

VEP NEWS

• VEP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION •

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

OCTOBER

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 // 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
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VEP'S COMMUNITY MEETING

7:30 p.m. - Tuesday

► **October 27th, 2015** ◀

Vista Park Community Room
475 Hyde Park Dr.

Everyone is welcome. *Invite your neighbors!*

AGENDA

★ **Update on Communications Hill Project ★**
and Improvements to Narvaez/Capitol Expwy.

Presentation by
Jerry Strangis

Consultant, Developer Representative

★ **Overview of Almaden Ranch ★**
Bass Pro Opens – October 28th

Gerry DeYoung

Consultant, Developer Representative

★ **VEP Business Meeting ★**

Please Note – Special Announcement:
San Jose City Council Will Adjourn
in Honor of Dave Fadness
October 27th – Early Afternoon

Announcements & Updates

Update on Martial Cottle Park ~ Eric Goodrich, Manager

Dave Fadness Memorial Beautification Day
Vista Park – 9am on Saturday, November 14th

Santa in the Park
Vista Park Community Room / 2-4pm Sunday, Nov. 29th

Updates from Councilmember Khamis & Staff

VEP's Next Meeting - Tuesday, December 1, 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 October Meeting Preview

By Marilyn Rodgers

We look forward to seeing you, your friends and neighbors, on **October 27th**. Please join us at the October VEP Community meeting, featuring:

► **Presentations:** Featured presentations for this month will first be an Update on next phase of Communications Hill project with a focus on an initial project to **improve vehicle and pedestrian traffic at Narvaez and Capitol Expressway**. Next will be a brief presentation on the new **Almaden Ranch** which **opens with Bass Pro on October 28th**. Information will be provided on additional businesses at this new site which are scheduled to open after the holidays.

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

Other informational items and announcements will be provided including upcoming events. Items that will be highlighted include the first Memorial Beautification Day to honor Dave Fadness, and the annual Santa in the Park event scheduled for Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend.

► **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 **October 27th**. Please join us!

September Meeting Synopsis

By Marilyn Rodgers

President Rodgers welcomed everyone to the meeting. She began by announcing she had some sad news to share. She indicated that while most of the audience had been advised of this news as they arrived for the meeting, she wanted to also announce it publicly to everyone present. Long time VEP member and friend Dave Fadness had passed away a couple of hours earlier in the afternoon. She mentioned how beautiful the evening sky appeared over Vista Park as she arrived to prepare for the meeting – with clouds that were bright red. Dave would have enjoyed it. She asked everyone to pause for a ~~moment~~ of silence to remember and honor Dave.

Ms. Rodgers then introduced VEP Board Members, saying how nice it was to have Vice President Katherine Decker joining us once again. She also thanked Josie Supencheck who had assisted the Board, functioning as ~~an~~ "coming volunteer" in Katherine's absence. President Rodgers introduced past Presidents including Bob Aquino, Dave Noel - who is now President of Erikson Neighborhood Association, and Greg West - who is currently serving on the Santa Clara County Parks Commission and just became its Chairman.

Ms. Rodgers stated that tonight's meeting would include several brief presentations – most of whom have a connection in some way to Martial Cottle Park. The first speaker introduced was Jason Bombardier, who has volunteered to be the initial leader of the newly forming 4-H Chapter for Martial Cottle Park. Ms. Rodgers said we are lucky to have Jason, as he has been involved with 4-H since early childhood, and is an outstanding leader. She mentioned that Jason will have to be careful in what he says, as his supervisor for another job is sitting in the back of the room (indicating Eric Goodrich – Martial Cottle Park Manager). Jason responded that was correct, in that he is also working at the Park, and can be seen most often at the vehicle entrance. Jason provided the audience with information on the progress of initiating the 4-H Chapter. Their second meeting had just taken place the evening before, Monday, September 28th, at Santa Teresa Ranch.

They will be continuing to look for a permanent meeting space – watch for more information via e-mail. They intend to meet monthly, on the third Thursday of the month. At last night's meeting, the group decided on a name for this chapter of the 4-H – it will be called ~~Sunset~~—For the next several meetings, a portion of each meeting will be devoted to providing a brief overview of information for new people who may be interested in becoming involved with 4-H. They are particularly interested in recruiting additional adult volunteers. For continuing information contact Jason at e-mail jason.coyote_crest@yahoo.com.

As Councilmember Johnny Khamis had just arrived, Ms. Rodgers asked if he would like to address the audience. The Councilmember said he was happy to be able to attend, and that his new policy aid Dora Gonzalez, would also be coming to the meeting. However, he had just received an e-mail saying she was having car difficulty and would be arriving a little late. Dora is replacing Rayshelle Edmunds, who had been one of his assistants and VEP's liaison with the Councilmember's office. Rayshelle had made a decision to move to Oregon, where most of her family lives. She will be greatly missed, but he feels fortunate to have Dora join the District 10 staff, who is transferring from a current position with District 5. She is also happens to be a neighbor – as she lives just on the other side of Snell, close to Martial Cottle Park. The Councilmember gave several brief updates on topics such as the issue of homelessness and the confusion about potentially setting up an overnight vehicle camp at the parking lot at Camden and Almaden Expressway. This caused concern and confusion. It was just one of 27 possible options which the County is considering. The list of 27 is the result of initial work done by a County Task Force looking at positive options for homeless. The Councilmember then started to provide an update on Dave Fadness' status (unfortunately he had not as yet heard the news of Dave's passing). As they were good friends, he was understandably shaken by the news. Dora Gonzalez then briefly introduced herself and announced that Lake Almaden Park will now be open on Mondays. Councilmember Khamis has taken money from the District 10 budget to assure that having this park open on Mondays could be accomplished for the benefit of residents in District 10. (Monday closures of the Park had been prompted in the past several years due to budget cuts for Parks & Recreation Dept.)

The next speaker was the new Community Relations Manager for Our City Forest, Renae McCollum. Our City Forest is one of Martial Cottle Park's partners. Ms. McCollum indicated that while she did not know Mr. Fadness, she had heard many positive things about him, as he was known as the ~~tree~~ "man." (Note: *Dave had long been a strong supporter of Our City Forest and the recipient of an award/commendation from them.*) She provided a brief overview of Our City Forest at the Martial Cottle site – highlighting the tree nursery Our City Forest has established there. She announced that they will be having a booth at the October 3rd Harvest Festival to provide information to the public. They were also sponsoring a ~~tree~~ "planting" the morning of October 3rd from 8am to 10am – just prior to the beginning of the Festival. This was a specific volunteer activity developed to invite neighbors and neighborhoods such as VEP, who are close to Martial Cottle, a special opportunity to plant trees at Martial Cottle Park.

