

# VEP NEWS

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

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The "VEP News" is the official publication of the VEP Community Association, published monthly during the months of September through May each year.

We appreciate and will, at the discretion of the VEP Executive Board, attempt to publish any and all articles that will be of general interest to our membership community.

The VEP strongly encourages local schools to submit news articles about events and achievements on their campuses. Articles written by students will be given extra special consideration.

Persons, schools, or organizations who are interested in submitting articles, letters, or information to be included in the VEP News are encouraged to contact the Editor of the "VEP News," Mrs. Rachel Witmeyer. Email: [vepeditor@gmail.com](mailto:vepeditor@gmail.com) // Phone: 408-226-2935

#### **VEP Community Association Membership**

Persons who would like to join the VEP Community Association may send their name, address, and \$20 yearly dues to:

VEP Community Association  
P.O. BOX 18307; 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**

► **January 31st, 2017** ◀

Vista Park Community Room  
475 Hyde Park Dr.

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

### **AGENDA**

#### **★San Jose Unified School District★**

Overview of District Goals & Priorities  
Highlights of VEP Area Schools

*Presentation by*

**Paymon Zarghami**  
SJUSD Board Member

#### **★VEP Business Meeting★**

**Updates from Councilmember Khamis & Staff**

**Introduction of Captain Johnson Fong**  
Southern Division Commander, SJPD

#### **Upcoming Events**

**City of San Jose "State of the City" Function**  
Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Gunderson High School, 10am – 1pm

**Dave Fadness Memorial Bench Dedication**  
Vista Park Community Room  
Saturday, February 18, 2017 – 11am

**Annual VEP Membership Drive Begins**  
~ Raffle for Free Membership ~  
**Bring Your Membership to Meeting!**

**VEP's Next Meeting - Tuesday, February 28th, 2017**

#### **★ Your Concerns and Ideas ★**

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

◆ **2017 is VEP's 48th Year!** ◆

## VEP's January Meeting Preview

By Marilyn Rodgers

► **Featured Presentation:** Paymon Zarghami, SJUSD Board member representing the VEP area, will provide an overview of San Jose's largest school district, with special attention to VEP area schools - Gunderson High School, Carson Elementary, & new programs planned for the Erikson site. Excellent opportunity to learn about our schools and... more importantly, have your questions answered!

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

Updates provided by **Councilmember Khamis** and/or his staff. **Captain Johnson Fong**, newly assigned Commander of Southern Division for San Jose Police Department will be introduced. **Two special events** will take place in the VEP area during the **month of February** - see above, & **plan to attend!**

### ► 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, January 31st!**

## November Meeting Synopsis

By Marilyn Rodgers

President Rodgers called the meeting to order with some difficulty, as attendees were enjoying networking with the guest speakers. She started by saying she hoped everyone had a very enjoyable Thanksgiving holiday. She also thanked Board Members and volunteers particularly Helen Castillo, Adina Pierce, and Rachel Witmeyer who had provided such a successful and enjoyable event in the Community Room on Sunday afternoon – the annual VEP sponsored **“Santa in the Park”** event. Ms. Rodgers invited District 10 Councilmember Johnny Khamis to provide updates and announcements.

Ms. Rodgers then introduced Erik Schoennauer and several colleagues, members of a development and management team with a proposal for the City of San Jose to build a new Senior Assisted Living facility on the current site of the Summer Winds Nursery located on Almaden Expressway, close to Branham Lane. This property has been rezoned to non-commercial. Their presentation included several renderings of the planned development. They also provided brief information on other recent community outreach meetings and meetings held specifically with staff of the City of San Jose and with the Santa Clara Valley Water District. As a result of those meetings where issues were raised, there has already been several significant changes and improvements made to the finalized plan. This work was to assure that the development would take into consideration all possible issues with the specific site, and to make the facility safe and desirable to both future residents of the facility, as well as to surrounding neighbors. Attendees had several questions about traffic, and the speed of traffic, along Almaden Expressway. Ms. Rodgers also mentioned that as a nurse she was very well aware of the great need for many more such facilities in the greater San Jose area, as there currently is a long waiting list (at least two years out) for openings for residents wanting/needing placement at such facilities. The facility planning is going forward, and will be in the building stage within the next year or so.

