

# VEP NEWS

## • VEP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION •

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



### SEPTEMBER 2016

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### **SCHOOL'S OPEN - DRIVE CAREFULLY**



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

President - Marilyn Rodgers  
Vice President - Katherine Decker  
Secretary - Adina Pierce  
Treasurer - Position Open  
Director - Helen Castillo  
Director - Rich Giammona  
Director & VEP News Editor - Rachel Witmeyer



## VEP COMMUNITY MEETING

7:30pm ~ Tuesday

► September 27th, 2016 ◀

Vista Park Community Room  
475 Hyde Park Dr.

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

### AGENDA

#### ★ Martial Cottle Park ★

2nd Annual Fall/Harvest Festival  
and  
Park Updates

Presentation by

Eric Goodrich  
Martial Cottle Park Manager



#### ★ VEP Business Meeting ★

Announcements & Updates

VEP Support Letters for Martial Cottle Park Partners  
Our City Forest and Master Gardeners  
Measure Q Grants

Congratulations to Councilmember Khamis on Re-Election

Updates from Councilmember Khamis & Staff

October 1, 2016  
2nd Annual Fall/Harvest Festival  
at Martial Cottle Park

October 16, 2016  
Emergency/Disaster Preparedness Faire  
City of San Jose

VEP's Next Meeting - Tuesday, October 25, 2016

#### ★ Your Concerns and Ideas ★

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

# ◆ 2016 is VEP's 47th Year! ◆

## VEP's September Meeting Preview

By Marilyn Rodgers

► **Presentations:** Featured presentation for this month will be on updates and issues with the continuing development of the **Martial Cottle Park**, as well as information on the **2nd Annual Fall/Harvest Festival** to be held Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. Primary speaker will be **Eric Goodrich, Park Manager**.

### ► VEP Business Meeting / Updates / Announcements

Several updates and announcements will be provided.

### ► 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 **Tuesday, September 27th!**

## May Meeting Synopsis

Article by Marilyn Rodgers; Photos by Rachel Witmeyer

President Rodgers welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendees had several minutes to network and chat with both new and old acquaintances, while participating in the "Ice Cream Social." President Rodgers remarked on the how the "ice cream" seemed to increase the numbers in attendance at the meeting! Everyone laughed.

*(See photos of the ice cream social on page 5 of this newsletter)*

Once the meeting started, Ms. Rodgers introduced Councilmember Johnny Khamis. The Councilmember reported on several items, and encouraged everyone to remember to vote. He noted that many people had already mailed in their ballots and that there appeared to be a significant increase in the numbers of voters utilizing this method of voting. He also invited everyone to plan to attend the upcoming 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual July 4<sup>th</sup> Family Fireworks Festival at Lake Almaden. This event has become increasingly popular as it is oriented toward families having an enjoyable time – with lots of entertainment, food, and of course... the fireworks! It is also taking place in a safe environment – with lots of security



and no alcohol allowed – alcohol cannot be purchased or brought in to the Park. He also reinforced that the intention of having an organized fireworks display was for safety reasons, and to hopefully discourage everyone from setting off illegal fireworks in San Jose. He also thanked those in VEP who planned to volunteer to help at the event.

Ms. Rodgers thanked the Councilmember, stating she was especially appreciative for his leadership in providing our area with another opportunity to enjoy safe fireworks; which also hopefully discourages/prevents illegal fireworks in our neighborhoods. She also reminded everyone that there was still an opportunity to

volunteer at the event. This is a free event, and the fireworks are paid for through donations from businesses and individuals. Additionally, she reminded people regarding voting....that this room, the Vista Park Community Room was one of the voting polling places – in which those of us that still like to come and physically vote at a booth, can do so. Also, voters can turn in their mail-in ballots here as well – just remember to VOTE!

Next, President Rodgers requested permission from the group to allow for one item of business to be done now at the beginning of the meeting. This item is of importance, as it is to assure election of the VEP Board of Directors. VEP bylaws directs a process of a "slate" of members, in good standing, be brought forward for approval – that is to be voted on as a group for the Board of Directors. The "slate" that has been brought forward – and which was also listed in writing in the May edition of the VEP Newsletter (providing advanced notification) is as follows: Ginger Cardona, Helen Castillo, Katherine Decker, Rich Giammona, Adina Pierce, Marilyn Rodgers, and Rachel Witmeyer. President Rodgers then stated that a motion to elect the slate was in order. A motion, with a second, was provided by members in attendance. The vote carried. She thanked everyone for their approval and confidence in the Board. She also stated that as per VEP bylaws, the Board at their next meeting will elect officers for the organization – a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. She also stated that the Board is eager to encourage members to consider participating as a Board Member in the future.

