

# VEP NEWS

## • VEP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION •

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

## FEBRUARY

## 2015

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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](mailto: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."

#### VEP Community Association ~ Executive Board of Directors

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Vice President - Katherine Decker  
Secretary - Adina Pierce  
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Director - Peggy Golden  
"VEP News" Editor - Rachel Witmeyer

## VEP'S MEETING

7:30 p.m. - Tuesday  
► February 24th, 2015 ◀

Vista Park Community Room  
475 Hyde Park Dr.

Everyone is welcome. Invite your neighbors!

### AGENDA



#### ★ Mt. Umunhum ★ the Iconic Radar Tower

Presentation by

**Basim Jaber**

Mt. Umunhum Conservancy Board Member  
Historian for the Almaden Air Force Station

#### ★ Update on Anti-Graffiti & Anti-Litter Program ★

Presented by

**Marta Dominguez**

Community Outreach: San Jose Department of Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services, Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti Program

#### ★ Updates on Martial Cottle Park and Trail ★

**Eric Goodrich, Park Manager**

#### ★ VEP Business Meeting ★

Announcements & Updates

Westfield Oakridge Winter Walk & Senior Resource Fair  
Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 8:30am – 10:30am

VEP Membership Drive – Mailing Prep Party  
Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1pm – 4pm / Vista Park Community Room

Updates from Councilmember Khamis & Staff

Daylight Savings Time Begins March 8th  
Happy St. Patrick's Day  
VEP's Next Meeting - March 31, 2015

#### ★ Your Concerns and Ideas ★

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

# ◆ 2015 is VEP's 46th Year! ◆

## VEP's February Meeting

By Marilyn Rodgers

We look forward to seeing you, your friends and neighbors, on **February 24th**. Please join us at the February VEP Community meeting, featuring:

### ► Presentations:

Featured guest speaker **Basim Jaber**, a Mt. Umunhum Conservancy Board Member and Historian for the Almaden Air Force Station, which included the iconic Radar Tower. He will provide a very interesting overview of the historic importance the Radar Tower and Almaden Air Force Station (thus, San Jose and South Bay) played in the Cold War. Mr. Jaber will also provide information as to why and how this visual iconic tower should be saved.

**Marta Dominguez**, Community Outreach for the San Jose Anti-Graffiti and Anti-Litter program will provide an update on these important programs, including current contact numbers, apps that can be utilized, and volunteer opportunities. You won't want to miss these presentations! Open to everyone – bring a friend!

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

Announcements and updates will be included.

### ► Your Concerns and Ideas – We want to hear from you!

Together we can work toward positive resolution. This continues to make VEP neighborhoods strong, healthy, and attractive.

We look forward to seeing you, your friends and neighbors, on **February 24th**. Please join us!

## January Meeting Synopsis

By Marilyn Rodgers

This year President Rodgers welcomed a standing room only crowd to the meeting. She started by asking everyone to begin the evening by turning to someone they did not know, to introduce themselves, and include which street they live on as part of the conversation. She allowed this obviously enjoyable exercise to continue for approximately three minutes, and then introduced VEP Board Members, Katherine Decker, Adina Pierce, Peggy Golden as well as Past Presidents in attendance – Stephen Kinsey, Greg West, and Dave Noel. She pointed to Vice President Decker and asked everyone if they had already had a chance to complete the membership application/renewal. If not, they were encouraged to do so and give it to Katherine Decker, as there would be a raffle drawing. Only those in attendance could participate in the drawing for a free VEP membership for the year 2015!

Ms. Rodgers then announced that she was pleased to have **Sonia Azevedo**, who had previously accompanied Captain Shawny Williams to a VEP meeting - return to provide an overview of the Neighborhood Watch program. Ms. Azevedo, is a Crime Prevention Specialist with the San Jose Police Department. Sonia provided all attendees with two handouts. One handout included information on how to schedule and setup a Neighborhood Watch program (this handout also included important contact numbers for the City of San Jose). The second handout was information on crime prevention techniques to assist in guarding against home burglaries. Ms. Azevedo asked the audience who had attended a Neighborhood Watch program in the last two years. The majority of the room had not. She continued with the announcement that this area which is X1 (a relatively small area) as the most number of burglaries in the city. No longer can we be complacent, and think that someone else will call the police; should we see something suspicious – we all need to be doing so. The police cannot help us, without us being the “eyes and ears” of our neighborhood. She then quickly provided a profile of a burglary and thief. Mostly young male, 14 to 24 years old; burglar-

ies usually happen during daylight hours of 9am to 4pm on weekdays. This does not mean that thieves cannot be older, and burglaries may happen at other hours or days. Biggest issue for vehicles – do not leaving them running unattended (to warm up engine etc), do not leave items of value where they can be easily seen in the vehicle, and... keep vehicles locked. Many vehicle break-ins and thefts occur at night.

Ms. Azevedo continued by quickly going through the slides that she will provide in a full Neighborhood Watch program presentation. Her presentation for this meeting was approximately 45

minutes – the complete program is approximately 2 hours. The intent of the Neighborhood Watch program is to provide an opportunity for neighbors on a street, block, or cul-du-sac to come together for the purpose of getting better acquainted with their immediate neighbors; including how many people are in each household, what are the usual hours they are home (or away from home, i.e. at work/school etc), how many – and the types of vehicles that are usually in the driveway or in front of their house (or parked close by), and many other issues. In this way neighbors can better watch out for each other. The program is best presented in a neighbor's home. Sonia indicated that the number of homes represented for the program presentation needs to be at least 10 – more if possible.

Sonia provided some very helpful additional information regarding home burglaries and vehicle break-ins and thefts. One of particular concern – is to be sure to have a dead bolt lock that is at least 3 inches in length. There are an increasing number of burglaries where the thief comes up to the front door, and kicks it in to access the home – usually during daylight hours. As some of our attendees/neighbors were fairly well informed, they shouted out answers to her questions. She teased everyone about not stealing her “thunder” for the home presentations.