Ms. Rodgers then introduced the featured guest speaker for the evening, Santa Clara County Supervisor Mike Wasserman. The Supervisor provided an overview of the many responsibilities the County has in providing services to its residents. Mr. Wasserman

stated that his area is the largest “land based” area for any of the County Supervisors, as well as the fact that he interfaces with the largest number of Cities, and their respective elected officials, within the County – more than any other Supervisor. He also provided information on how many of the required services provided by the County are “mandated” by either or both the Federal government and/or the State, many of which lack the amount of needed funding required. Those include most of the social service needs. He encouraged everyone to take the opportunity to learn more about, and become involved in those areas that are of interest to them.

Mr. Wasserman indicated that he was determined to assure that the Community Gardens proposal would continue to go forward, and would actually be developed at Martial Cottle Park. Several questions were asked of the Supervisor including one on the possible progress in the improvement to 4-lanes of Branham Lane between Vista Park Drive and Snell. He stated that the issue of the easement which belonged to Mr. Lester, and of course is now County land, has been assessed, as to value. Both the City and the County had separate assessments completed. However, those assessment values are significantly different. Ms. Rodgers voiced her frustration as to the long delay (several years) in this stretch of Branham being improved, as well as her personal concern about the significant traffic safety issue – with 5 fatalities having taken place in the recent past at the intersection of Branham Lane and Vista Park Drive.

Ms. Rodgers thanked the Supervisor for his very informative presentation, and said that VEP would like to invite him to come more often, to provide information and updates to the group. The Supervisor said he would be very happy to do so. Several announcements were made including the schedule for the annual VEP House/Yard Holiday Decorations Contest. She also wished everyone a very Happy Holiday and a Safe New Year! The next VEP meeting is scheduled for January 31, 2017!



Mayor Sam Liccardo and the San Jose City Council cordially invite you to the 2017 State of the City Celebration!

Mayor Liccardo will outline key initiatives, budget priorities, and opportunities for residents to get engaged to make San José a safer, smarter city. In addition to the Mayor's speech, the event will honor outstanding citizens from each Council District and exemplary city employees.

**WHEN:** Saturday, February 11th - 10:00am to 1:00pm

**WHERE:** Gunderson High School, In the Gym

Pre-registration is required and you must bring a copy of your registration confirmation to gain attendance to the event.

### **Registration Website:**

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07edjx5bcvb7b5e7d4&llr=ffcsvncab>

After the program (@11:30am) there will be a Resource Fair with information about city services and employment, in addition to resources offered by some of San Jose's leading non-profits.

**Questions?:** Email [mayorevents@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:mayorevents@sanjoseca.gov)



## Howdy Neighbors! ~ Meet the VEP!

By Marilyn Rodgers and Rachel Witmeyer

If you are already a member of the VEP, we thank you for your support! For those of you who might not know, we are VEP - your local Community Association for the Vistapark, Carson, and Parkview-area Neighborhoods since 1969! We are one of the largest, most successful and most continuously active and enduring grass roots volunteer organizations in Santa Clara County.

VEP is an all-volunteer organization of your neighbors working to improve our neighborhoods. VEP sponsors many projects and events that improve safety, our quality of life, and the appearance of our community. VEP volunteers make our neighborhood's needs, views, and concerns known to government at all levels. For more details on the history of our organization and the benefits of membership, please see page 5 of this newsletter. You can also visit our website (vepca.net).