Ms. Rodgers then introduced Brendan Mieses, Director of Domestic Farming Operations for Jacobs Farm del Cabo – the "Master Farmer" for Martial Cottle Park. Mr. Mieses provided a quick overview of his own background, including education at U.C. Santa Cruz, and how he happened to go into agriculture. On a personal note, he stated he is married and the proud father of two young sons, who accompanied him to the meeting. He also is quite proud of the people who started, and are – Jacobs Farm del Cabo. Their initial foray into farming was along the coast in Santa Cruz County. They expanded into Mexico following several trips to the Cabo area, realizing they could benefit themselves and the local farmers in a mutual way. He said they were pleased to be granted the opportunity to be the Master Farmer for Martial Cottle Park because it continued their own ideals and goals for farming in our area. Of highest priority is that they are "organic." They are sensitive to the resources needed to farm, and utilize "dry" farming and drip irrigation techniques to minimize resources such as water needed for growing of crops. They specialize in growing vegetables, fresh culinary herbs and edible flowers. These include heirloom varieties of tomatoes – Early Girls, a variety of strawberries, melons, cherries, peaches, and flowers. Also included are variety-

*Continues on Page 3*





-es of zinnias, chrysanthemums, lilies, and dahlias; and fresh herbs including basil, rosemary, and thyme. These products can be purchased at their Farm Stand at the corner of Snell and Chynoweth, as well as at retail outlets such as Whole Foods. For additional information go to [www.JacobsFarm.com](http://www.JacobsFarm.com).

Mr. Miele talked briefly about the rewards and challenges facing today's farmers. He also briefly described a few of the special projects and community outreach efforts they are currently involved in. One such special project involves Veterans. It is an opportunity for veterans who may want to learn more about agriculture, area being given an opportunity to work on the farm and develop new job skills in this arena at the same time.

Ms. Rodgers thanked Mr. Miele for his very exciting and informative presentation, and invited him to return in the future to provide VEP with additional information and updates on the farming aspect at Martial Cottle Park.



Next, President Rodgers introduced the Martial Cottle Park Manager, Mr. Eric Goodrich. Eric gave an overview of farming and some of the challenges they face at Martial Cottle. He also provided an update on the delay in the Perimeter Trail being completed – a topic he often gets questions about from the public. There currently is an ongoing lawsuit, so he is not at liberty to discuss it at length. However, he is hopeful that this will be settled in the not

too distant future. He suggested that anyone with specific questions and/or concerns should contact our County Supervisor, Mike Wasserman's office.

Eric went on to state that the Trail is quite popular and continues to increase in numbers of people using it – from 400 to 600 per day. He also indicated that opportunities for "volunteers" were increasing for those that might be interested. He acknowledged and thanked several of our VEP members, who are active volunteers for Martial Cottle. He also indicated he plans to return in the early Fall to provide additional information on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fall/Harvest Festival - now in the planning phase.

Ms. Rodgers thanked Mr. Goodrich for his presentation and for his continuing work to make Martial Cottle such a special place.

President Rodgers then provided additional information on a special event scheduled for later in June. The event is the Annual Soiree for the San Jose Parks Foundation scheduled for June 23<sup>rd</sup>. It will be held at the Japanese Tea Garden in San Jose. The event will be honoring two exceptional volunteers. Dave Fadness will be honored for his long history of volunteerism and support of parks.

She also wished everyone a safe and very enjoyable Summer. She reminded everyone that VEP takes a Summer Break – with the next meeting scheduled for the end of September.



## VEP Plans for a Memorial Bench / Plaque at Vista Park in Honor of Dave Fadness

*By Marilyn Rodgers and Rachel Witmeyer*

The VEP Board of Directors is pleased to announce that more than enough donations have been received to provide for a memorial bench and plaque in honor of Dave Fadness. The bench will be placed in Vista Park. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who has donated towards this project!

VEP has recently learned that the usual ordering time needed to receive a memorial bench and plaque has greatly increased from a few weeks to several months. This is partly due to a dramatic increase in popularity of memorial benches as a way to honor friends and loved ones. As soon as the memorial bench for Dave is completed, announcements will be sent out to the community and to all of Dave's friends, inviting them to attend a special dedication of the bench.



### Note To Our Wonderful Volunteers in the VEP:

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Dave Fadness Memorial Beautification Day is tentatively scheduled for **Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>**.

Please be sure to watch for our email updates and check upcoming newsletters for more details, coming in the near future!

Leigh Moore

GEN LIC 606322



South Bay # 408-849-9509



## S.J. Emergency/Disaster Preparedness Status

By Marilyn Rodgers

The City of San Jose has made a renewed commitment to increase resources and provide additional educational opportunities for citizens to become more knowledgeable, and hopefully better prepared, **when, not if**, a large incident occurs. An incident could be a natural disaster, or one of several potential man-made emergencies. San Jose, as the largest city in the Bay Area, and the third largest city in the State of California, is concerned that its over 1 million people are not currently adequately prepared.