Ms. Azevedo then asked people in the audience what streets they lived on – trying to quickly bring neighbors together to plan a home based neighborhood watch program presentation. However, most people lived on different streets. Ms. Rodgers then stressed that this program was just intended to be an overview and the complete program needed to be planned with neighbors living close to each other. While the preferred place to have the presentations was in a home, should this not be feasible, Ms. Rodgers offered everyone assistance is scheduling the Vista Park Community Room for groups of neighbors who want to have a Neighborhood Watch presentation. The handouts included information on how to contact and schedule Ms. Azevedo, who is in the SJPd Crime Prevention Unit, for a presentation. She can be contacted at 408-277-4133 or [www.sjpd.org](http://www.sjpd.org). She also needs 2 weeks minimum notice to schedule a presentation, a confirmed location to a hold meeting, a minimum of 10 households attending, and the name of a meeting host.

A member of the audience asked a question about when would we be increasing the number of police officers and what was the problem. Ms. Azevedo replied that the Chief of Police has indicated that the City of San Jose was at a crises stage, and that more officers were retiring than were coming in to the academies. In addition, some officers were leaving for more pay offered by other cities.

Ms. Rodgers thanked Ms. Azevedo for her presentation and her time. She also stated she would be encouraging members to contact Sonia to schedule home presentations.

Next, Ms. Rodgers introduced Aid to Councilmember Khamis, Rayshelle Edmunds (a relatively newly-wed, thus her name change). Rayshelle reminded people that the Councilmember has

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changed his community office hours which are available for our residents. Office hours for our area of District 10 have been changed from the third Wednesday evening to the **Second Saturday morning** of the month. Hours are from 10am to 11:30am. Upcoming office hours will be February 14<sup>th</sup>, March 14<sup>th</sup>, April 11<sup>th</sup>, and May 9<sup>th</sup>. The location for community held office hours is City Expresso, 630 Blossom Hill Road, San Jose, 95123 (close to Out-back Steak House).

Rayshelle also highlighted the upcoming annual Westfield Oakridge Winter Walk and Senior Resource Fair, scheduled for Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Rodgers indicated that this event has always been well attended by residents in the VEP area.

Rayshelle also stated that the Councilmember is very concerned about having adequate staffing for SJPD, and that the City Council is working hard to improve the situation.

A member in the audience asked why isn't San Jose hiring more officers and offering them enough pay and benefits to keep them from leaving. Ms. Rodgers intervened, saying that she could provide some information – that this is a complex issue. Part of which is the fact that San Jose pays for a Police Academy – that other cities do not have this expense, thus other cities can afford to pay officers a slightly higher salary. Rayshelle also stated that additional police academies were being scheduled to increase numbers of new officers coming in. Someone in the audience asked why there were so few people in the academies. One of the issues that the City Council is currently requesting information on regards the high number of applicants for the Police Academy, and what appears to be extremely small number of applicants accepted for the Academy. (From 3,000 applicants, academy classes of approximately 24. That is less than 1% - it has been indicated Harvard does not have such a low acceptance rate!)

Ms. Rodgers then introduced the next speaker, **Stephen McMahon**, Chief Business Officer for San Jose Unified School District. He provided an overview and current status of the new program that was scheduled to be moved to and subsequently housed at the Erikson School site on Pearl. That program is Liberty High School, which is an alternative high school program. Mr. McMahon stated that as of now, the plan may or may not go forward this year (fiscal year 2015-16). It may be delayed until 2016. That decision is scheduled to be discussed, made and/or altered at the upcoming San Jose Unified School District Board Meeting this Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Rodgers indicated that Mr. McMahon had been very busy leading and/or attending meetings that would effect several school locations throughout San Jose Unified School District. Mr. McMahon then provided a brief overview of the plan that had been initiated this year. It was as a result of trying to accommodate several sites and the most appropriate use the facilities. Specifically at Erikson, the SJUSD had received many complaints over the years regarding how the site at Erikson was used (or not used). Especially problematic was the fact that there was no responsible person (for instance a Principal) on site to manage ongoing issues and concerns. By moving the Liberty Program to Erikson, an on-site principal would deal with issues and concerns as they arose.

The "alternative high school program" will provide for students coming in from all over the district. As they do not attend regularly scheduled classes on a daily basis, they will be arriving and leaving at different times – thus there would be no school busing available. These students mostly would be both arriving by, and leaving by VTA. They meet periodically with their teachers and complete assignments in a more independent mode. These are students who do not typically fit into or do well with the usual structure and limitations of a high school. They typically tend to be stu-

dents who are not particularly social or benefit from large classes.

Questions and concerns were raised about disciplinary and/or gang related activities of students, and the potential for competition and/or trouble arising with this group of students and those that attend Gunderson High School. Gunderson is located just a couple of blocks from the Erikson school site. Mr. McMahon stated that historically there have been no more problems with this group of students then with any other high school program. In fact, there have been fewer issues up to now.

Dave Noel, who lives very close to Erikson, raised questions about when the decision would be made and was it merely a decision to delay for one year only. Mr. McMahon indicated that he could not second guess the District Board which would be meeting later in the week. However there was indication that the decision may be changed and/or modified to delay the project for a year, to work out community concerns. The biggest issue apparently has to do with the proposed changes and moves affecting the Downtown College Prep Academy program. Both staff and parents have raised issues, questions, and concerns. Should proposal be delayed, district staff would be doing additional community outreach over the next year.

President Rodgers thanked Mr. McMahon for his time and the information he provided.

Next she introduced **Eric Goodrich, Park Ranger and Park Manager** for Martial Cottle Park and Trail. He then proceeded to introduce an addition to the staff for the park: **Ranger Connie Ralls** (who waived to everyone from the back of the crowded room). Ms. Ralls has 13 years experience as a Ranger, and will be assisting, at least on a part time basis beginning later in February, with primary responsibilities in education and interpretation. Eric also indicated that he now has two maintenance staff assigned to the Park and Trail, Jeremy and Frank. We may see them as they traverse around the park in one of the "old" green Ranger trucks.

The Cross Trail – that will go through the middle of the park (with an entrance on Branham, close to Holycon/Mia streets) is being developed. It will probably not be opened for several more weeks/months. He will let us know as soon as it opens for public use. The hope is that several things will come online between March and May. The recent December "Storm" was a "blessing in disguise" – as several structural issues were uncovered and can be fixed. Those of us that attended the Opening Ceremony held in December were well aware of the flooding issue in some areas – which Supervisor Mike Wasserman nicknamed "Lake Lester". There also was some minor building damage which is quickly being fixed.