This month, we are sending out the *VEP News* to everyone in the VEP area, free of charge. We are hoping to reach all our newest neighbors and inform them of what VEP has to offer. Take a few minutes to read through our "news" and you'll get a sense of what VEP does in your neighborhoods. If you want to see us in action, please attend a community meeting in the coming months.

If you decide to become a member, your VEP dues of \$20 per year will support our efforts in community improvement, beautification, and neighborhood representation at the city and county level. You will also be informed of community projects and opportunities for volunteering in your own neighborhoods. VEP annually sponsors free holiday activities for your families and supports summer "Block Parties" or "Street Parties" with stipends. (See this page and page 4 for highlights from the 2016 Holiday Events!) As a VEP member, you and your family will have access to it all.

Finally, if you are a local business-owner, the VEP offers low-cost advertising space. Your ad will reach thousands of families in the Blossom Valley area, through our printed newsletter (*The VEP News*), digital newsletter (*VEP News by email*), and our association website. If you are interested in working with us, please email [vepeditor@gmail.com](mailto:vepeditor@gmail.com) for our current rates.

To all our neighbors and members, new and old, we wish you a Happy New Year, and we hope to see you soon at a VEP Community Meeting or a VEP Neighborhood Event! And please, enjoy this complimentary copy of our monthly newsletter!

For All General Inquiries About VEP, please email our VEP Association President, Marilyn Rodgers at [mrodersrn@aol.com](mailto:mrodersrn@aol.com)

**VEP helps solve community problems  
and helps keep neighborhoods strong!  
VEP & YOU make good things happen!**



### VEP Holiday Decorations Contest Winners 2017

By Marilyn Rodgers and Katherine Decker

A Holiday tradition in the VEP Community for the last six years has been to walk and/or drive around and enjoy all of the wonderful displays of house and yard decorations our neighbors share with us! The VEP Board of Directors acts as judges for winners, and each year this is a difficult task - but fun! This is mostly because each and every resident who decorates is a "winner," as all of the homes together help to bring fun, beauty and enjoyment to our neighborhoods for the holidays! One more reason we all enjoy living where we do! Thanks to all of you!

**Grand Prize Winner** (6th year in a row): The Olsen's home on 595 Amboy Drive. This display continues to awe everyone who sees it; changing to include new items, while keeping the familiar theme. It wins with 3 levels of display: the roof, the ground floor/yard, and the sky - flying reindeer! It is both spectacular at night with lights, and almost equally beautiful during the day!

**"Oh My Goodness" Category:** Chynoweth 638 and 642; 4082 New World; 5093 New England

**Inflatable / Animated blow-ups:** 618 Albion (1<sup>st</sup>), 4322 Jonquil (2<sup>nd</sup>), and 4168 Dulcey (3<sup>rd</sup>)

**Religious Theme:** 506 Bliss; Honorable Mention: 5172 Narvaez

**Something Different:** Hyde Park: 579, 582, 585; 668 Potomac

**Themes Between Neighbors:** Chestnut Park

**Traditional:** 430 Hyde Park; corner of Vista Park & Victoria Park

**New Neighbors:** 437 Hyde Park and 658 Chynoweth.

618 Albion



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Rachel Witmeyer  
[vepeditor@gmail.com](mailto:vepeditor@gmail.com)







**Dedicated  
To Dave**

## Dedication of Memorial Bench and 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 the Memorial Bench to honor Dave Fadness will be dedicated on Saturday, February 18th at Vista Park. Special thanks go out to all the donors who made this possible! The ceremony will take place beginning at 11:00 am. All who knew Dave and/or have contributed to this memorial are invited to join the VEP on this special day!

## VEP's 10th Annual "Santa in the Park"

~ Article and Event Photographs By Rachel Witmeyer ~

Special Thanks to our VEP Board Member, Mrs. Helen Castillo, our dedicated organizer of "Santa in the Park" and the Food/Blanket Drive. Many thanks also to her daughter, Jaclyn.