Ms. Rodgers introduced Cordell Bailey, the Safety Education Coordinator for San Jose Department of Transportation. He was very enthusiastic in explaining the positive features of a new signal system that has been installed at the new Pedestrian Walkway/Crossing on Snell. It is located at the main vehicle entrance to Martial Cottle Park. It is called the HAWK signal system. HAWK stands for ~~H~~igh intensity activated crosswalk – meaning it is not on a usual timer as are other intersection signals. Rather, it has to be initiated/activated by a pedestrian pressing the button.

Continues on Page 3

It will take both pedestrians and vehicle drivers becoming informed about the unique aspects of the signal – and probably will take some time for both groups to become comfortable in this –first of its kind signal” in San Jose. It has however, been used elsewhere in the Country...very successful in reducing pedestrians injuries and/or deaths, and without causing undue delay in the smooth flow of vehicle traffic. This site for the HAWK signal is the first one for San Jose, with plans for several more to be used on other busy streets with significant pedestrian traffic. Cordell stated he will be physically onsite at Snell to help with education of pedestrians and drivers - both the day before, and the day of the October 3rd Festival. He brought several give- away items for attendees to take and use – including lawn signs. Ms. Rodgers thanked Mr. Bailey for his assistance and enthusiasm in providing the public with information.

Next, President Rodgers introduced Eric Goodrich, Manager of Martial Cottle Park. Everyone was eager to hear what was being planned for the October 3rd, 1st Annual Harvest Festival. Before he provided an overview of plans for the Festival, he did want to answer a couple of questions he had previously received. First question had been about what types of crops or produce are currently being grown on the property. Specifically this first crop was a combination of flowers and tomatoes. Concern had been voiced about the amount of tomatoes left unharvested in the field – and the possibility of using it for human consumption – specifically giving it to the local food banks. There had been an issue with this first crop – amount of alkaline in the soil – and which crops like which amounts of alkaline. As a result many tomatoes could not be harvested. This also meant if the Master Farmer could not sell them for human consumption, they also could not be donated. Eric also indicated that at a future meeting, a representative of Jacobs Farmers del Cabo (the Master Farmer) would come to provide us with additional information about plans for planting, and so forth. Eric was excited about the bountiful (and very successful) planting of pumpkins – this planting was located over in the area closer to the freeway. Pumpkins were a good transition to the plans for the Festival on October 3rd planned to take place from 10am to 3pm. There will be ample parking on site, and no charge for this initial event. All of the Park partners will have booths and activities, including Master Gardners. Displays and volunteers to explain them will be available in the Visitors Center. Several items have been borrowed for display in the Visitors Center with permission from Mr. Lester's Executor – as they are currently part of the Life Estate. Also to be displayed will be a couple of the old John Deere tractors that belonged to Mr. Lester. However, these will be for visual pleasure only – no climbing on the tractors. The Children's Discovery area will be available, the grassy areas are looking very good – with a strong foundation, bouncing

Please Note:

The VEP Community Meeting for November will NOT be held on the last Tuesday of the month.

NEW date: Tuesday, December 1st!

We hope to see you there!

back from the flood damage and drainage issues of last December's initial Park Opening. There will also be several food trucks available for enjoying good food. Ms. Rodgers thanked Eric for all of the information, and reinforced how everyone was really looking forward to the Festival on Saturday, and the weather forecasts so far were indicating that it will a beautiful day.

Last, but not least, Ms. Rodgers introduced Dave Noel to give a brief overview of the issue regarding a plan for placement of a very large LED sign for Almaden Ranch. She indicated that while the major impact affected Erikson Neighborhood Association, she was concerned that some of VEP's members along Gaundabert may also see the light from this sign. This sign will be much larger than the sign across the freeway at Costco. Dave was invited to provide a brief overview of status to date of implementation / approval of the sign. Dave provided a review of Erikson's work to prevent placement of the sign, and/or have some of the negative impact reduced. They lobbied the issue at the Planning Director's meeting. While the sign was approved, at that level, there were some concessions, the most important being that the sign would not continue to be on after 10pm. One meeting attendee said that he did not feel the sign would be a problem as other Bass Pro Shops signs (other locations) did not seem to cause any undo concern for neighbors. Dave responded that this was not just a Bass Pro sign, but rather a very large sign for the Almaden Ranch Shopping Center, of course including Bass Pro. The way the sign would work was to rotate through several segments on the sign advertising/highlighting several businesses at the Center. Ms. Rodgers interjected that she was concerned because it seemed as though the City had recently done a —60” regarding large signs. Only a couple of years ago, the City had very strict requirements for signage, and now it appears that —anything goes.” This sign is located close to the freeway and is approximately four times the size of the one at Costco. She also indicated her surprise that CalTrans has approved it, given the obvious dangerous distraction for vehicle drivers on the freeway. Dave Noel provided additional information in that as of this writing, CalTrans has been silent – they have not as yet approved the sign.

Ms. Rodgers thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

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Santa is Coming!

Vista Park Community Room

475 Hyde Park Dr.

Sunday, November 29th

Santa Hours: 2 pm to 4 pm

Bring the kids or the whole family for a free Santa photo with Santa
Take a photo by a VEP photographer or bring your own camera.

Crafts *Baked Goods Share & Swap! *Food Drive

Bring your favorite homemade holiday baked goods to share. You may also enter your baked goods into a contest for a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place prize. sponsored by Helen Castillo. For questions call 408-981-5902

All Baked Goods - Please bring a recipe card with ingredients because some people may be allergic

Canned food and blanket drive will be from 12 - 4 pm.

Dave Fadness - In Memoriam

By Marilyn Rodgers

On Tuesday afternoon, September 29th long time VEP resident, community volunteer, community leader/activist, and friend, passed away at the Mtn. View Rehab Facility where he had been for several months, following an accident that hospitalized him in June 2014.

Dave was not only a committed volunteer, but often an "at home do-it-yourselfer." The accident that injured him happened while he was at home. Dave fell from a ladder which caused a critical spinal cord injury, leaving him paralyzed from the neck down. Dave however continued to enjoy receiving visitors while hospitalized, and maintained his interest and involvement (through others) in many of the political issues in which he had always been so concerned.

Dave began his adult working life, as well as his life long interest in, and pursuit of, learning and education in Madison, Wisconsin. While working full time, he completed a vocational education program which began a career as a draftsman. While there, he also met his future wife, Aiko, who had just completed graduate education in Speech Pathology. With a successful employment interview for FMC Corporation, Mr. & Mrs. Fadness arrived in San Jose, California on their 1st Wedding Anniversary in 1966. Dave continued to work full time while completing an AA Degree at Foothill College. He was admitted to Stanford University where he completed a BS in Mechanical Engineering. Dave's professional career also included working for a small Bio-Medical company, starting two businesses of his own, and working for many years as a consultant.