Council District 10 (of which VEP is a part) has been identified as a "pilot" city council district in going forward with additional education and preparation for an emergency or disaster. So, please watch for upcoming information and/or opportunities which will assist you, your families and friends toward becoming better prepared for emergencies that may affect any or all of us. As a "kick-off" to make citizens of San Jose more aware of the resources and organizations available to assist in the goal of becoming "better prepared" an Emergency/Disaster Preparedness Faire will be held October 16<sup>th</sup>. More details will be forthcoming!

## Project to Improve Branham Lane from Almaden Expressway to Vista Park Drive

By Marilyn Rodgers

Over the Spring and Summer, San Jose Department of Transportation held three community meetings to provide information and to obtain feedback from neighbors regarding improving safety on Branham Lane between Almaden Expressway and Vista Park Drive. History of previous fatal accidents over a 2-1/2 year period was provided. Branham Lane was identified as one of the 10 most dangerous segments of road in San Jose. A high rate of accidents, and even more concerning, **a very high incidence of fatalities – 11 occurred during this period.** (Note: 5 of these fatalities occurred at, or very near, Branham Lane & Vistapark Dr.)

As a result, DOT has determined that several changes and/or improvements in road structure, including reducing the number of lanes, would dramatically improve these statistics. The plan is to decrease Branham along this segment from 3 lanes each direction to two, increase bike lanes, and improve pedestrian crossings. This plan is supported by national research. By slowing traffic down by 5 miles per hour, fatalities are eliminated - not the number of accidents *per se*, but number of fatalities.

This large project is scheduled from October to November. (Please note – this project does not include improvements/changes to the segment of Branham Lane from Vistapark Dr. to Snell. That is a separate project, which includes increasing the number of lanes in each direction.)

## Branham Lane By Dave Noel

(Reprinted with permission from the ENA Newsletter, August 2016)

Branham Lane re-striping from six to four lanes between Almaden Expressway and Vistapark Drive should be complete by early November. The purpose of this is for traffic calming and safety for cars, bicyclists and pedestrians. When Branham Lane is widened from two to four lanes between Vistapark Drive and Snell Ave, the road will be consistently four lanes through our entire area.

For pedestrian safety, a much needed crosswalk will be added at Glenmont, with bulb-outs at both ends, and a pedestrian refuge island in the middle. The crosswalk will include a rapid flashing beacon. The bulb-outs are being constructed at this writing. After the road reconfiguration, there will be additional on-street parking as detailed in the July ENA newsletter.

## Branham Lane Changes

By SJ DOT Division Manager Jessica Zenk

(Reprinted with permission from the ENA Newsletter, July 2016)

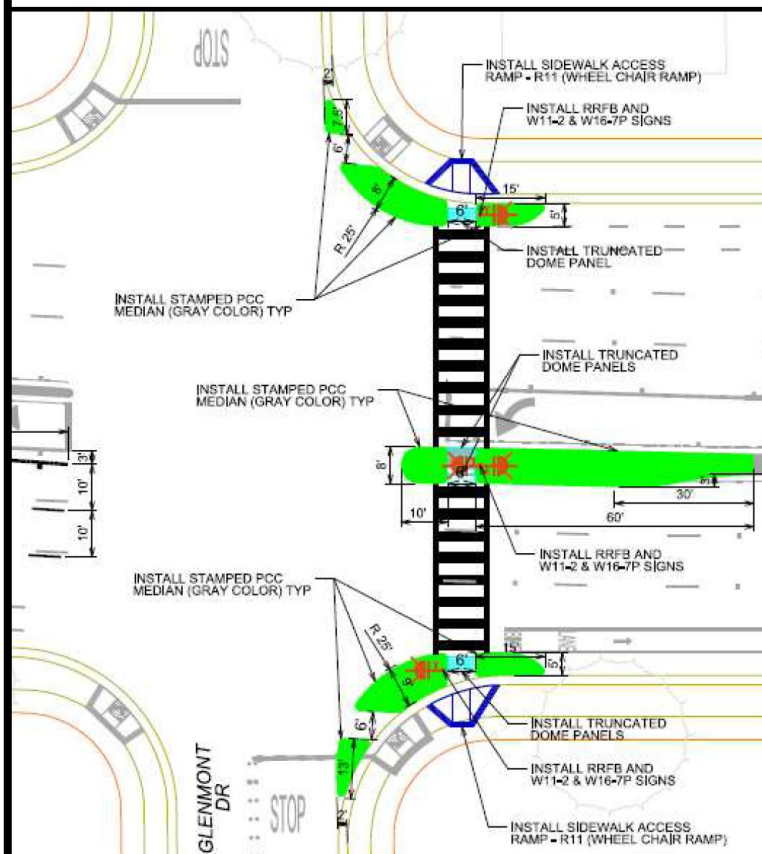
In April, the Department of Transportation (DOT) hosted a community meeting to gather feedback from residents about repaving and restriping Branham Lane between Almaden Expressway and Vistapark Drive. The project reduces most of this stretch of Branham Lane from six to four auto lanes, largely in response to concerns raised in the surrounding community about roadway and pedestrian safety. This change is consistent with the City's Envision San José 2040 General Plan and Vision Zero Transportation Safety Initiative, in which this segment of Branham Lane was designated as a "Priority Safety Corridor" with an emphasis on slowing vehicle speeds, enhancing pedestrian and bicycle safety, and improving the visibility of all modes of travel. As part of the project, physical separators between auto and bicycle traffic will be placed on Branham Lane over Hwy 87 to increase bicyclist comfort and safety. In addition, a rapid flashing beacon (RFB) will be installed at the intersection of Branham and Glenmont shortly after the project is completed.