Very Special Thanks to "Santa Claus" (a.k.a. Jeff Fujihara)!!!

Thanks to VEP's Official Santa Photographer:  
Adina Pierce, VEP Board Member  
and "Assistant", her daughter, Juliana

Thanks to VEP Board Members who served as the event "staff":  
Katherine Decker and Rachel Witmeyer

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**Be Sure to See "Santa" in 2017!**

*Mark your calendar for*  
**Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup> @Vista Park!**



VEP Volunteers (Below, from Left to Right): Rachel Witmeyer, Adina Pierce & Daughter Juliana, Helen Castillo & Daughter Jaclyn, Marilyn Rodgers



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## It's Time to Renew Your VEP Membership!

VEP membership is based on a calendar year, January through December, so it's time to renew your membership. You'll find a remit envelop in this newsletter. Please be sure to fill in the information requested, enclose your \$20 check made payable to VEP, and mail it back to us as soon as possible--while it's still fresh in your mind. That's all there is to it!

In a very real sense, renewing membership is your vote of confidence and support for the work we do as VEP volunteers. Yes, we get an occasional "thank you," but proof positive of your appreciation is your willingness to renew membership each year. We also appreciate the nice comments many of you offer along with your renewal—for that, we offer our thanks!

VEP membership is the best value you'll ever experience. Renew today and ask your neighbors to join our growing family. Thank you.

### What is VEP Community Association?

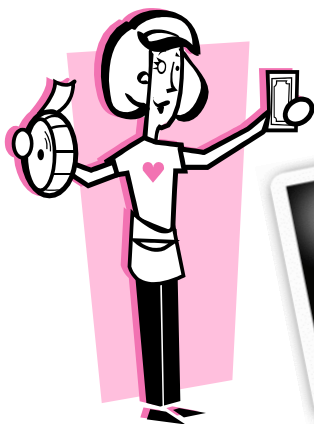
- VEP is an all-volunteer organization of your neighbors working to improve our neighborhoods.
- VEP sponsors many projects and events that improve safety, our quality of life, and the appearance of our community.
- VEP volunteers make our neighborhood's needs, views, and concerns known to government at all levels.
- VEP was founded in 1969. We are one of the largest, most successful, and most continuously active and enduring grass roots volunteer organizations in Santa Clara County.

### Why join VEP?

- To receive our newsletter nine times a year.
- To receive monthly email alerts.
- To keep our neighborhoods beautiful, safe, strong, and prepared.
- To participate in and support effective neighborhood activities and representation.
- To support VEP's annual *Community Service Awards* for high school graduates.
- To be part of an outstanding volunteer community organization with 48 years of success in our neighborhoods.

## YOU COULD WIN a **FREE** 2017 VEP MEMBERSHIP!

Bring your completed Membership Application, with payment, to this month's VEP General Meeting on Tuesday, January 31st! You will be entered in a drawing to have your membership fee returned to you, that night!



Just imagine getting all the great benefits of VEP Membership, *free!*

Tell your neighbors!

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

*Note: None of the your personal information will ever be shared with any third party.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

Comment(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

### *I am willing to volunteer for:*

- ☐ Beautification/clean-up projects
- ☐ VEP News/mailling prep
- ☐ Large Event/Festival, i.e. 4th of July
- ☐ Distribute flyers
- ☐ Serve on a committee
- ☐ Serve as a VEP officer or committee chair
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### *Please let us know:*

- ☐ I prefer getting my newsletters by email.

Mail your \$20 check to:

VEP  
P.O. Box 18307  
San Jose, CA 95158

**Please note our  
new P.O. Box #**

*Thank you!*



**FROM THE OFFICE OF**



- 2016 proved to be another year of "Real Life Help" here in Santa Clara County as we provided vital health, safety, transportation, and recreation services for our nearly 2 million residents. We began the year with coordinating an Identity Theft and Fraud Prevention Seminar with the District Attorney's Office. Attendees learned about how criminals target their victims as well as important tips for how to avoid becoming a victim.