The Community Partners coming onboard have been somewhat delayed – mostly dependent on their individual organizational structural/organizational dynamics and requirements. The first to sign the contract with the County was Our City Forest. Others will be doing so over the next few months. The interviews for the Master Farmer (the person that will oversee all of the farming/growing contracts for the Park). These interviews apparently went well and the applicants were an impressive group of people interested in the position. Interviews were done by an outside group. We should know who the Master Farmer will be by next month. The goal is to have organic and sustainable farming. A Farmers Market is tentatively planned for 5 days/week.

Eric indicated that we may have noticed the change in the area where the Giordanos had their business. The original plan was for them to remain at least temporarily. Mr. Lester had it in his Will that they could/would remain for a year – that year is up in

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the first part of February. Eric stated he was not involved in the discussions with the Giordanos, and as such, is not privy to any of the information concerning them....so he does not have any information that he can share, other than apparently they have decided to move their operation elsewhere - as they are now gone! **(Note: Most neighbors were shocked and saddened to hear this news!)**

An attendee asked about the Life Estate. Eric indicated that the information he had was that something may be started - in terms of planning during the fiscal year 2016. The Life Estate will go through a planning phase, as did the original park property. There apparently was \$200,000 allocated for the Life Estate.

Ms. Rodgers thanked Eric for all of the information he provided the group.

While Vice President Decker was getting the raffle tickets available for the raffle drawing for the free VEP membership, Ms. Rodgers provided a brief update on Dave Fadness. Dave continues to receive care in the Skilled Nursing/Rehab Facility. He has had a couple of setbacks, but is doing much better. He appreciates having visitors. There are no set "visiting hours," but the best time continues to be on weekend afternoons. However, if that is difficult for anyone who wants to visit, time during the week can be arranged. One issue of importance however, is to refrain from a visit if you are not feeling well. This time of year, many people have colds or the flu (or family members are ill). If that is the case, please wait to visit Dave until you are feeling better.

This year's lucky winner of the raffle drawing for a free VEP membership was **Joyce Chesnos**. Joyce and her husband Bob, have been long time members of VEP, as well as dedicated VEP advertisers - Chesnos Painting. Congratulations Joyce!

Ms. Rodgers also announced that the annual VEP Membership Mailing Prep party (which is part of the annual membership drive) has been rescheduled tentatively for Sunday, March 1st.

Ms. Rodgers reminded everyone that the next VEP meeting would be February 24th; thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and asked that everyone help clean up the room - restack the chairs and so forth.

### **VEP Volunteer Opportunities!** **There are Many Ways to Help in the VEP!**

*By Marilyn Rodgers*

VEP needs volunteers!! Would you like to volunteer - to help your voluntary community association, as well as help to improve your? Many volunteer opportunities are intermittent, or only need a commitment of a small amount of time. While some activities are scheduled - weekday evening and/or weekend morning, others can be accomplished independently, and on a schedule that is convenient for you.

The following is a beginning list of upcoming volunteer opportunities - let us know if you can assist "your community association" with any of these:

1. Volunteer for 2 - 3 hours for the VEP Membership Drive - Mailing Prep Party, scheduled for Sunday, March 1st from 1pm to 4pm at the Vista Park Community Room. Contact Debra Suydam at 408-972-4231 or drsuydam@gmail.com or Helen Castillo at 408-981-5902 or hcastillo@vbprop.com
2. Attend a Meeting on VEP's behalf, ie. Planning Commission or the San Jose City Council, VTA Board, or County Board of Supervisors - just to name a few.

3. Write an article for the Newsletter - or, submit pictures of interest to the neighborhood (contact Rachel Witmeyer at vepeditor@gmail.com).
4. Design a flyer for an upcoming event, or....help pass out the Flyers to your neighbors (contact Helen Castillo see above)
5. Volunteer for a one time event - i.e. annual large event - VEP will be a cosponsor of the upcoming District 10 sponsored "4th of July Fireworks Festival"
6. Sign-up to be an Anti-Litter and/or Anti-Graffiti Volunteer in the VEP neighborhoods (this is one of the volunteer activities that can often be on a schedule convenient to you).
7. Volunteer to organize and/or participate in a Cleanup/ Maintenance project - scheduled quarterly.
8. Volunteer to Adopt-a-Park, Adopt-a-Street, or special Adoption - help maintain Vista Park Community Room.

Watch for other VEP volunteer opportunities. Or, if you have an idea for a project that would benefit the community, and you would like to help volunteer to make it happen, let us know!

### **ALERT! - Most Recent Phone Call Scams - Increase in Sophistication by Scam Artists** **Where and How to Report Such Scams!**

*By Marilyn Rodgers*

While telephone call "scams" are not new, calls received by VEP neighbors during the last part of January and first part of February have raised additional concerns, as these scam artists are becoming **more and more sophisticated**. This latest scam involves robocalls leaving a phone message stating that this is a call initiated by law enforcement at the request of the U.S. Treasury Dept. The vocabulary and terminology is at a much higher level of education than most of the previous calls many of us have received in past months. As a result of this higher level of sophistication, VEP neighbors either think it must be a mistake made by the initiator, and call to let them know it is an error; or because of the sophistication...neighbors think that possibly there could be some validity to the call.

#### **Be warned this is a SCAM! Do not respond to the call.**

Understandably due to the increased level of sophistication, some of our neighbors have responded to the call (called the number which is left on the voicemail). At which time the neighbor is put in more jeopardy, as "the bad guys" now have their phone number - caller ID - and their identification. The Scam Artists, as per usual, are very insistent (including using threatening language) in that you owe back taxes which must be paid **immediately** as an "arrest warrant" has already been issued in your name, etc, etc. Of course, under no circumstances should money be sent in response to these calls. A variety of area codes and phone numbers have been reported associated with these calls.

It is **very disappointing, as well as distressing**, that at this time the only remedy for consumers against these scams, is **consumer avoidance!!** While, we as consumers, do have a responsibility to educate ourselves and be vigilant against scams - Where are our "consumer protections"? Why is no one taking responsibility for this, and/or taking action to decrease or stop it from happening? (Unfortunately this is only one of many issues that are currently putting consumers at risk - credit card companies, large retailers, large financial houses, and now even large healthcare insurance providers!)

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There apparently are no accurate or comprehensive reporting mechanisms for determining number and types of calls/scams, much less who, what, where these scams are originating from and by whom! As citizens and consumers, it is way past time for us to start demanding that more be done to protect consumers!! (Note: As this is being written, a news flash on TV indicates that the President will be coming to Stanford for a keynote address for a Summit on Cyber theft – bringing high tech and others together to discuss potential ways to stop cyber theft – Bravo!– but when and how long before we see some positive initiatives toward protections!?)