Approximately 40 new on-street parking spaces will be added along the corridor as follows.

North side of Branham: ~10 spaces Thousand Oaks to Lynfield (5 per block), ~11 spaces Glenmont to Eagle Lake, and ~8 spaces Crocus to Birkenshaw/Canoas Creek.

South side of Branham: ~10 spaces Guadalupe River to Hampton Falls Place.

Diagram of the Upcoming Branham Lane Project



Branham Ln. and Glenmont Dr.

**Editor's Note:** VEP would like to thank the Erickson Neighborhood Association and ENA President Dave Noel, for allowing us to re-print their articles about the Branham Lane project.



# VEP Ice Cream Social ~ May 2016

Photos by Katherine Decker & Rachel Witmeyer



Above: VEP Executive Board Members, Adina Pierce, Rich Giammona, & Ginger Cardona

**We all  
Scream  
for ice cream**

Below:

VEP President Marilyn Rodgers, D10 Councilmember Johnny Khamis, and VEP Board Member Ginger Cardona.





## Stupendous Summer Events

Article by Marilyn Rodgers

Photographs by Katherine Decker & Adina Pierce

During the months of June through August, VEP takes a "Summer Break" which means there are no scheduled meetings. However, events continue during this time. We would like to share some highlights of the 2016 summer events.

Special Note: VEP would like to give special thanks to Katherine Decker for attending and photographing so many events for VEP this summer!

### 1. San Jose Parks Foundation Annual Summer Soiree

This year's Soiree on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, was held at the **Japanese Tea Garden** in San Jose and honored two outstanding Volunteers. **Dave Fadness was honored** posthumously for his many years as an "outstanding tireless community volunteer" who had been an advocate for Parks for many years. The event was held at the very special Japanese Tea Garden in the Tea House which is only open and available to the public for special events. This was a very special treat for Dave's family and friends. Included in the group of attendees were several VEP Board Members and VEP members.



Julie Riera Masushima (Honoree), Johnny Khamis (D10 Councilmember), Kathy Sutherland (SJ Parks Foundation), Adina Pierce (VEP Secretary), Mrs. Aiko Fadness, Marilyn Rodgers (VEP President), Katherine Decker (V.P. of VEP), Debra Suydam (VEP)

Kathy Sutherland with  
Aiko Fadness & Matthew Fadness

Maureen Noel and  
Dave Noel (ENA President)





## 2. 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual July 4th Fireworks Festival, Lake Almaden

For the 3<sup>rd</sup> year, this very enjoyable festival sponsored by Councilmember Khamis was once again....very successful with over 25,000 people in attendance. Food, vendor booths, non-profit booths, food trucks, a variety of entertainment, and of course – the **fabulous fireworks show** were enjoyed by all – young and old. Each year, the fireworks continue to get better and better. After last year, everyone thought that was impossible – as it had 3 encores. However, this year's show continued to amaze, leaving everyone in awe! This event has become increasingly popular, and attendance continues to grow as it is a safe and fun event for families - promoting no sale or consumption of alcohol. It is also an exceptionally attractive and inspirational venue – watching the fireworks over the Lake. This year an additional aspect was included during the afternoon festival – a brief “walk on the (simulated) red carpet” for members of the San Jose Vets Center – honoring our very own San Jose veterans. VEP Vice President Katherine Decker escorted the veterans down the red carpet to cheers from all in attendance.