- The County also joined the Silicon Valley Clean Energy Authority (SVCEA) and is co-sponsoring a local Community Choice Energy Authority (CCE) that will offer competitive electricity rates and greener electricity sources. Under a CCE, PG&E continues to provide essential services as a partner, delivering the electricity over existing infrastructure, maintaining the power lines, sending bills, and providing customer service. The difference is that customers receive cleaner energy and profits are re-invested locally.

- On the topic of education and technology, and as the Chair of the Santa Clara County Library District, I wanted to make coding more accessible, especially to our under-served youth. SCCLD libraries now offer coding classes and events including Hour of Code, CodeF1rst, Girls Who Code, Introduction to Arduinos, Teen Hackathon/CU Hacks, Middle School Intro to Programming using Javascript, Miss CEO, Steam Robotics Classes, Java Coding Class, and CoderDojo Coding Club.

- In other news, voters approved Measure A, which will provide affordable local housing for vulnerable populations including veterans, seniors, the disabled, low and moderate income individuals or families, foster youth, victims of abuse, the homeless and individuals suffering from mental health or substance abuse illnesses. Voters also approved a June 2016 ballot measure to update and extend the current Park Charter Fund. Created in 1972, this fund pays for the County Parks system by designating a portion of the General Fund for parks. More than 50,000 acres in Santa Clara County now are protected as parkland thanks to the P.C.F.

- The County has been confronted by events that have required a multilateral effort to resolve. The Loma Fire was one of these events. With flames visible from San Jose to Santa Cruz, the Loma Fire consumed nearly 4,500 acres and destroyed 12 homes, but thankfully, no lives were lost. CAL FIRE ran the fire operations and there was overwhelming support and offers to help from the community, including horse trailers and other equipment to help residents evacuate their families and animals, as well as countless other donations.

- I wish each of you a healthy 2017 and I look forward to another productive year on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. As always, you can reach my office at (408) 299-5010, or you can email me at [district1@bos.sccgov.org](mailto:district1@bos.sccgov.org) with comments or concerns.

**CITY OF SAN JOSE NEIGHBORHOODS COMMISSION:  
MONTHLY AD-HOC REPORTS: AS OF DEC. 14, 2016**

**FROM RICH GIAMMONA, DIST. 10 NIEGHBORHOOD REP.**

**Public Safety Staffing: Chair D6 Carter**

**([NC6A@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:NC6A@sanjoseca.gov)), D2 Henry, D3 Barragan, D6 Navarro**

The committee met on November 22 to discuss goals and objectives of the Public Safety Ad-Hoc Committee. The goals and objectives first stated were very broad and not as defined as we wanted them. The committee determined that we would not focus on Park Rangers at this time. The committee will narrow our goals and objectives to a few key attainable issues.

These issues will be discussed with the appropriate SJPd and SJFD representatives and based on their feedback written into our goals and objectives document. Meetings are scheduled within the next month along with ride-a-longs with police officers. The committee would like to partner with our public safety officers to address recruitment of officers and how we can recruit more home grown candidates. We would like to also know how to encourage a better working relationship between our neighbors and public safety officers.

In addition this committee will work with the Homeless Ad-hoc and the Illegal Fireworks Ad-hoc committees in achieving their respective goals and objectives.

We will also be looking at the crossing guard program to see where we might be able to assist them with recruitment.

**Illegal Fireworks: Chair D3 Barragan ([NC3A@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:NC3A@sanjoseca.gov)), D3 Kolstad, D6 Carter, D6 Navarro**

Members of the Illegal Fireworks Ad Hoc committee attended the Stop Illegal Fireworks Committee meeting on Monday, November 14, 2016, established communications with SJPd to gain insight about 3-1-1 services, and drafted an outreach flyer with phone numbers to report illegal fireworks on New Years Eve.