Dave, wife Aiko, and their son Matt moved into the VEP neighborhood with the purchase of their first home in 1974. They joined the VEP Community Association the first month they were in the neighborhood! This began a four-decade commitment to volunteerism. Dave served on the Executive Board of VEP including the role of President, as well as continuing to serve for many years as the Editor of the monthly VEP Newsletter. One activity that involved a tremendous amount of volunteer hours, but also was one of Dave's joys - was the Volunteer Coordinator (for three consecutive years) of the annual VEP Memorial Day Parade and Festival. During the last five years, Dave continued to fulfill an ongoing concern and passion for "hands on" volunteer work in continuing to lead and coordinate (as he had done for many years), several beautification projects for the community, as well as for Gunderson High School. With his volunteer leadership at both Gunderson School and Our City Forest, he hoped to instill the value and enjoyment of volunteerism in the next generations.

Planting and caring for trees was a high priority for Dave, resulting in over 450 trees being planted under his personal involvement and direction. His preference and goal was to always include other volunteers from the community in beautification projects. However, if others were not immediately available, Dave was known to be "out and about in the neighborhood" working alone. One such example, which comes to mind for many neighbors, was Dave's commitment to caring for and replanting small palm trees in the median of Chynoweth.

Dave's concern, volunteerism, and leadership extended beyond the VEP community to the City he loved - San Jose. Over the years, Dave served on many committees, boards, and commissions at both the City and the County level. Of special interest to Dave was roads and transportation. However, the future of the City he loved, as well as concern for quality of life issues were evidenced most recently by his membership and participation in Envision San Jose 2040. In recent years, Dave also actively influ-

enced assurance of accountability and efficiency in how taxpayer dollars were spent. This led to his leadership and participation in Citizens for Fiscal Responsibility.

Dave's interest and volunteer activism were not limited to the political realm, but also found him actively involved in supporting both the arts in San Jose, as well as the public library system. Dave led the very successful fundraising campaign for renovation of the Pearl Avenue Branch of the San Jose Public Library.

Travelling with family and friends occupied some of Dave's time in recent years. Not only was this a very enjoyable activity but he felt it expanded his interest in education and life long learning. Friends have fond memories and many stories to tell of the enjoyable trips taken that included sojourns to many different countries on several continents.

Dave, through his decades-long enthusiasm and commitment to volunteerism as well as his strong belief that "volunteers" should be encouraged and allowed to take on additional responsibilities and opportunities for volunteerism within the City of San Jose, epitomized the "power of one" - he made a difference.....for his family, his friends, and his community. Thank you Dave!!

A Letter from Councilmember Johnny Khamis

On Tuesday, September 29th, San Jose lost an extraordinary man who has been a friend and champion of all that is good in our City, and I lost a dear friend. Dave Fadness was a man of integrity, determination, humility, and respect. It was an honor to know him and serve with him.

A little over a year ago, Dave fell from a ladder and became paralyzed from the shoulders down. Due to complications, he was never able to leave the hospital. Throughout his ordeal, he continued to live a life of concern and passion for serving our community. He never let his medical issues interfere with his goal of helping all the residents of San Jose.

We are all better for knowing and serving with Dave. He led by example and his passing leaves a huge void in our community. He and his wife, Aiko, have been an inspiration. He cannot be replaced and will forever be remembered by us all.

Article from San Jose Mercury News

By Scott Herhold, September 30, 2015

Dave Fadness, a community volunteer and transportation expert who was badly injured last year in a fall from a ladder at home, died this past Tuesday at a Mountain View rehab center. It was a blow to San Jose — and to the idea that a committed layman can have outsized impact on the city's course.

Fadness, 73, was left a quadriplegic after a June, 2014, accident at his south San Jose home. A do-it-yourselfer extraordinaire, he was attempting to install a new attic fan when his ladder slipped. Even after his debilitating accident, Fadness remained active in local affairs, writing letters to the editor and helping to guide a group called Citizens for Fiscal Responsibility, which sought to avert a tax increase.

A mechanical engineer who had started his own company, Fadness attempted to give 40 hours every month to volunteer work. He served on a bundle of task forces that dealt with the nitty-gritty of life in the valley: transportation, pollution control, parks and highways.

A friend, Bill Baron, called him "a very talented mind paired with an even more passionate heart who cared for nothing more than doing right in all he set out to accomplish."

San Jose City Council To “Adjourn” in Honor of Dave Fadness

Tuesday, October 27th - 1:30pm
Council Chambers, City Hall

The San Jose City Council plans to honor Dave Fadness with an —Adjournment” ceremony at the beginning of the regularly scheduled Council meeting on Tuesday, October 27th, at 1:30pm. This is a brief ceremonial celebration to honor Dave. Both the Mayor Sam Liccardo, and District 10 Councilmember Johnny Khamis, will speak briefly, followed by a moment of silence. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend. Free/validated parking is available for the underground garage (below City Hall). Guests may stay for the remainder of the City Council meeting, or are free to leave following the brief ceremony.

Thank You Note from Aiko & Matthew Fadness to the VEP Community Association

The following is being reprinted (with permission) in its entirety:

“ Dear Marilyn and Members of the VEP Community Association:

The family of David Fadness expresses gratitude for the beautiful flowers sent during our bereavement. Your kind expression of sympathy is gratefully acknowledged.

We would again like to thank the VEP Community for your calls, cards, and visits during David’s 16-month confinement in the hospital, rehabilitation center, and skilled nursing facility. Your thoughtfulness, friendship, and support during that difficult time were deeply appreciated.

When we moved into our home forty-one years ago, David became immediately involved in the homeowners’ association. He was actively engaged as a volunteer, helping to improve the community until his accident in mid-2014. While working full-time and in retirement, he devoted his life as a volunteer to make his beloved neighborhood, community, and city better places in which to live.

David would be very proud and honored if he left a legacy that valued volunteerism, so the work he left undone would be continued by others.

With gratitude and appreciation,
Aiko Fadness and son, Matthew ”



Fatal Motorcycle Accident on Chynoweth

By Marilyn Rodgers

At approximately 6:30pm, on a Monday evening, October 5th, an accident occurred on Chynoweth in the west/northwest direction on Chynoweth going toward Pearl. San Jose Police Department (Community Service Officer vehicle) immediately blocked vehicle traffic in this direction at the intersection of Chynoweth and New World. While Chynoweth was blocked in front of Gunderson High School, the accident occurred within a few hundred feet of Pearl. Several neighbors and residents of the VEP neighborhood stopped to assist the accident victim, including calling 911 for police and medical assistance.