VEP members were well represented in the hardworking group of volunteers who assisted Councilmember Khamis' staff in putting on a very enjoyable afternoon and evening. Volunteers at the combination D10 Leadership Coalition and VEP booth were – Debra Suydam, Joelle Hanson, Mary Kay Werth, and Marilyn Rodgers. This group, in addition to providing information about the volunteer D10 Leadership Coalition group and its member neighborhood associations, also sold 4<sup>th</sup> of July glow sticks. Sale of the glow stick netted several hundred dollars toward paying for the big Fireworks show. Other VEP volunteers, Josie Supencheck and Aiko Fadness, assisted interested participants – young and old – in writing letters to veterans, Rich Giammona and Debra Suydam did double duty also helping set up and/or tear down booths and canopies. Other volunteers and staff did double duty as well in litter and general cleanup the day after the event - including Marilyn Rodgers. A special thank-you needs to be extended to Denelle Fedor who provided staff leadership and coordination for the project, and to Bob Vanderworth, who for three years has been “volunteer extraordinaire” in assuring all went well with Fireworks, and many other activities. Denelle, Bob, Raylene Fedor-Segura, and Marilyn made up the first staff-volunteer coordinating task force. A special acknowledgement and thank you goes to Councilmember Khamis for his leadership and foresight in the importance of providing a safe and enjoyable Fireworks Festival for our families.

*Mary Kay Werth, Joell Hanson, and Marilyn Rodgers (VEP President)*



*Aiko Fadness, Debra Suydam, and Josie Supencheck*

*Dora Gonzalez & Fred Latimore  
(Office of Councilmember Khamis)*

*Katherine Decker & Johnny Khamis  
(VP of VEP - D10 Councilmember)*



*Fred L. (D10), Marilyn R. (VEP), Bob V. (Fireworks!) & Katherine D. (VEP)*





### 3. Grand Re-Opening of Farm Stand – Jacobs Farms

On July 16<sup>th</sup>, the Master Farmer for Martial Cottle Park had a celebration and invited the public to attend the official re-opening of the food stand located at the corner of Snell and Chynoweth. Many family friendly activities were available in addition to lots of good organic fruits, vegetables, and herbs.

Of special note, several neighborhood leaders were invited to participate in a private “out in the fields” tour provided by Director of Farming Operations, Brendan Miele. VEP was very well represented by Marilyn Rodgers, Katherine Decker, Adina Pierce, and Josie Supencheck. Dave Noel, past President of VEP and now President of Ericson Neighborhood Association also enjoyed the tour. To reach some of the orchards and other farming areas, we were allowed to walk through (on the road only) part of the “private Life Estate” grounds of Mr. Lester. This area is closed off from the public and understandably kept secure for the time being.

Everyone enjoyed the “up close” information provided by Mr. Miele on what and how different crops are grown. He also talked about the fact that while he loves his job, farming in today’s fast paced, challenging world is tough – and it is hard work. One particular concern he shared was the challenge all farmers and farming operations have in finding enough people for their specific workforce. They are doing “outreach to young people” to teach them how important farming and agriculture is to all of us – and... some of the joys of farming as a career. This tour was specifically focused on neighbors whose property is immediately adjacent to the Park’s farming areas, and/or who were neighborhood leaders eager for additional information that could be shared with their respective networks. He indicated that they hope to continue to provide tours to other interested neighbors in coming months.

Adina Pierce,  
pictured  
in front of  
Mr. Lester’s  
House



Brendan Miele, Josie Supencheck, Katherine Decker & Dave Noel





#### 4. National Night Out Events/Block Parties

NNO takes place annually, in the first part of August. The intent is to bring neighbors together to meet, become better acquainted, and learn how to promote safety and awareness in neighborhoods. Activities can be accomplished informally, and can take place in driveways, or "block parties", or in parks. This year, to encourage more participation in District 10 – the volunteer neighborhood leaders group in District 10 – the D10 Leadership Coalition applied for, and received, a San Jose City CAP grant. Within the larger CAP grant, D10 Leadership Coalition provided opportunities for individuals and/or groups to apply for small or "mini-grants" of up to \$150.00. These mini-grants were available to assist neighborhoods in partially covering expenses for putting on these activities. (Note: there were some exceptions for what is covered in both the mini-grants and the main CAP grants – no alcohol for instance.) Three different groups in the VEP–Vistapark area applied for, and received, the minigrants. Neighbors on Devon Park Ct. did a "block party" in July – very successful (**See photos, this page**). On the actual National Night Out evening – two additional groups of neighbors in VEP-Vistapark area had successful parties. One which takes place on Wellington Park Drive, and has successfully been doing this for more than 3 years – had another great event this year (*no photos available*). The third group of neighbors in and around Hyde Park Drive held their first National Night Out event this year in one section of Vista Park (*no photos available*). All were slightly different, and all were successful. The VEP Board hopes this trend will continue, with more groups of neighbors participating next year in block/street/park parties – expanding into all three areas of VEP-Vistapark, Carson, and Parkview!