Currently there is no organized umbrella mechanism in place to collect data or assist with scams in general at the local, state, or federal level. The same is true for “phone call scams”. Also currently, there are only broad “guesstimates” as to how many and what kind of scams – how much is lost financially, and how much is not reported because many people are embarrassed or otherwise uncomfortable in initiating reports. (The general consensus however is that it is a HUGE problem!)

**In the mean time, is it very important that we support each other, so that people are not embarrassed or uncomfortable coming forward to alert all of our neighbors, when such issues arise!**

#### REPORTING SUCH SCAMS!

There is some good news in that a few federal agencies – for instance the IRS in particular (as Scam Artists often are impersonating IRS agents in some fashion), also the Federal Trade Commission, and the FBI all offer both educational information for consumers and an online option to report scams.

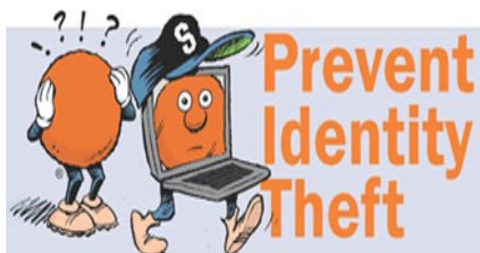
Reporting a “scam” depends on what type it is:

1. Phone Calls/Scams relating to the IRS and/or Taxes – IRS Impersonation Scam Reporting:  
[http://www.treasury.gov/investigate\\_contact](http://www.treasury.gov/investigate_contact)
2. Phone Call Scams and or Product Scams can be reported to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at [www.FTC.gov](http://www.FTC.gov)  
If the phone call scam is Tax related, add “IRS Telephone Scam” to the comment in your complaint. There is a drop down box under “I would like to” where you can submit a Consumer Complaint.
3. To report potential E-mail or Internet scams, the FBI has a website for these type of scams at the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center – <http://www.fbi.gov/scams-safety/e-scams>

While the number of potential scams we are all subjected to on a daily basis – phone and internet, is almost insurmountable, the next step of course for all of us as responsible citizens and consumers is to take the time to actually initiate reports on scams.

VEP will continue to assist in providing information to our members on this very important issue.

#### Avoid Phone



## Annual VEP Membership Drive: Volunteers Needed for “Mailing Party”

By H. Castillo, D. Suydam, K. Decker, and M. Rodgers

The VEP annual membership drive began in January. An important part of kicking off the annual membership drive, is the Membership Drive party!

This “party” is an enjoyable event for VEP volunteers who come together to prepare the January newsletter and the membership letter for mailing.



The date for this event is Sunday, March 1st, from 1 to 4pm at the Vista Park Community Room! To volunteer, please contact Debra Suydam at 408-972-4231 or [drsuydam@gmail.com](mailto:drsuydam@gmail.com), or Helen Castillo at 408-981-5902 or [hcastillo@vbprop.com](mailto:hcastillo@vbprop.com).

## TAPS Private Security Patrols: Consider Another Layer of Security Protection!

By Marilyn Rodgers

This is another great resource for the VEP neighborhoods. TAPS is an additional visible deterrent to criminal activity. If you are not already a subscriber, please consider becoming one!!

The number of patrols on a given street depends on the number of subscribers on that street. Non-subscribers do benefit as well, however the majority of benefits are directed to those who are paying.

TAPS provides round-the-clock patrols, vacation visits/checks, package pickups, and well as responding to and verifies security alarms for San Jose Police Department (SJPd no longer responds to alarms). Additionally, TAPS will respond to “suspicious behavior concerns” that a subscriber calls into the Security Officer on patrol.

Being a TAPS subscriber is an individual decision and “voluntary.” However, the more individual residential subscribers in a given area increases the protection for everyone. This service is offered at very reasonable cost - \$17.50 per month, which must be paid for in three month increments. The service can be cancelled at any time. TAPS has their service areas listed online by neighborhood (Vistapark, Carson, and Parkview for VEP) for both subscriptions and for call and patrol response reports – that are also provided to subscribers on a monthly basis as part of their service. For additional information, go to [www.TAPSPI.com](http://www.TAPSPI.com) or call 877-982-7774 or 408-418-3349.

(Note – As this article is being written – a recent sudden large increase in daytime home burglaries in the Almaden Valley have resulted in Almaden Communities hiring private TAPS Security Patrols, as reported in the SJ Mercury News on February 10th.)







Above: Custom signage at the park  
At Left: Double Rainbows following the early and heavy February rain-showers  
Left & Below: High water along the trail



All Photographs by Adina Pierce



**Join us!**

*You're Invited to the 8th Annual*

# W.O.W.W!

## Westfield Oakridge Winter Walk & Senior Resource Fair

Friday, February 27, 2015

8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Westfield Oakridge – Macy's Court

925 Blossom Hill Road, San Jose, CA 95123

For more information, call Councilmember Khamis' office at 408-535-4910  
or email [district10@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district10@sanjoseca.gov)

**Hosted by Councilmembers**

**Johnny Khamis, Donald Rocha, and Ash Kalra**



**Westfield** OAKRIDGE



## Concerned about Crime in our Neighborhoods? Organize a Neighborhood Watch Presentation!

By Marilyn Rodgers

Our neighborhoods are unfortunately very high on the list of San Jose City neighborhoods with the most home burglaries and vehicle break-in and thefts. At the January VEP membership meeting, SJPd Crime Prevention Specialist, Sonia Azevedo presented an overview of the Neighborhood Watch Program. Bringing small groups of neighbors together to get to know each other better and to learn safety and crime prevention tips and techniques, as provided in the Neighborhood Watch program, are one of the most effective ways to reduce and prevent crime in our neighborhoods!



The Neighborhood Watch program recommends that neighbors get together based on the street, block, cul-du-sac where you live. A minimum of 10 households represented at the presentation is required. It only takes one or two neighbors to organize the presentation. The Crime Prevention Specialist will present the program, and will provide flyers in advance for you to hand out to your neighbors.



Rich Giammona, VEP Board Member recently organized and hosted a Neighborhood Watch program for his street. It was very successful - with 17 people attending. He highly recommends the program and feels the information provided is invaluable. Each household attending the meeting is provided with a sign to post at home.