Unfortunately this motorcycle accident resulted in a fatality. The young man, Chris Elemen, was 22 years old. He had been a student at Gunderson High School, and lived in a neighborhood close to Blossom Hill and Snell. Family and friends set up a Memorial for Chris in the median, on Tuesday evening.

At this time no other details have been made available regarding this fatal accident. However, neighbors and visitors alike are being encouraged to slow down along this stretch of Chynoweth – the speed limit for the majority of Chynoweth is 30 miles/hour and 25 miles/hr in front of Gunderson High School.

Unfortunately, Chynoweth does have a history of several serious accidents including 4 fatalities and 1 critical injury during the last 9 years. As a result of initial accidents along this stretch of Chynoweth, this area was the first in San Jose to have the large flashing electronic speed monitoring signs installed. Please be cautious, **slow down** while driving in this area – and stay **SAFE!**

Recent Update on Accident from the San Jose Mercury News:

http://www.mercurynews.com/crime-courts/ci_28970248/san-jose-police-release-details-oct-5-motorcyclist

Caring for Street Trees in your Neighborhood

By Dave Noel and Marilyn Rodgers

Are you a new resident in the VEP neighborhoods, or to San Jose? Then you may not be aware that homeowners are responsible for the care of the street trees (not the City). This includes appropriate pruning and watering.

Here's a quick reference to the rules regarding street trees, and some advice on pruning and trimming trees.

PERMITS:

You need a permit to plant or trim a street tree

The permit is free

A permit is not required if you use a pre-approved tree service (see website)

VERTICAL CLEARANCES:

8 feet from sidewalk to canopy

13 feet from street to canopy

PLANTING CLEARANCES:

See City Code #13.28.190

FOR MORE INFO:

www.sanjoseca.gov/transportation

Ralph Mize, 277-2756, ralph.mize@sanjoseca.gov

DON'T "TOP" TREES: This is the most universally important advice about tree care! Topping trees is very harmful to proper tree growth and appearance. When a tree is topped, it is shocked into producing fast growth to the sides of the topped branches. The new growth will look very unnatural as it matures over time,

and will also be weaker than slower growth.

Never cut main branches back to stubs. The sight of topped trees is all too common in our communities and along the roadways of America—trunks with stubby limbs standing naked in the landscape, trees stripped of all dignity and grace. Trees are often topped because they grow into utility wires, interfere with views or solar collectors, or simply grow so large that they worry the landowner. But, as one arborist has said, "Topping is the absolute worst thing you can do for the health of your tree."

~ Why NOT to top trees: Eight good reasons ~

1.) Starvation: Topping removes so much of the tree's leafy crown that it dangerously reduces the tree's food-making ability.

2. Shock: By removing the protective cover of the tree's canopy, bark tissue is exposed to the direct rays of the sun. The resultant scalding can cause the tree's death.

3. Insects and Disease: The exposed ends of topped limbs are highly vulnerable to insect invasion or decay fungi spores.

4. Weak Limbs: New branches that grow from a stubbed limb are weakly attached and more likely to break and fall.

5. Rapid New Growth: Instead of controlling the height and spread of the tree, topping has the opposite effect. New branches are more numerous and often grow higher than before.

6. Tree Death: Some tree species can't tolerate major branch loss and still survive. At best, they remain weak and disease-prone.

7. Ugliness: A topped tree is a disfigured tree. Even with new growth it never regains the grace and character of its species.

8. Cost: The true cost of topping is often hidden -lower property values, expense of removal, and replacement if the tree dies.

~ Proper pruning, the alternative to topping ~

When a decision is made to reduce the size of an older tree, it can be topped, or it can be pruned properly. Although the speed and nature of re-growth will depend on species and local factors, any comparison between irresponsible topping and competent pruning will be dramatic.

~ What happens after topping a tree ~

Year 1: The topped tree is an ugly stub and a remnant of a once lovely tree. If pruned properly, the tree's size is reduced, but form and beauty are retained.

Year 3: Vigorous sprouts have sprung out of the topped tree in large numbers and are growing with abnormal rapidity. The pruned tree adds growth, but it does so more slowly and distributes it more normally.

Year 6: In a relatively short time, a topped tree is as tall (and far bushier and more dangerous) than it was to begin with. Properly pruned trees are safer, more beautiful, and a more controlled size.

GET MORE INFORMATION FROM THE CITY OF SAN JOSE:

Street Trees Frequently Asked Questions

http://www3.sanjoseca.gov/tree/trees_street_faqs

Street Tree Planting & Care Permits

http://www3.sanjoseca.gov/tree/trees_street_permits.asp

City Codes for Street Trees

<http://www3.sanjoseca.gov/tree/pdf/13.28.pdf>

City Arborist's Office

Email: arborist@sanjoseca.gov ; Phone: (408) 794-1901

Get Acquainted with Your Neighbors: Consider Having a Driveway/Block Party - VEP Can Help!

By Marilyn Rodgers and Rachel Witmeyer

Whether you are relatively new to the VEP neighborhoods, or a long time resident, you may want to consider having a "get acquainted" driveway or block party. And VEP can help!

Everyone is very aware that the housing market appears to have made a "positive bounce back," with many of our neighbors now taking the opportunity to sell their homes. This means most of us have many new neighbors, including those who have just moved into the neighborhood – either a month ago, or even a year or so ago.

You also may be concerned to hear (often a surprise to new neighbors) that our neighborhoods, while attractive, may not be quite as safe as you had hoped or expected. VEP neighborhoods are not alone in this concern. Everyone is becoming more aware that as neighbors we need to get to know each other – not just because it is the nice thing to do, but for our safety, as well as our neighbors.

If you would like to initiate a driveway/block party, VEP might be able to help – with suggestions, and possibly with more than suggestions! We are also considering providing small stipends for groups of neighbors who want to do a driveway/block party. As yet, we have not finalized the criteria for receiving a small stipend. However, we might consider your request, if you would be willing to be a "pilot" for us. That is, help us go through what works well and what doesn't work as well! Again, if you are interested, don't hesitate – give us a call!