**Neighbors Together on Devon Park Court!**



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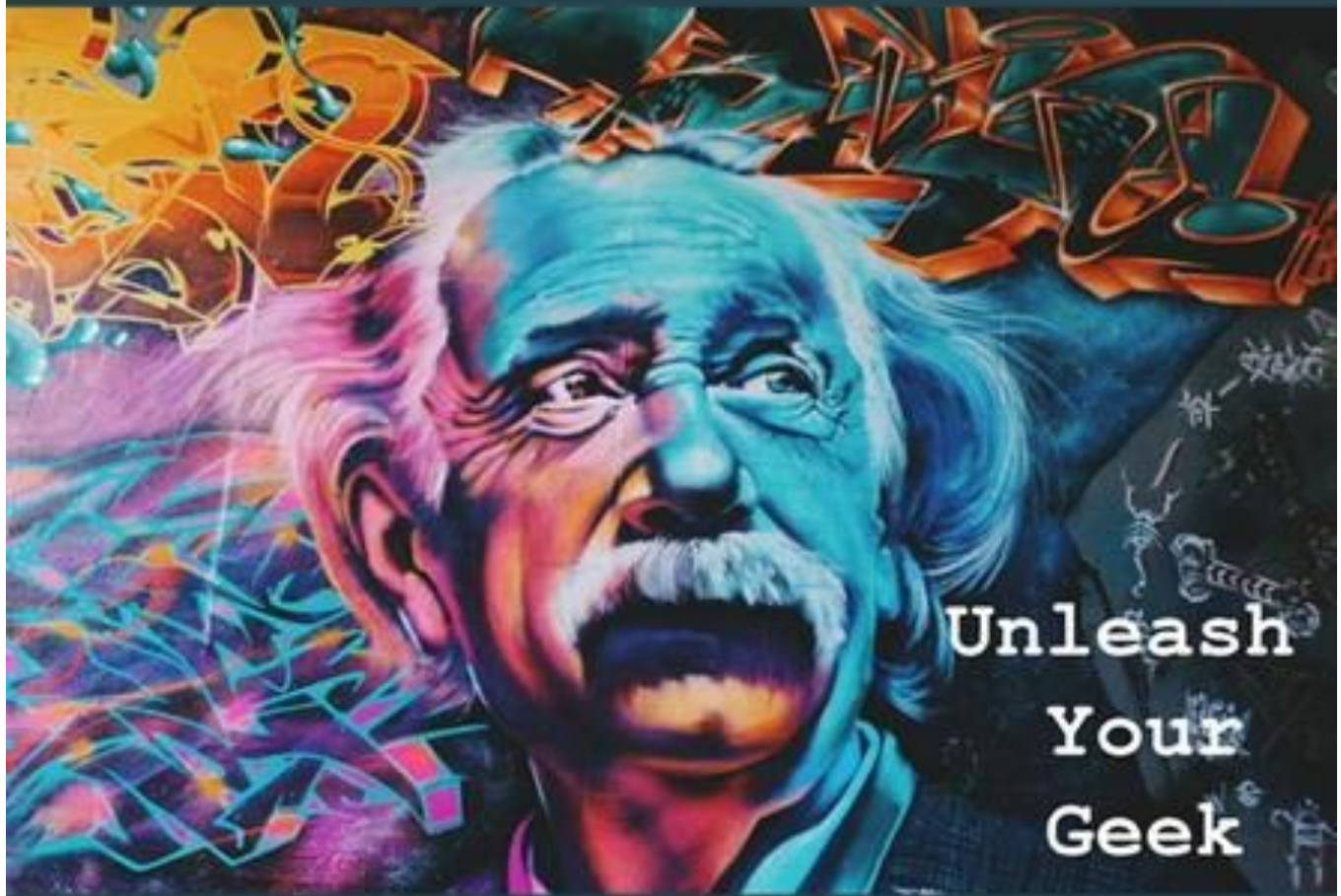
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## Unleash Your Geek

San Jose wants your ideas on how  
to eradicate graffiti cheaply,  
quickly and easily

**The Problem:** Graffiti in hard-to-reach locations  
can cost \$60,000 to clean and returns quickly

**We Need:** A device that can easily repaint  
hard-to-reach areas

**Winners Get:** Up to \$25,000, incubator space  
to build a prototype, help patenting your idea,  
and CalTrans as a trial customer

Submit Your Idea By Nov. 19:  
[Herox.com/SJGraffiti](http://Herox.com/SJGraffiti)





FROM THE OFFICE OF



Santa Clara County's newest park just got its very own newsletter! The "**Cottle Almanac**" chronicles the journey from working family farm to historical agricultural park and shares insights into park programs, partners and events. Kudos to the hard work from volunteers, community partners and the staff team who created this publication and who make Martial Cottle Park such a special place for residents. *Read it here:*

[sccgov.org/sites/parks/parkfinder/Documents/martial-fall-16.pdf](http://sccgov.org/sites/parks/parkfinder/Documents/martial-fall-16.pdf)

And speaking of Martial Cottle Park, please mark your calendar for **Saturday, October 1st** and join me for the **Annual Harvest Festival!** Good old fashion farm fun with live entertainment and hands on activities for the kids including watermelon and costume contests, petting zoo, pumpkin bowling, corn maze, farm tours and more! \$6 parking fee. More information [www.parkhere.org](http://www.parkhere.org).