When you have decided to help organize a Neighborhood Watch program for a street or block, it is best to pick a couple of possible dates – evenings Monday through Thursday. Once you have a couple of tentative dates, and a location, finalize a date with Sonia Azevedo, the Crime Prevention Specialist for the VEP neighborhoods. Contact her at [www.sjpd.org](http://www.sjpd.org) or 408-277-4133.

Locations: a neighbor's home is the preferred location for a presentation. However, should you find that this is a stumbling block to having a presentation, please contact Marilyn Rodgers, at 408-225-7553 or [MRodgersRN@aol.com](mailto:MRodgersRN@aol.com) for assistance in scheduling a possible alternative site.

Let us know when you have hosted a Neighborhood Watch Program for your street! Send an email to [VEPeditor@gmail.com](mailto:VEPeditor@gmail.com), and let us know how it went.

# Report Suspicious Activity

to your police department



## Flooding Happens... Even During Droughts!

By Linda LeZotte, Dir. Santa Clara Valley Water District

The intense storm system that slammed our region in mid-December is a good reminder to be prepared for flooding every winter, even amid a severe drought. Flooding can strike quickly with little, to no warning. Floodwater can flow swiftly through neighborhoods and away from streams when creeks overbank.

While many areas experienced street flooding due to storm drain systems that could not keep up with the runoff, local creeks were fortunately able to handle the flows. The water district's flood protection efforts certainly helped avert creek flooding. The district works all year to prepare creeks to carry rain flow by repairing eroded banks and removing debris and accumulated sediment. With most of the trees having already shed their leaves, now is a good time to look around your neighborhood to check that the storm drain inlets are free from leaves and debris. Moving the leaves so they can be picked up by street sweepers will help prevent street flooding from blocked storm drain inlets.

Many flood protection projects have been completed over the years, providing protection against a 100-year flood, a flood that has a 1 percent chance of occurring in any year. However, thousands of parcels in Santa Clara County remain in a 100-year flood zone, and the district and its partner agencies are moving forward with numerous flood protection projects throughout the county to address persistent flood-prone areas.

Floods are one of the most common hazards in the United States, causing billions of dollars in damages. One of the most important things you can do to prepare yourself and your family is to have a family emergency plan and emergency kit for your home and car. Designate a family meeting spot in case of any disaster.

We have all seen news footage of cars stuck in flood waters. Avoid driving into flooded areas. A foot of water will cause many cars to float. Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles, including SUVs and pick-ups.

The water district's outreach and flood risk reduction efforts actually help reduce flood insurance rates. Recently, the district's efforts accounted for approximately \$2.6 million in annual flood insurance premium savings for Santa Clara County residents. Consider purchasing flood insurance, as your basic homeowner's insurance does not cover losses from flooding.

Despite this reminder that flooding can occur in winter, the drought persists. A good start to the winter is not enough for our groundwater basins to recover from three very dry years. As we saw during 2012-13 winter season, we can have flooding in December and then extremely dry conditions for the remaining winter months. Local conditions are not the only factor to consider. With 55 percent of our water supply coming from outside the county, we must take statewide conditions into account.

The state's first snow survey revealed that the water content is just one third of normal, and the state's largest reservoirs such as Lake Shasta and Lake Oroville, where we receive through the Delta 55 percent of our water, are only about two thirds of average for this time of year. Given these conditions, our call for 20 percent water use reductions will continue well into 2015.

Rain or shine, please continue to conserve water.

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.





*It's The New Year ...*

## Time to Renew your VEP Membership!

VEP membership is based on a calendar year, January through December. So if you haven't already - please renew your membership! 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 neighborhood 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.

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

*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

☐ 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, CA 95158.

***Thank you!***



[www.sccgov.org/sites/d1/Pages/Supervisor-Mike-Wasserman.aspx](http://www.sccgov.org/sites/d1/Pages/Supervisor-Mike-Wasserman.aspx)

**Calling all Seniors! FREE Winter Walk & Resource Fair!**  
Please join me for the 8th Annual Westfield Oakridge Winter Walk and Resource Fair. The event will be held in the Macy's courtyard. Hosted by Councilmembers Johnny Khamis, Don Rocha and Ash Kalra, this very popular event brings together vital information for Seniors and their families in a fun and educational environment. The Resource Fair will feature helpful health information for Seniors followed by a walk around the mall, fun activities, healthy treats and more. For more information about attending, please contact Councilman Khamis' office: [district10@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district10@sanjoseca.gov)



# W.W.O.W

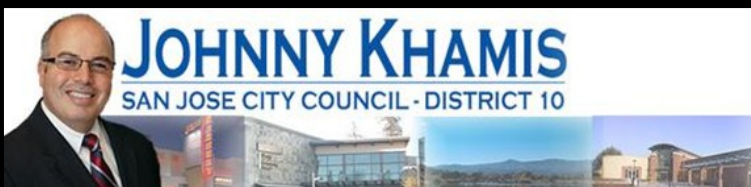
Westfield Oakridge Winter Walk  
&  
Senior Resource Fair

Friday, February 27th, 2015  
8:30am - 10:30am

Call 408-535-4910 for More Information

**Measles Update:** The Santa Clara County Public Health Department recently confirmed two cases of measles in the County. These cases raise the possibility that some residents may have been exposed to measles, since the patients visited public locations while infectious. On Sunday, Jan. 18, a person infectious with measles visited two locations in Gilroy, Costco and Walmart, between 4:00pm and 6:00pm. On Monday, Jan. 19, this person also visited Dave & Busters in Milpitas between 6:00pm and 9:00pm. The risk of developing infection after a brief encounter with a person with measles is low, but as a precaution, people who were at the above locations at the times listed should review their vaccination history and monitor themselves for measles symptoms until Feb. 8 (the time period when symptoms may develop). If you have any questions about your vaccination status, consult your doctor, who may elect to give you another Measles, Mumps, and Rubella Vaccine shot or perform a blood test to check for immunity to measles. For more information about measles please visit the County Public Health Department at [www.sccphd.org](http://www.sccphd.org).