Suggestions to Honor and Thank D. Fadness

By Marilyn Rodgers

VEP has asked for and received several suggestions for ideas to honor and thank Dave Fadness. There has also been a request for information on possible financial gifts for individuals who want to honor and thank Dave, such as names of Dave's favorite charities. Please see the information, below

Suggestions to Honor and Thank Dave - Several of these suggestions will take time to qualify for and/or to accomplish:

- * Naming, or Re-naming, a Park
(one of 4 parks within VEP Community - 7-year requirement)
- * Naming, or Re-naming, a Building – such as a Library (ie. Pearl)
- * Naming, or Re-naming, a Street – such as (west) Chynoweth
- * Naming a Community Room – self standing (Vista Park)
- * Naming a Community Room – in a Library (Pearl)

Other suggestions that could be accomplished in near future:

- * **Memorial Beautification Project Day - Saturday, Nov. 14th**
(Note: In consultation with Dave's family, VEP Board is recommending this activity be initiated immediately. Please see VEP AD, below.)
- * Plant a Memorial Tree(s)
- * Provide a Bench with Memorial Plaque - Martial Cottle Park/Trail

Information for making a donation to a charity:

In consultation with Dave's family, the following is recommended:

1. Make a donation to your favorite charity in Dave's honor.
2. Make a donation to **Our City Forest** in Dave's honor:
(Dave was a long time supporter and champion for O.C.F.)
Make Donations online: ourcityforest.org/donate,
Or by Mail: Our City Forest, c/o Rhonda Berry,
1590 Las Plumas Ave.; S.J., CA; 95133

VEP Community Association



1st Annual
Dave Fadness

Memorial Beautification Day

Vista Park Community Room
475 Hyde Park Dr. San Jose, Ca 95136

Please join us,

Saturday Nov. 14th Time: 9:00 a.m.

In honor of Dave Fadness. We all know how much he loved to help keep our community beautiful. His love of volunteering for VEP will truly be missed. Please come out for as long as you can to help Dave's legacy continue. Please grab your garden gloves and come out...

Hope to see you out there!

Success for the First Annual Harvest Festival!

Article By Rachel Witmeyer

Photographs by Katherine Decker & Rachel Witmeyer

The day could not have begun any better for the Martial Cottle Harvest Festival, on Saturday, October 3rd. The skies were beautifully clear above the Park. Around 10am, trail walkers were few, but volunteers were abundant, as Our City Forest worked to plant new stands of trees every few hundred feet or so. VEP would especially like to thank the Founder/Director of O.C.F., Rhonda Berry, and VEP's own Josie Supencheck, for their efforts.

Entering from the Chynoweth side, festival-goers could enjoy the exhibits, booths, and informational —alks” being hosted by the —Master Gardeners” at the UC Cooperative Extension. There was a large assortment of garden and vegetable plants available for purchase and a small —rummage sale,” both to support the efforts of the —Master Gardens.” Two very popular booths in this area were —As a Gardener” and the —Master Composter Program.” (Also, the ingenious parks staff had a —Water Station” set-up by the parking lot on that side of the park, and it was already being utilized by many visitors in the warm morning hours.)

A small assortment of Food Trucks and a trio of musicians were set-up on opposite sides of the Edward Cottle Picnic Area, making a lovely luncheon space. More festival fun was set-up in the children's area. There, around the play structures and field, was a large collection of 4-H association booths, some with crafts, and a very popular —etting zoo.” The —ao” was modest, featuring a single pig, sheep, and goat, but the line of eager children was often longer than the lines for the food trucks!

In the Edith Lester Picnic Area and vicinity, there was an exciting area for children and families. This included a free pumpkin patch, an area for carving and decorating pumpkins, metal-punch crafts, pumpkin bowling, —eow” roping, pumpkin —elay races,” beanbag tosses, face-painting, and photo-stands. This whole area was already packed with families, before the lunchtime hour.

Along the tree-lined walkway from the family —ane” to the Visitor Center, there were more booths for local associations and organizations, including: Cal Fire, Santa Clara Valley —By Fresh, Buy Local.” The Santa Clara Open Space Authority, Our City Forest, The San Jose Public Library, and Master Farmer, Jacobs Farm - del Cabo (www.delcabo.com). Also in this zone was a popular booth demonstrating with large bubbles. This area got quite busy around lunchtime. VEP would like to thank Stephen and Lynne Kelsey for their efforts as volunteers at the Visitor Center.

At the Visitor Center, there was square dancing (and another ingenious —Water Station.” The temperatures had really climbed by lunchtime, and the water was a gift!) Out in front of the Visitor Center were booths set-up by the Parks Department, some of Mr. Lester's old John Deere tractors, and a small-scale steam-engine visiting from the —By Jones Wildcat Railroad,” based out of Vasona Park, in Los Gatos. They raffled a lot of free train tickets!

Over on the Jacobs Farms' side, there was a pumpkin patch and a corn maze that was very popular with the families. People who had visited the Jacobs Farms - del Cabo booth came to the farm-stand with their —fee Pumpkin” coupons to take their pick.

The Harvest Festival became steadily more and more crowded as the day went on. At times, there were small —traffic jams” in the more popular areas. At one point, Eric Goodrich, Park Manager, estimated the attendance at over 3,500 people. The festival was scheduled to end at 3:00pm, but families were still arriving at the park well after that time. It was really great to see so many families and neighbors out enjoying the park and the festivities. Hopefully, next year's event will be even bigger and better!







Preparing for Flooding During a Drought

Guest Column By Linda J. LeZotte

Director, Santa Clara Valley Water District (408-265-2600)

Who wants to think about flooding when we are in our fourth year of drought? We all should! With predictions of a strong El Niño this winter, we must all prepare for a high volume of rain, which, if it comes all at once, could lead to flooding.

Parts of Santa Clara County are susceptible to flooding and have been throughout history. The Santa Clara Valley Water District is the flood protection authority for the county, and so we work diligently to keep the community safe through ongoing stream maintenance and major flood protection projects. We also provide community members with tips and assistance before, during and after floods.

You may see our crews at work in streams as part of our Stream Maintenance Program. This program includes the removal of vegetation and sediment that can impede the flow of a stream, as well as repairs to stream banks and the removal of blockages from trash and fallen trees.

This work is generally scheduled to be completed in October, though work can continue through November as long as no storms have occurred. If the rainy season starts early, our crews will go out after storms to clear debris. For significant blockages, they will even go out during the storm to clear creeks and streams to help prevent flooding by allowing water to flow to the bay.

The water district takes flood protection seriously; starting with our annual winter preparation meetings and coordination with other jurisdictions in order to plan and train for storms and weather-related emergencies.

Residents and businesses can also do their part to help keep their communities safe in the event of strong rains, too.

