Cottle Park (above)

Sunset on the Southeast side of Parkview Park II (right)

Panoramic Photograph taken from the South End of Parkview Park II (below)

Photos by Lindsey Friedberg, Houseguest of VEP News Editor, R. Witmeyer












Below: —the Pumpkin Patch and Lots of Fun @ Giordano Farms (5285 Snell Ave.)” (Photos Courtesy of Giordano Farms)



VEP Community Schools Calendar

October / November 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
19	20	21	22 SELAC Meeting ~ 10:00-11:00am ~ @JMMS Library Falcon Feeding Frenzy ~ 11am-9:30pm ~ @Bogey's Pizza 5039 Alamden Exp.	23  ~ 6:00-8:00pm ~ @GHS Theater	24	25 District 10 Youth Job Fair ~ 9am - 12pm ~ @Nordstrom Rack Courtyard, at the Oakridge Mall
26	27	28	29 JMMS Student of the Month ~ 9:07-10:04am ~ @JMMS Cafeteria Make-up Pictures @Carson School	30  ~ 6:00-8:00pm ~ @GHS Theater	31  Halloween Parades Carson: 1:30pm Parkview: 8:45am	1
2	3  Nov. 3rd - 14th @John Muir MS	4	5 JMMS Falcon Feeding Frenzy ~ 11am-10pm ~ @P.F. Chang's Oakridge Mall	6 Homecoming Hallway Decorating ~ 7:00-9:00pm ~ @Gunderson HS	7  Homecoming Football Game ~ 7:00-9:00pm ~	8  Gunderson H.S. Homecoming Dance ~7:00-10:00pm~
9	10 NO SCHOOL Oak Grove Schools SSC Meeting ~ 2:30-3:30pm ~ @Carson School Room C-10	11  NO SCHOOL	12 PTSA Meeting ~ 6:30pm ~ @JMMS Library	13  Big Can Game JMMS @ WGMS ~ 4:00pm ~	14  Joint Dance JMMS & WGMS ~ 6:30-8:30pm ~ @JMMS	15
16	17	18	19 SELAC Meeting ~ 6:00-7:30pm ~ @Gunderson HS Library/Media Ctr	20 SSC Meeting ~ 7:00am ~ @JMMS Library	21 SELAC Meeting ~ 8:05-9:05am ~ @Carson School	22

Community Schools Contact Information

Carson Elementary School ~ Home of the Cougars

WEB: <http://www.sjUSD.org/carson/> PHONE: (408) 535-6287

Parkview Elementary School ~ Home of the Panthers

PHONE: (408) 226-4655

John Muir Middle School ~ Home of the Falcons

WEB: <http://sjUSD.org/john-muir/> PHONE: (408) 535-6281



Gunderson High School ~ Home of the Grizzlies

WEB: <http://gunderson.sjUSD.org/> PHONE: (408) 535-6340



VEP Community Calendar

October / November 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
19	20	21 One-On-One Computer Help ~ 11am & 6pm ~ @Edenvale Branch Library	22	23 Creepy Creatures Halloween Crafts ~ 3:00pm ~ @Seven Trees Branch Library	24 Creepy Creatures Halloween Crafts ~ 11:15am ~ @Willow Glen Branch Library	25 Library Book Sales @Edenvale Branch ~ 10am - 6pm ~ @Evergreen ~ 10am ~ @Vineland Branch ~ 10am - 4:30pm ~
26 Library Book Sale ~ 1:00-5:00pm ~ @King Library	27	28 Creepy Creatures Halloween Crafts ~ 4:00pm ~ @Vineland Branch Library	29 Mayoral Forum ~ 7:00 PM ~ @Pearl Library Community Room 4270 Pearl Ave.	30 Creepy Creatures Halloween Crafts ~ 11:30am ~ @Pearl Library ~ 3:30pm ~ @Santa Teresa	31 Happy Halloween	1 Giant Fall Library Book Sale ~ 9am - 3pm ~ -Bag-O-Books- @2pm @Almaden Library 6445 Camden Ave
2	3	4 Election Day  GET OUT THE VOTE	5 D10 "Office Hours" Meeting w/Johnny Khamis ~ 8:30-9:30am ~ @Almaden Valley Community Center	6	7	8 Library Book Sales @Alum Rock ~ 10am - 3pm ~ @Bascom Branch ~ 10am - 4pm~
9	10	11  Veteran's Day	12 -Stuffed Animals Sleepover- Ages 3+ w/Adult ~ 6:30pm ~ @Seven Trees Branch Library	13 Thanksgiving Placemat Craft ~ 3:30pm ~ @Santa Teresa Branch Library	14	15 Library Book Sales @Berryessa Branch ~ 10am - 3pm ~ @West Valley ~ 10am - 3pm~
16	17	18 Turkey Day: Story & Craft ~ 11:30am ~ @Edenvale Branch Library	19 D10 "Office Hours" Meeting w/Johnny Khamis ~ 5:00-6:00pm ~ City Espresso 630 Blossom Hill Rd	20 Thanksgiving Placemat Craft ~ 3:30pm ~ @Pearl Library ~ 3:30pm ~ @Edenvale	21 California Writer's Club Open Mic ~ 7:30pm ~ @Willow Glen Branch Library	22 Library Book Sales @Ellington Branch ~ 10am - 2pm ~ @King Library ~ 10am - 5pm~

Coming Soon in the VEP:

VEP Community Meetings

OCT: Mayoral Candidate Forum
Wednesday, October 29th

NEW DATE FOR NOVEMBER:

Tuesday, December 2nd

DECEMBER: No Meeting

JANUARY: January 27th



VEP Community Events

Santa in the Park
Sunday, November 30th

Holiday Decorations Contest Judging
Weekend of December
12th through 14th

VEP Community-Wide Garage Sale
Saturday, May 2nd, 2015

THE VEP NEWS



VEP Community Association

P.O. Box 18111 San Jose, CA 95158
Email: vepca@vepca.net Website: www.vepca.net

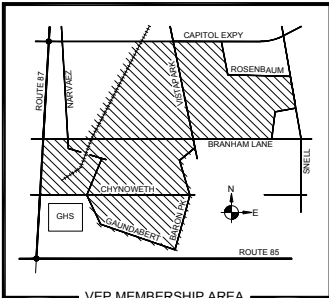
Published monthly by VEP Community Association, a not-for-profit organization of volunteers established in 1969 to serve and represent more than 2000 homes in the Blossom Valley area of southern San Jose. VEP is dedicated to neighborhood maintenance and improvement in its membership area as well as to 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.

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VEP, Erickson & Pinehurst Associations
Present
Mayoral Candidate Forum
7:00 pm Wednesday,
Oct. 29th

VEP, Erickson & Pinehurst Associations
Invite You to the Mayoral Candidate Forum
7:00 pm in the
Pearl Library
Community Room
(4270 Pearl Ave.)
Wednesday,
October 29th
Check our website: www.vepca.net