**Healthcare in the County:** Continued healthcare access is critically important for Santa Clara County residents. On February 20, Attorney General Kamala Harris is due to reveal her decision regarding the proposed sale of the Daughters of Charity Health System to Prime Healthcare Services which includes O'Connor Hospital in San Jose and Saint Louise Regional Hospital in Gilroy. While the decision to allow the sale or not rests solely in the hands of her office, my concern continues to be maintaining healthcare services in Santa Clara County, especially for our most vulnerable population. The County is committed to ensuring continued access to these vital services regardless of the outcome of the sale. Both hospitals provide critical emergency services as part of the County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system. Current County contracts require a 180-day notice of possible emergency services reduction, allowing the County to intervene to ensure that they remain open. State law also requires notices before other planned service reductions. Should the sale be rejected hospital services will continue in some capacity.



**NEW DISTRICT 10 WEBSITE:** We want to be sure we are meeting your needs, and to disseminate information to you as efficiently and simply as possible. For several months now, we have been working on a brand new District 10 website! We hope you find it to be a valuable resource to connect you with the City of San Jose and to learn about upcoming events, recent Council items, important phone numbers, helpful safety tips, and much, much more!

Explore the new site, at <http://www.sjd10.com/home.html>

## Upcoming Events February



### February 20 - Lunafest San Jose Film Festival

<http://www.sjwomansclub.org/lunafest.html>

Eight award-winning short films by, for, and about women along with a delicious catered dinner to benefit the Breast Cancer Fund, Pathways Hospice and Health Care and other local charities. San Jose Woman's Club, 75 South 11th Street, \$50 - \$20, Dinner and drinks at 6:00 p.m., Films start at 7:00 p.m.



### February 24 - March 8 - Cinequest: Call for Volunteers

<http://www.cinequest.org/volunteer>

Volunteer with the Cinequest Film Festival team and help produce San Jose's storied movie festival.



### February 28 - March 8 - San Jose Jazz Winter Fest

<http://sanjosejazz.org/blog/filter/winterfest/>

Tickets are now on sale for San Jose Jazz's Winter Fest featuring Mad's Tolling Quartet with Tierney Sutton and more at venues throughout downtown. Feb. 27 - March 8. Prices vary.



## In Memoriam: Jeanne Mullins

By Marilyn Rodgers



It is with sadness that the VEP Board of Directors wishes to convey our condolences to the family and friends of long time resident and active VEP member, Jeanne Mullins. Jeanne passed away on January 29th following a brief illness.

Jeanne proudly taught 1st and 2nd grade for 33 years, and retired from teaching at Carson Elementary School. A Memorial Celebration will

be held at Holy Family Parish on Pearl Avenue, on Monday, February 16th at 3pm.

*Below, please find an excerpt from the "San Jose Mercury News."*

Jeanne Mullins  
July 9, 1944 - January 29, 2015  
Resident of San Jose

Jeanne Shafsky Mullins, 70, died on January 29, 2015 due to a short battle with cancer.

Jeanne was born in Fort Bragg, CA to the late Mero and Dee Shafsky. Her siblings are Deanne Turner, Butch Shafsky, Harry Shafsky and Marjie Beckman. She leaves her daughter Alison (Ryan), son Preston (Janna), and wonderful grandchildren Summer and Colton Lindholm, and Keira Mullins.

Jeannie taught 1st/2nd grade for 33 years. Her effect on her students is demonstrated with their success, in which she took great pride and delight.

Jeannie enjoyed extensive travel, reading, bowling, volunteering and being with her family and friends. A few friends from Fort Bragg, the "Iron Poppies," she knew for over 67 years.

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## Days of Old: Mary Folsom Hayes Chynoweth

*From the San Jose Historical Archives*

*Contributed by Debra Suydam*

Mary Folsom was born in New York State. She was a school teacher. As a young girl she was aware that she possessed a spiritual ability. She met a young engineer working on the Erie Canal named Anson Hayes and married him. She began to get "feelings" that if they moved to the midwest they would find ore. Mary and Anson moved to Michigan and became wealthy mining the ores that Mary's "feelings" found for them.

They had two sons, Everis Anson and Jay Orley. Both sons became lawyers.

When Anson's health began to fail Mary's dream of a grove of Oaks led them to California to visit friends. Her search for the oak grove ended in what is now the Edenvale area of South San Jose on property then owned by Frederick Tennant.

Frederick had inherited the land from his grandfather, John Tennant, who had become postmaster in what is now Morgan Hill. John Tennant bought his land from a grandson of Joaquin Bernal who had been granted nearly 10,000 acres of land in what is now South San Jose by King Carlos of Spain. Under the terms of this land grant the land would have gone back to the king of Spain when Joaquin died. When Mexico won its independence from Spain, Governor Figueroa granted the title to Joaquin Bernal completely, allowing his children and grandchildren to inherit the land.

Anson Hayes died when they returned to Michigan. Mary and her sons moved to Eden Vale and built a beautiful English Tutor mansion. The mansion burned down, so Mary had it rebuilt as the current Mediterranean style mansion. The house was built to public building code, with fire doors between each of the three sections of the house. The house had three wings—one for Mary, one for Everis Anson and one for Jay Orley.

Mary was a spiritualist who was friends with Sarah Winchester. Although Mary died in 1905, just before the house was completed, Sarah was such a close family friend that she had her own bedroom in the mansion when she came to visit.

After Anson died, Mary remarried. Her second husband was a San Jose attorney named Thomas Chynoweth.

Mary's spiritualism caused her to form her own church called the True Life Church. She built a chapel on her land which later burned down. She also held services in the Unitarian Church in downtown San Jose. Her daily spiritual sayings are published in two volumes. Copies of these, along with pamphlets from the True Life Church, are housed in a small museum at Edenvale School at 285 Azucar Ave. in San Jose.

## Emergency Preparedness: Part 3 Build Disaster Kits for Home & Away

By Rachel Witmeyer



Probably the most well-known component of emergency preparedness is the infamous "Disaster Kit." While popularized as a must-have for every "prepper," well-stocked Disaster Kits actually save lives. It may seem daunting to assemble, but once established, they become easy to update and maintain.

Well-prepared families will have several kits: one extensive kit for the home, a kit for each family vehicle, and a kit for each of the family members' workplaces. The truth is, we never know where we might be when a disaster occurs, and having important supplies, including medications, could mean the difference between surviving or succumbing.

We cannot ignore the expense a family might accrue in setting-up and maintaining the highest level of Disaster Kit preparedness. If your family can afford it, you should keep kits for home, away, and at work. If the cost is prohibitive for your family, start with the most important kit: a home kit with the basic essentials. Another way to keep the cost down: Avoid pre-made kits, which may not suit your family's needs, and will cost a premium price.