- Make sure you have an emergency plan and kit in case you are stranded at home. This way you'll have what you need to make it through until help arrives.
- Also know your flood hazard, and if you are in a flood hazard zone, be sure to purchase flood insurance, which is important in helping you recoup any losses after a flood. You can call your city to find out more.
- Clogged storm drains can lead to street flooding. Clear areas around storm drains and do not to dump anything down them.
- Don't drive through flooded areas. It only takes 2 feet of moving water to carry away most vehicles including pickup trucks/SUVs.
- Know where your local sandbag distribution point is, and how to

prepare a sand wall. The water district, as well as cities, frequently has them near areas prone to flooding.

- If you see a blockage, such as trash or a tree down during a storm, let us know so we can send a crew to clear it! Call the flood hotline at (408) 630-2650, or report it online at www.valleywater.org and click on the Access Valley Water button.

This year, because of hardened soils compacted by four dry years, we may see greater runoff than normal from early season storms. So please be prepared and stay alert for potential flooding. Sign up to receive flood safety alerts and tips by texting the word "WATER" to short-code number 84444.

If we all work together we can keep our loved ones, homes and businesses safe.

Visit www.valleywater.org/Services/FloodProtectionResources.aspx or www.valleywater.org/Services/FloodSafetyTips.aspx for flood protection information and safety tips that can help you before, during & after a flood.

ENVISION SILICON VALLEY

VTA Community Open Houses

What's your vision for the future of mobility in Santa Clara County?

Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) is holding community open houses during October and November. The public is invited to learn about and discuss projects and programs in VTA's countywide long-range transportation plan, provide feedback and hear about Envision Silicon Valley.



Meetings are scheduled from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

October 22: Mountain View City Hall, Plaza Conference Room, 2nd Floor; 500 Castro Street, Mountain View, CA 94041. Served by bus routes 51 and 52.

October 26: Morgan Hill Library, Program Room; 660 West Main Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037. Served by bus route 16.

October 29: San Jose City Hall, Wing Room 119; 200 East Santa Clara Street, San Jose, CA 95113. Served by bus routes 22, 23, 63, 64, 65, 72, 73, 81, Hwy 17 and MST 55.

November 4: Town of Los Gatos, Town Council Chambers; 110 East Main Street, Los Gatos, CA 95030. Served by bus routes 48 and 49.

November 12: Grace Lutheran Church, Banquet Hall; 2650 Aborn Road, San Jose, CA 95121. Served by bus route 31.

Envision Silicon Valley is a process in which the VTA is engaging the community in discussions to identify current and future mobility needs, solutions, and funding strategies and priorities.



Learn more about VTA Envision Silicon Valley at www.vta.org/envision.

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FROM THE OFFICE OF



Board of Supervisors Housing Task Force: Your Advocacy Works!

When news broke that the preliminary report from the County's Housing Task Force suggested using the empty parking lot on Camden and Almaden Expressway as a place for homeless people with vehicles to park overnight, under the Safe Parking Program, residents flooded my office with phone calls and email. It was exciting to see so many people willing to speak up and get involved in an issue of importance to our community.

Beyond just contacting my office, residents also contacted several of the County Supervisors. Likely due to the huge response, the County Staff did not include the Almaden/Camden parking lot in their recommendations presented to the Board of Supervisors at the September 15th meeting.

Even so, many people still attended the Board of Supervisors meeting, some waiting 4-5 hours for their time to speak. While conveying concern and compassion for homeless people, they made it clearly known that they did not want the Camden/Almaden parking lot to be considered for the overnight Safe Parking Program, at any time in the future. They shared that the lot, in a residential neighborhood and not located near supportive services, was an inappropriate location for such a facility. Board President Dave Cortes and Supervisor Mike Wasserman clearly stated that the lot was not being recommended, nor would it be considered, for the Safe Parking Program.

It was great to see so many people engaged on this issue. It is also encouraging to know that a number of you are still interested in the conversation about the serious problem of homelessness in San Jose. With the prediction of a strong El Nino on the way this winter, the concern about helping people get out of our creeks, parks, and streets, and into some sort of shelter, is very high. This topic will be the subject of several upcoming Council Meetings.

As always, if you would like to talk further about this or any other topic, feel free to contact my office at district10@sanjoseca.gov, or call 408-535-4910. You can also meet with me in the District at my upcoming Community Office Hours on October 7th or 10th.

Crime Prevention Month

October is National Crime Prevention Month and the San Jose Police Department (SJPd) Crime Prevention Unit is reminding residents that crime prevention is everybody's business. Make Crime Prevention a priority this month and learn ways to keep yourself, your family, your co-workers, and your community safe.

Come to the District 10 Crime Prevention Forum at the Almaden Community Center on Thursday evening, October 22nd, beginning at 6 PM (doors open at 5:30 PM).

Watch for crime prevention tips from SJPd Crime Prevention throughout the month of October.

You may contact the SJPd Crime Prevention Unit at (408) 277-4133 or visit them online at www.sjpd.org/BFO/Community/Crimeprev/.

For more District 10 information, visit www.sjd10.com or email us at district10@sanjoseca.gov.

FROM THE OFFICE OF



Martial Cottle Harvest Festival

More than 5,000 people attended our First Annual Harvest Festival at Martial Cottle Park! Kudos to the eagle-eyed residents who correctly guessed that there were 47 Bulbs of Gilroy Garlic in the jar at our table: Fern Harper, Zach Dar, Saima Khan, Joanna Higareda, Linda Hahn, and Andrea Salinas. Of the hundreds of guesses, many others came very close! Be sure to visit the County Parks website for upcoming events and activities in your neighborhood: www.parkhere.org

El Nino Presents Problems for Homeless

Predictions of a very wet El Nino winter is good news for the drought, but bad news for the homeless families and individuals in our County. In anticipation of a greater need, the County is adding 585 shelter beds, increasing the number of beds by 450%, from 130 to 715. This is just one of the ways we are addressing homelessness. I serve on the County's Housing Task Force where a wide variety of ideas are being vetted for how best to provide shelter and transitional housing. I heard from many residents in Almaden Valley after the media reported that a County-owned property at Almaden and Camden was going to be converted into a parking lot for homeless. This is not the case. The lot is just one of hundreds of County-owned properties and no plans have been proposed for this or any other site, despite how it has been portrayed in the media. I have consistently been opposed to temporary encampments.

SCCDineOut

Download the County's new SCCDineOut mobile app to find out whether or not a local restaurant is in compliance with food safety laws. Launched last month by the County Department of Environmental Health (DEH), the SCCDineOut app is the latest product in the County's effort to inform residents about the food safety compliance records of area food facilities. It is currently available for Apple iOS devices, an Android version will be available early 16.