Fall means it is back-to-school time for students and teachers. San Jose State Athletics and the SJSU College of Education has partnered with the College Football Playoff Foundation in bringing the **Extra Yard for Teachers** initiative to the Bay Area. The College Football Playoff hopes to go the extra yard by honoring, celebrating, inspiring and empowering teachers. Throughout the months and weeks leading up to the CFP National Championship, there will be a focus on the people who helped student-athletes across the country reach their dreams of attending college: their teachers. Local teachers are invited to attend the San Jose State vs. Utah football game on September 17, 2016 for FREE. Learn more about this and other ways you can join SJSU in honoring teachers here: [www.sjsuspartans.com/extrayard](http://www.sjsuspartans.com/extrayard)

We are working hard to prevent identity theft, as well as phone and internet scams in our community. Last month, I partnered with the District Attorney's Office to host our **3rd Fraud and Identity Theft Prevention event**. Of the 110 residents who attended, over half reported that they or someone they knew recently received a phone call or email from a scammer or were the victims of identity theft. Some had received "grandparent scam" calls, which is just one of many out there. I am grateful to the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office for the informational presentation and to the Los Gatos-Saratoga Recreation Department for helping to put this event together. By being informed, we can prevent identity theft and scams from happening. To learn more, please view the District Attorney's helpful publications on their website.

As always, you can reach my office at (408) 299-5010, or you can email me with comments & concerns ( [district1@bos.sccgov.org](mailto:district1@bos.sccgov.org) ).

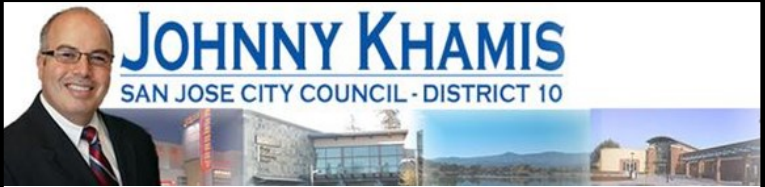


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## Councilmember Johnny Khamis goes On the Record



There are likely few San Jose residents who have time to sit through four or five hours or more of a City Council meeting on any given

Tuesday afternoon, let alone attend additional evening City Council meetings and Council committee meetings. As a service to my District 10 constituents, and anyone who may be interested, I have launched a new YouTube channel: Johnny Khamis on the Record!

Have you ever wondered how I voted on a particular issue or been curious about the thoughts that went into my decision to vote a certain way? If you have, you may now visit the Johnny Khamis on the Record channel on YouTube and watch short snippets from the City Council meetings that highlight interesting discussions and my own comments on important issues in the City of San Jose. This new channel provides a simple and easy way for you to access portions of Council and community meetings that pertain directly to you!

I have chosen YouTube as the platform to share these highlights due to its simplicity of use. If you have a Gmail address or Google account, you already have a YouTube account! If you do not have a Gmail address or Google account, you may type the following address into your web browser to sign up for free: <http://bit.ly/1daEcJG>.

Once you have your account set up, type the following address into your web browser to subscribe to my YouTube Channel: <http://bit.ly/2bBZw36>. It is free and easy to subscribe - just push the big red and white Subscribe button!

Once subscribed, simply click on a video that interests you to start watching. Be sure to take a look at the Rules Committee discussion of the San Jose Police Staffing Emergency here: <http://bit.ly/2cmTMKj>.

*Other clips of interest that are now available include:*

Alternative Pension Reform Act (Measure F): <http://bit.ly/PensAlt>  
Business Tax Modernization (Measure G): <http://bit.ly/BizTaxMod>

Look for new videos to be posted within about a week of the Council meeting where hot topics are discussed. Because all of the videos will be uploaded to YouTube you can access them any time you want, almost anywhere in the world. As long as you have an internet connection and can get to YouTube, you are good to go!

My new YouTube channel is another way that I am promoting further transparency between you and my Council office. I know how difficult it can be to stay engaged when you have to sift through hours of meetings or discussions when you simply want to know how your own City Council representative voted. Johnny Khamis on the Record allows you to become familiar with my views on issues of importance to you, quickly and easily!

Be sure to stay tuned as more videos and discussions become available!