Santa Clara County, the American Red Cross, FEMA, and many other agencies provide recommendations for kit-building. Below, I provide you an overview, gleaned from several sources.

### >START HERE:

#### TOP 10 ESSENTIAL ITEMS for ANY KIT

Water (minimum 1 gallon per person per day, x3 days, at least)  
Food (canned, with can opener, x3 meals/day x3 days, at least)

Shoes (sturdy) and Warm Jackets / Clothing  
Raingear & Umbrellas  
Blankets / Sleeping Bags (1 per person)

First Aid Kit (You can make your own! Follow the link, below!)  
[www.redcross.org/prepare/location/home-family/get-kit/anatomy](http://www.redcross.org/prepare/location/home-family/get-kit/anatomy)

Fire Extinguisher  
Radio (separately packaged, extra batteries)  
Flashlight (separately packaged, extra batteries)



### + ADD +

#### NECESSARY "SPECIAL NEEDS" ITEMS

- Family Members' Medications / Inhalers, etc.
- Aids / Devices: Glasses, Hearing Aids, Cane/Walker, etc.
- Babies / Children's Needs: Bottles, Formula, Diapers, etc.
- Family Pets' Needs: Food, Water, Collar, Leash, ID Tag, Ball, Blanket, Pets' Medications, etc.

### + ADD, IF POSSIBLE +

#### ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES:

##### PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

Hats and Sunglasses  
Dust Mask & Eye Protection  
Gloves (with leather palm)  
Safety / Emergency Whistle

##### TOOLS & SUPPLIES

Scissors, Duct Tape  
Plastic Garbage Bags & Ties  
Crowbar & Shovel  
Outdoor Lantern  
Plastic Sheetting, Waterproof Sacks  
Tools & Supplies for Securing Your Property (wood, nails, etc.)  
Household Chlorine Bleach\* & Medicine Dropper  
\*Disinfect: dilute nine parts water to one part bleach (any)  
\*Treat water: use 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water (Do not use scented, color safe or bleaches with added cleaners.)

##### PERSONAL ITEMS

Towels, Soap, and Water-Basin  
Feminine Hygiene Supplies  
Personal Hygiene Kit (Wet Wipes, Toothbrush & Paste, etc.)  
Complete change of clothing (one per person)  
Writing Kit (in a waterproof container)  
Important Documents (copies, in a waterproof container)

##### OTHER HELPFUL ITEMS

Tent(s)  
First Aid Book  
Two-Way Radios  
Extra Keys to Home, Car, etc.  
Matches (in a waterproof container)  
Mess kits, paper cups, plates, paper towels and plastic utensils  
Local Maps / Directories  
NOAA Weather Radio (with tone alert and extra batteries)  
Money (small denominations), Change (coins)  
Cellular Phone (prepaid, with inverter or solar charger)  
Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children



#### Sources:

Federal Emergency Management Agency - [www.ready.gov/kit](http://www.ready.gov/kit)  
American Red Cross - [www.redcross.org/prepare/location/home-family/get-kit](http://www.redcross.org/prepare/location/home-family/get-kit)  
Santa Clara County Office of Emergency Preparedness - [www.sccgov.org/sites/oes/BeforeDisaster/Pages/BeforeDisaster.aspx](http://www.sccgov.org/sites/oes/BeforeDisaster/Pages/BeforeDisaster.aspx)

*Next Installment:* Parts 4 through 7 or, "Practice - Revise - Refine"  
When you have developed an Emergency Plan, you are ready for the next phase. Practice, refine and improve your plans!



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## Gardening, with John Marks

### Watering Tips

Keep those indoor plants warm and cozy; never water them with cold water, or allow the watering can to sit overnight first. This also minimizes the amount of chlorine, a chemical harmful to many delicate indoor plants. If you use a water softener, remember that salts added to soften water is not good for sensitive houseplants. Use distilled water that you buy at the store.

If your plant's leaves do turn brown, you need to get rid of toxic salts before they kill the plant. Do this by flushing the soil thoroughly. Take it to the sink, or outside. Run water through it twice. If the container is too large to handle, use a turkey baster to remove excess water from the saucer under the container after you flush the soil.

Flush a third time using water to which you have added half a teaspoon of vinegar per quart of water, which will leach out accumulated salts. Then use a vinegar/water solution instead of regular water every other week when watering. The vinegar neutralizes the harmful salts and will lower the pH of the soil, making it more acidic and keeping it salt-free. Your houseplants will love it. The new growth will be lush and green.

You can also over-water, especially bougainvillea vines outside. If they drop their blossoms too soon, you need to use a little benign neglect. Refrain from watering until you feel that it has almost reached the wilting point, then soak the soil to a depth of two or three feet. Some gardeners think of these vines as being tender tropical - they really are hardy.

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## Random Tidbits, with Kathy Wood



Since February is the month for LOVE I thought I would share my personal LOVE story. It all began 56 years ago in a tiny town in Michigan. Two babies were born in the same hospital 4 months apart. These same two babies began school 5 years later and grinned proudly for their first grade school pictures.

Several grades later, they reached high school. One joined band and drama, the other home economics and publishing the school newspaper. Their paths rarely crossed as they neared graduation. Trade school consumed the life of one, while working at the local grocery store full-time took over the other person's day-to-day.

After trade school, a job opportunity in California arose and became a new home, followed by marriage and producing two children. The other person tied the knot, had one baby, moved to Florida, then proceeded to bring into the world three more babies. After 10 years and a divorce, a move back to Michigan was made. Meanwhile, a divorce in California took place, but the two children and their dad continued to spend time every summer in Michigan with their grandparents/parents.

One summer after the 4th of July fireworks celebration, the two classmates were re-introduced in town at a local hangout. After much talking, that night and the following two days, they found themselves to have a lot in common and desired to find out more about the other, but one lived in California and one in Michigan. After a year of almost monthly plane rides, daily phone calls, and a proposal shortly after Christmas, California became home for both of these Michiganders.

We will be married 12 years in September, our children are grown, and we have 7 grandchildren. We continue to talk about our lives in the tiny town in Michigan where we were introduced twice, the second time being the charmer.