**Homeless: Chair D7 Fleming ([NC7A@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:NC7A@sanjoseca.gov)), D2 Henry, D3 Kolstad, D4 Semanik, D5 Hernandez**

The Homelessness Committee met on November 28, 2016 in City Hall with Commissioners Fleming, Kolstad, and Semanik in attendance. Other attendees included Ms. Karen Gillette, who is a subject matter expert based on her many years of extensive research and service for the homeless Community. She was an invaluable participant in the meeting.

The meeting was very dense and covered the five areas of the committee charter, with the result being improved direction. The committee members present unanimously decided to narrow our scope and will focus our energy on the equal distribution of the homeless population throughout all of San José. Once that is completed, we will turn our attention to a recommendation on a macro homeless plan for the city. The next meeting is December 19, 2016.

Leigh Moore GEN LIC 606322

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# VEP Community Calendar

❄️👤❄️ January / February 🌸❤️🌸 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
22	23	24				
29	30 Oak Grove Schools Not In Session	31 VEP Community Meeting & ~ 7:30 PM ~ @Vista Park Community Room	<p>Mayor Liccardo will outline key initiatives, budget priorities, and opportunities for residents to get engaged to make San José a safer, smarter city. The event will also honor outstanding San José citizens. (10-11:30am)</p> <p><b>Where:</b> Gunderson High School's Gym <b>When:</b> Saturday, February 11th; 10:00am to 1:00pm</p> <p><b>Pre-Registration Required:</b> <a href="http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register">events.r20.constantcontact.com/register</a></p> <p>You must bring a copy of your registration confirmation to gain attendance to the event.</p> <p>After the program, stay for the <b>Resource Fair</b> with information about city services and employment, in addition to resources offered by some of San Jose's leading non-profits. (11:30-1pm).</p>			
5	6	7	8 District 10 Office Hours 8:30-9:30am @Almaden Valley Community Center (6445 Camden Ave.)	9	10	11 State of the City ~ 10am-1pm ~ @Gunderson H.S.
12	13	14 Happy Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18 Dedication of Dave's Bench 11:00 am @Vista Park
19	20 Schools Closed 	21	22	23	24	25
<p align="center"><b>OGUSD and SJUSD Schools on Break</b></p> <p align="center"><b>No School This Week!</b></p>						

## ★ Coming Soon in the VEP Neighborhoods ★

### VEP's Meetings

FEBRUARY  
Tuesday, February 28th

MARCH  
Tuesday, March 28th

APRIL  
Tuesday, April 25th

Everyone is Welcome! Invite a Neighbor!



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### VEP Community Events

Community-Wide  
Garage Sale

First Saturday in May! (May 6th)

4th of July

🌴 Fireworks & Festival 🌴

@Almaden Lake



# THE VEP NEWS

A Publication of

## VEP Community Association

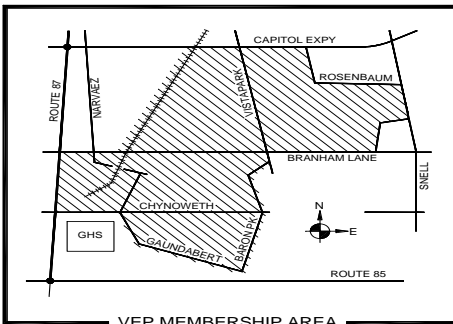
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Email: [vepca@vepca.net](mailto:vepca@vepca.net)  
Website: [www.vepca.net](http://www.vepca.net)

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.

### VEP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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VEP MEMBERSHIP AREA

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**VEP**  
**Community Meeting**  
**Tues., Jan. 31st**  
**7:30pm**

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

in the Vista Park  
Community Room

Be sure to attend VEP's  
Community Meeting!  
Tuesday, January 31st @ 7:30pm

Compliments of VEP!

**NEWSLETTER**



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Page 31  
Details on