Blue Ribbon Commission to Evaluate SCCDC Facilities

The Santa Clara County Department of Correction currently houses over 3,600 inmates, representing the 5th largest inmate population in California. When the State of California shifted certain inmates from prisons to local jails through "realignment" (AB109), counties have had to scramble to supply the appropriate holding facilities for these inmates. The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors created a Blue Ribbon Commission to evaluate current custody operations and recommend reforms. Also approved were recommendations to rapidly expand the camera surveillance system in custodial facilities; establish an anonymous hotline for the public, inmates and staff to lodge complaints; and to provide an open invitation for volunteer clergy and inmate advocates to safely interact with inmates and custodial staff within the facilities. Sheriff Smith also implemented a new mandate for Correctional Deputy cadets, requiring the completion of 40 hours of Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) prior to graduating from the academy, which helps deputies manage situations with mentally ill inmates.

NOTE: I adjourned the October 6th Board of Supervisors Meeting in honor of our friend, Dave Fadness. He will be missed by our community.



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Including the cities of San Jose, Campbell, Cupertino, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, and Saratoga

IMPROVED MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING FOR PEACE OFFICERS WINS GOVERNOR'S APPROVAL

SACRAMENTO – Legislation by Senator Jim Beall that focuses on improving the ability of peace officers to safely deal with people who have mental illnesses was signed into law by Governor Brown today. Senate Bills 11 and 29 become effective on Jan. 1, 2016.

—Existing state mandated police officer training and departmental training has been inadequate, fueling highly publicized conflicts between officers and people with mental illnesses or developmental disabilities that have eroded the public's trust in law enforcement," said Beall, who chairs the Senate's Select Committee on Mental Health.

—SB 11 and 29 increase the amount of specialized training officers will receive, better equipping them to help people with mental illnesses and avoid injuries. These bills are essential in a day and age where officers are now the first responders for incidents involving untreated mental illness.

—Another positive effect we'll see from these bills are reductions in use-of-force litigation and lower workers compensation liability costs for police and sheriff's departments."

SB 11 and 29 are a response to mounting public concern over dangerous interactions between police and people suffering from mental illness or intellectual disability, such as the July 2014 incident that was captured on a cell phone video of a California Highway Patrol officer straddling a 51-year-old grandmother beside a Southern California highway and punching her in the face. The woman, who has a diagnosis of bi-polar disorder, sued the CHP and received a \$1.5 settlement.

SB 11 calls for at least 15 hours of behavioral health instruction at academies for new recruits who are training to become police officers and requires the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training to develop a mental health continuing education course for current police officers. The current standard is six hours.

Under SB 29, police officers in supervisory roles who conduct field training will receive at least 12 hours of behavioral health training, including eight hours of crisis intervention instruction and an additional four hours in the Field Training Officer program.

Both bills also recognize California's cultural diversity and require training to be culturally appropriate.

The bills were supported by an array of law enforcement groups, mental health advocates, and individuals, including the Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs, the California Association of Highway Patrolmen, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office, and NAMI of California. **Katherine Decker**, the mother of Michael Johnson, a San Jose police officer who was fatally shot on March 24, 2015, by a suicidal man with a rifle, testified on behalf of the bill in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Editor's Note: **Katherine Decker, Vice President of VEP**, commented about her testimony after the press release, "I felt very honored."

The Benefits of Learning a Musical Instrument

By Yvonne Ready, VEP Member

www.musicwithyvonne.com

Learning to play an instrument can be fun, but it is also a life-enhancing experience. It is one of the few activities that engages both sides of the brain and develops brain symmetry.

For young and old alike learning an instrument is beneficial. It can: **relieve stress.** The act of playing or composing can be soothing and joyful.

make you smarter. It's like learning a new language and building new pathways in the brain.

improve your social life. Get together with other musicians and have a fun time.

build confidence. Perform for family and friends. Play in a recital.

build patience and perseverance. Learning a new piece of music can take many, many practices to get it right.

foster creativity. Become your own favorite composer. Write a song for your grandchildren or that special someone.

improve memory. Memorizing a piece of music is a complex task but the skills necessary to do this can be applied to other tasks.

develop self-discipline. Daily practice is a must to master any instrument.

give you a sense of achievement. There's nothing like finally mastering Moonlight Sonata and impressing your friends.

improve math skills. Music is math.

improve reading and comprehension skills. A musical score contains information on notes, dynamics, tempo and so much more that must be read, understood, and then acted upon to play the music.

refine time management and organization skills. Blocking out practice time in your day, and breaking down a piece of music into the most important to practice sections is a useful skill for all tasks.

enhance coordination. Playing an instrument, particularly drums or piano means coordinating both hands and feet, and maybe even your voice.

expose one to cultural history. Music is an historical record and should be interpreted in the context of the life and times of the composer.

If you took lessons as a child, many of the benefits of learning an instrument are still with you today. If you didn't take lessons consider learning an instrument now.

It's not too late to gain benefits, even if you didn't take up an instrument until later in life. Jennifer Bugos, an assistant professor of music education at the University of South Florida, Tampa, studied the impact of individual piano instruction on adults between the ages of 60 and 85. After six months, those who had received piano lessons showed more robust gains in memory, verbal fluency, the speed at which they processed information, planning ability, and other cognitive functions, compared with those who had not received lessons.¹

My adult students often remark on how they love learning and the joy that comes from being able to sit down at the piano and play.

For more on the benefits of learning an instrument check out this —EdTalk," <http://ed.ted.com/lessons/how-playing-an-instrument-benefits-your-brain-anita-collins>

(Source 1 - <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/01/140103-music-lessons-brain-aging-cognitive-neuroscience/>)

~ Random Tidbits ~

* A Column By VEP Member, Kathy Wood *

The "C" Word

Whether you are amongst a group of people or just chatting with your neighbor, hearing the "C" word can bring all kinds of emotions front and center, none of which are good. Cancer has affected most of us in one way or another, some more closely than others. —Hæ— is the title I give to those who fight the tough battle courageously and whether one survives or succumbs, cancer is never the winner. Surviving means being allowed to have more time with friends and family, to do the things that bring happiness and satisfaction. Passing on means spending eternity in Heaven with loved ones already there and is the ultimate result of leaving this world behind. Not everyone believes this way but it is what I was taught as a young child and choose to put my confidence in.

On October 1st, a good friend of mine lost her 28-year-old son to a rare form of this ugly disease. He was diagnosed a year ago, just a few months after he had met the love of his life. She stuck by his side faithfully, through good times and bad until his last breath. They had become engaged and were to be married on October 11. During the third week of September he was rushed to the hospital in the wee hours of the morning and shortly after, placed into hospice care.