## ♥ Meatloaf, with Love ♥

My favorite meatloaf recipe includes ground beef, ground sausage and ground veal. The ground beef is usually double the amount of the other two. (i.e. - 50% beef, 25% each of sausage and veal)

I always add chopped onions, chopped garlic, some oats, a couple of eggs, Italian bread crumbs, some Panko crumbs, a little Worcestershire sauce, and whatever spices you like (salt, pepper, smoked paprika, nutmeg, sage, basil, seasoned salt, etc.). A little milk or whipping cream helps hold it all together.

I never measure anything; I just start throwing it in and mixing it up. You can add pretty much whatever you would put in a burger.

After placing the mixture into a loaf pan I leave the top bare because my husband isn't fond of condiments, but I like some cat-sup or barbecue sauce mixed with a little brown sugar to spread over the top. You can also place 2 or 3 slices of bacon over it before baking.

Bake in a 350 degree oven for at least an hour.

# VEP Community Schools Calendar

February / March 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<div> <div>←</div> <div>Winter Break ~ No School This Week @ OGSD and SJUSD Schools</div> <div>→</div> </div>						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		PSCA Meeting ~ 6:00pm ~ @Parkview Cafeteria	NJHS Meeting @JMMS	SSC Meeting ~ 7:00am ~ @JMMS Library	 Falcon Dance ~ 6:30-8:30pm ~ @JMMS Cafeteria	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
					 Principal's Coffee @JMMS	
		10	11	12	13	14
		ELAC Meeting ~ 8:45am ~ @Parkview Cafeteria	NJHS Meeting @JMMS  PTSA Meeting ~ 6:30pm ~ @JMMS Library	Minimum Day @Carson School	Minimum Day @Carson School	
		 <b>AUDITIONS!</b> ~ 3:00-5:00pm ~ @Gunderson HS Theater	18	19	20	21
			SELAC Meeting ~ 6:00-7:30pm ~ @Gunderson HS  JMMS Falcon Feeding Frenzy @CA Pizza Kitchen	SSC Meeting 7am @JMMS Lib. <b>TK/K Parent Tour</b> 8:45am @Parkview <b>GGT AUDITIONS</b> 3-5pm @GHS <b>Family Night</b> 6:30-8pm @GHS		 Sadie's Dance ~ 7:00-10:00pm ~ @Gunderson

## VEP 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**  
 WEB: <http://parkview.ogsd.net/> 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

February / March 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
15	16	17	18 Knit & Crochet ~ 12:30pm ~ Jewelry Making ~ 3:30pm ~ @Pearl Ave. Branch Library	19 Author Oliver Chin: "The Year of the Sheep" ~ 3:30 pm ~ @Edenvale Branch Library	20  ~ 6:00pm ~ SJ Women's Club	21
22  <b>1</b> VEP Mailing Party ~ 1- 4 pm ~ @Vista Park Community Room	23	<b>24</b> VEP Community Meeting ~ 7:30 PM ~ @Vista Park Community Room	25 Knit & Crochet ~ 12:30pm ~ Jewelry Making ~ 3:30pm ~ @Pearl Ave. Branch Library	26 Line Dancing 1pm Kids Knitting 4pm @Pearl Library Snowman Craft 3:30pm @Edenvale Library	27  Walk & Senior Fair ~ 8:30-10:30am ~ @Oakridge Mall	28 The Corny Crow Show, with Steve Chaney ~ 2:00pm ~ @Pearl Ave. Branch Library
	2 Python Ron's Reptile Kingdom ~ 3:30pm ~ @Edenvale Branch Library	7  Dr. Seuss' Birthday Party ~ 11:30am ~ @Edenvale Branch Library	4 D10 "Office Hours" Meeting w/Johnny Khamis 8:30-9:30am @Almaden Valley Community Center	5 Art: Foil Embossing ~ 3:30pm ~ @Edenvale Library Teen Craft: Stencils from Photos ~ 4:00pm ~ @Pearl Library	6 LEGO® CLUB ~ 4:00pm ~ @Pearl Library Community Room	7  Dr. Seuss' Birthday Party ~ 2:00pm ~ @Pearl Ave. Branch Library
8	9	10	11 Book Club ~ 6:30pm ~ @Pearl Ave. Branch Library	12 @Pearl Library "Jump for Joy" Music Performance ~ 11:00am ~ Line Dancing ~ 1:00pm ~ Knitting for Kids ~ 4:00pm ~	13 Python Ron's Reptile Kingdom ~ 4:00pm ~ LEGO® CLUB ~ 4:00pm ~ @Pearl Library	14 D10 "Office Hours" Meeting w/Johnny Khamis 10:00-11:30am @City Espresso 630 Blossom Hill Rd
15	16 Bricks 4 Kidz: Energy Is Everywhere ~ 3:30pm ~ @Edenvale Branch Library	17 My Name Is Yoon Story & Kid's Craft ~ 11:30am ~ @Edenvale Branch Library	21 Friends of the Edenvale Branch Library Meeting ~ 6:00pm ~ @Edenvale Branch Library	19 @Pearl Library Line Dancing ~ 1:00pm ~ Knitting for Kids ~ 4:00pm ~ "Friends of the Library" Meeting ~ 5:30pm ~	20 LEGO® CLUB ~ 4:00pm ~ @Pearl Library Community Room	21 Friends of the Pearl Ave. Branch Library Book Sale ~ 10am-5pm ~ @Pearl Avenue Branch Library

## Coming Soon in the VEP:

### VEP Community Meetings

Tuesday, March 31st  
Tuesday, April 28th  
Tuesday, May 26th



### VEP Community Events

VEP Community-Wide  
GARAGE SALE  
Saturday, May 2nd

# THE VEP NEWS



## VEP Community Association

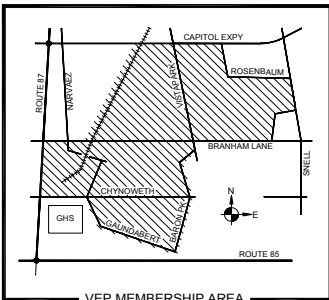
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Published monthly by VEP Community Association, a not-for-profit organization of volunteers established in 1969 to serve and represent more than 2000 homes in the Blossom Valley area of southern San Jose. VEP is dedicated to neighborhood maintenance 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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Treasurer	Ginger Cardona	227-0222	<a href="mailto:cardona@sbcglobal.net">cardona@sbcglobal.net</a>
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Check our website: [www.vepca.net](http://www.vepca.net)

Community Room

Vista Park

7:30 pm in the

Be sure to attend  
VEP's Community Meeting  
Tuesday, February 24th