# Second Annual Harvest Festival



**Saturday  
October 1st  
10am-3pm**

**Come celebrate  
our valley's rich  
agricultural history!**

- Food & Produce for Sale
- Jacobs Farm Tours
- Kids Activities
- Pumpkin Bowling
- Pumpkin Painting
- Petting Zoo
- Square Dancing
- Music & More
- Parking \$6 Public transportation encouraged








**5283 Snell Avenue, San Jose**

Visit [ParkHere.org](http://ParkHere.org) for more info  
or volunteer opportunities





# September / October 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>18</b> Blossom Hill Farmers Market <b>Every Sunday</b> ~ 9am - 1:30pm ~ Ohlone/Chynoweth VTA - Santa Teresa Blvd. & Hwy 85/87	19	<b>20</b> Volleyball Games ~ 5:00-8:00pm ~ @Gunderson H.S.	<b>21</b> Synopsis County Science Fair Training for Students ~ 4:00-5:00pm ~ @Gunderson H.S.	<b>22</b> SELAC Meeting ~ 10:00-11:00am ~ @John Muir M.S. (Library)	23	<b>24</b> Book Sale \$1 hardbacks 50¢ softcovers ~ 10am-5pm ~ @MLK, Jr. Library
<b>25</b> \$5/Bag Book Sale ~ 1:00-5:00pm ~ @Martin Luther King, Jr. Library	26	 <b>27</b> VEP Community Meeting & ~ 7:30 PM ~ @Vista Park Community Room	<b>28</b> District 10 Office Hours 8:30-9:30am @Almaden Valley Community Center (6445 Camden Ave.)	29	<b>30</b> FEI Fall Parent "Strong Start" Classes Begin (Fridays through 12/2) ~ 8:45-10:45am ~ @Parkview School (Old Comp. Lab)	<b>1</b>  Harvest Festival ~ 10am-3pm ~
<b>2</b> 	<b>3</b> ← <b>SJUSD and OGUSD Schools on Fall Break—No School This Week!</b> →	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Football Games ~ 4:00-9:0pm ~ @Gunderson H.S.	<b>8</b> District 10 Office Hours 10:30-11:30am @City Espresso (630 Blossom Hill Rd.)
<b>9</b> 	<b>10</b> SSC Meetings ~ 2:30-3:30pm ~ @Carson (Rm.B5) ~ 2:45-3:45pm ~ @Gunderson (C2)	<b>11</b> PTA Meeting ~ 7:00-8:00pm ~ @Carson School (Media Center)	<b>12</b> PTSA Meeting ~ 6:30-8:00pm ~ @John Muir M.S. (Faculty Dining Room)	<b>13</b> PTSA Meeting ~ 6:30-7:30pm ~ @Gunderson H.S. (Media Center) SELAC Meeting ~ 8:00-9:00pm ~ @Carson (B-5)	<b>14</b> PARKVIEW WALKATHON FUNDRAISER Food! Games! Fun! Silent Auction! ~ 3:00-8:00PM ~ @Parkview School	15
<b>16</b> 	17	<b>18</b> Volleyball Games ~ 5:00-8:00pm ~ @Gunderson H.S.	19	<b>20</b> OGUSD District-Wide Disaster Drill ~ 9:00am ~	<b>21</b> Principal's Coffee ~ 8:30-9:00am ~ @John Muir M.S. (Library)	22

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

## VEP's Meetings

## OCTOBER

Tuesday, October 25th

NOVEMBER

Tuesday, November 29th

*Everyone is Welcome!  
Invite a Neighbor!*



Reach Thousands of  
Local People Through:

VEP 's Website &amp; News (print &amp; digital)

## Reasonable Rate!

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

## VEP Community Events

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Dave Fadness  
Memorial Beautification Day**  
Saturday, November 12th

**Santa In the Park (Vista Park)**  
Sunday, November 27th

## Holiday Decorations Contest

December 2016





# THE VEP NEWS

A Publication of

## VEP Community Association

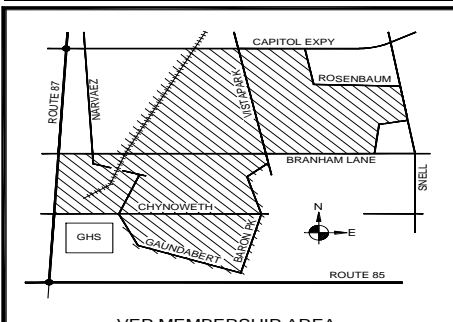
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Published monthly by VEP Community Association, a not-for-profit organization of volunteers established in 1969 to serve and represent more than 2000 homes in the Blossom Valley area of southern San Jose. VEP is dedicated to neighborhood maintenance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

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**VEP**  
**Community Meeting - 7:30 pm**  
**Tuesday, Sept. 27th!**

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, September 27th!**