With the help of family, friends, nurses, doctors and hospital personnel, they had the most beautiful wedding ever on September 23rd. Love filled the sterile room. The bride in jeans and a hoodie, the groom in his hospital bed, removing his oxygen just long enough to say his vows and to kiss his new bride, couldn't have been more special.

They were married one week and one day before he said his final goodbyes, but, oh, what an impact he made. This young man touched the hearts and lives of everyone he came in contact with and left millions of sweet memories for those who cared about him to remember him by.

My friend is in mourning and will be forever. Her life will be changed permanently. Everyday events take on new meaning and with time the pain eases and she will learn to live again, but a part of her heart is gone. No parent should have to bury their child (as I well know).

There are so many other horrible diseases filling the lives and bodies of people around us besides cancer, but October is designated Cancer Awareness Month. Wear your pink, get cancer screenings, encourage others to also, help someone out who has been diagnosed in whatever way you are able and keep strong Warriors! Let's beat cancer soon!

~ Gardener's Corner ~

~ A Column By VEP Member, 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 —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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VEP Community Schools Calendar

October / November 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
18	19	20 @Carson SELAC Mtg. ~ 8:05am ~ PTA Meeting ~ 7:00pm ~	21	22  6:00-7:00pm @GHS Theater	23	24 College Day @SJSU 8:00am-1:30pm CollegeDay.org 408-924-8955
25 S.J. "Kicks for Kids" Meet ~ 10am-12pm ~ @Gunderson www.kfknational.org/ san-jose-chapter/	26 SSC Meeting ~ 3pm / Rm 12 ~ @Parkview	27 Oak Grove GATE Meeting ~ 6:30pm ~ @Herman School	28	29 Cookie Dough Fundraiser @Carson Family Night & Gunderson Idol @GHS: 6-8pm	30  Halloween Parades: 8:45am-Parkview 1:30pm-Carson	31 
1 S.J. "Kicks for Kids" Meet ~ 10am-12pm ~ @Gunderson www.kfknational.org/ san-jose-chapter/	2	3	4 High School Night - 6:30pm @JMMS	5	6 Homecoming Rally @GHS (12:30pm)	7 HOMECOMING ~ 8:00-11:00pm ~ @Gunderson
← Parent-Teacher Conference Week @Carson / Early Dismissal →						
8 S.J. "Kicks for Kids" Meet ~ 10am-12pm ~ @Gunderson www.kfknational.org/ san-jose-chapter/	9 SSC Meeting ~ 2:30pm ~ @Carson	10	11  NO SCHOOL	12 PTSA Meeting ~ 6:30pm ~ @GHS Media Ctr.	13	14
15	16	17	18 PTSA Meeting ~ 6:30pm ~ @JMMS Library	19	20	21 -Movie Night" Fundraiser for Wrestling ~5:00-10:00pm~ @GHS Stadium

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

Facilities Calendar → <http://gunderson.sjUSD.org/pages/calendar/facilities.html>



VEP Community Calendar

October / November 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
18 Blossom Hill Farmers Market Every Sunday ~ 9am - 1:30pm ~ Ohlone/Chynoweth VTA - Santa Teresa Blvd. & Hwy 85/87	19	20	21 Jewelry-Making ~ 12:30pm ~ Knit/Crochet Club ~ 3:00pm ~ @Pearl Library	22 District 10 Crime Prevention Forum ~ 6:00pm ~ @Almaden Valley Community Center (6445 Camden Ave.)	23 Halloween Art: Ink -Bleeding" ~ 4:00pm ~ @Pearl Library	24 Book Sales ~ 10am - 6pm ~ @Edenvale Library ~ 10am - 4:30pm ~ @Vineland Library
25 \$5/Bag Book Sale ~ 1:00-5:00pm ~ @Martin Luther King, Jr. Library	26	27 VEP Community Meeting ~ 7:30 PM ~ @Vista Park Community Room	28 Jewelry-Making ~ 12:30pm ~ Knit/Crochet Club ~ 3:00pm ~ @Pearl Library	29 Dia de Los Muertos Art: Calavera Collage ~ 3:30pm ~ @Edenvale Library	30 Halloween Art: Ink -Bleeding" ~ 3:30pm ~ @Edenvale Library Calavera Collage ~ 3:30pm ~ @Pearl Library	31 
1 	2	3	4 District 10 Office Hours 8:30-9:30am @Almaden Valley Community Center (6445 Camden Ave.)	5 teensReach Meeting ~ 4:00pm ~ @Pearl Library	6 Rangoli Pattern Art for Diwali ~ 4:00pm ~ @Pearl Library	7 District 10 Office Hours 10:30-11:30am @City Espresso (630 Blossom Hill Rd.)
8 	9	10	11  Veteran's Day	VEP Community Association  <i>1st Annual Dave Fadness Memorial Beautification Day</i> Vista Park Community Room 475 Hyde Park Dr. San Jose, Ca 95136 Please join us, Saturday Nov. 14th Time: 9:00 a.m. In honor of Dave Fadness. We all know how much he loved to help keep our community beautiful. His love of volunteering for VEP will truly be missed. Please come out for as long as you can to help Dave's legacy continue. Please grab your garden gloves and come out... <i>Hope to see you out there!</i>		
15 	16	17	18			

★ Coming Soon in the VEP Neighborhoods ★

VEP Community Meetings

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER
Tuesday, December 1st

JANUARY
Tuesday, January 26th

*Everyone is Welcome!
Invite a Neighbor!*



**Enjoy Photos of
The VEP Community!**

flickr.com/photos/vepca/albums

VEP Community Events

Santa in the Park
Sunday, November 29th, 2pm-4pm

VEP Holiday Decorating Contest
Dates To Be Announced

Community-Wide Garage Sale
Saturday, May 7th, 2016

4th of July Festival & Fireworks
@Almaden Lake



THE VEP NEWS

VEP Community Association

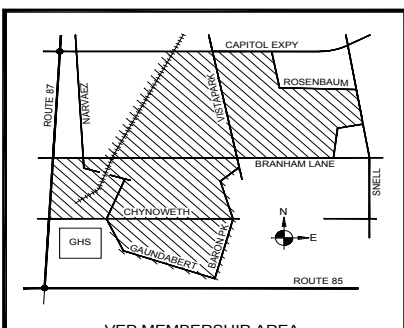
P.O. Box 18111
San Jose, CA ; 95158

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
Community Meeting
7:30 pm Tuesday,
Oct. 27th!

Check our website: www.vepca.net

Community Room

Vista Park

7:30 pm in the

Be sure to attend
VEP's Community Meeting
Tuesday, October 27th!

