

VEP NEWS

• VEP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION •

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 // 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 18037; 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

► February 28th, 2017 ◀

Vista Park Community Room
475 Hyde Park Dr.

Everyone is welcome. Invite your neighbors!

AGENDA

★Plaque to Honor Dave Fadness★

Presented by
Citizens for Fiscal Responsibility

★Update on Crime & Safety★ VEP Neighborhoods

Introduction of and Presentation by
Captain Johnson Fong
SJPD Southern Division Commander

★VEP Business Meeting★

Updates from Councilmember Khamis & Staff

Upcoming Events and Announcements

10th Annual Senior Resource Faire
Macy's Court, Westfield Oakridge Mall
Friday, February 24, 2017 – 8:30am

Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 12, 2017

Annual VEP Membership Drive Continues

VEP's Next Meeting - Tuesday, March 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 February Meeting Preview

By Marilyn Rodgers

► **Featured Presentation: Captain Johnson Fong, SJPD Southern Division Commander** will be introduced. Captain Fong recently assumed this new assignment. He will provide an overview of his responsibilities, a brief update on crime & safety issues pertinent to the VEP neighborhoods, and answer questions from meeting attendees.

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

Representatives of the group **Citizens for Fiscal Responsibility will begin the meeting by presenting a plaque honoring Dave Fadness.** (Dave Co-Founded CFR.) Updates on Council District 10 and the City of San Jose will be provided by **Councilmember Khamis** and/or his staff.

► **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, February 28th!**

January Meeting Synopsis

By Marilyn Rodgers

President Rodgers called the meeting to order. Everyone had been enjoying networking with old friends and meeting several new neighbors who were attending the VEP meeting for the first time. She made an announcement that there was a small challenge in that for the second time in two meetings, the facility bathrooms had been inadvertently locked early. She said she hoped to have this issue resolved before the next meeting. She introduced VEP Board Members Katherine Decker and Ginger Cardona, as well as Past Presidents in attendance. She then invited District 10 Councilmember Johnny Khamis to provide updates and announcements. Councilmember Khamis provided a status update on the finalization of the negotiated agreement with the City's several unions, with particular note for the agreement with SJPD Police Officers Association (POA). He stated that he very much favors the increased financial package for police officers – and that it is more than well deserved. He provided information as to the fact that the proposed package can be paid for in the first of three years of the contract. However, starting in year two, he has very real concerns as to how the City will pay for the package – the money currently is just not there.

He also announced that the planned improvement for Chynoweth (eastern portion of Chynoweth from Snell going west), should be starting in April (**For more information, please see the article from Councilmember Khamis on Page 9 of this newsletter**). A member of the audience asked the Councilmember "when will Branham be widened?" The Councilmember provided a brief update on the negotiations that are currently ongoing with the County – as the County owns the "easement" along Branham between Vista Park Drive and Snell. He stressed that he and County Supervisor Mike Wasserman are committed to finding resolution to the City and County's differences, so that the project can move forward.

Councilmember Khamis finished his updates by announcing that for the first time the "State of the City Celebration" will be held in District 10, and... in our neighborhood – at Gunderson High School. It is scheduled for Saturday morning, February 11th, starting at 10am. Both Council Assistant Jose Salcido and President Marilyn Rodgers provided additional comments and encouragement for everyone to attend. The Mayor will provide information

on the past year's accomplishments for the City, as well as the goals for the coming year. There will be honor and recognition of both City employees and community individuals/groups that have provided outstanding accomplishments for the benefit of the City. In District 10, Councilmember Khamis has nominated a group of churches to be honored this year. Finally, there will be a Resource Faire – a variety of organizations that will provide information to residents. (**For more details, please see the article by Rachel Witmeyer on the State of the City Celebration, on Page 5 of this newsletter.**)

Ms. Rodgers stated that the new Southern Division Commander, Captain Johnson Fong had been invited to attend the meeting to be introduced. However, the SJPD Chief of Police assigned Captain Fong to represent San Jose at a meeting in Los Angeles. Capt. Fong will attend a future VEP meeting. In his place, he asked Lt. Storlie to attend. Lt. Storlie provided information about himself and his new assignment with the Southern Division, the largest land based division for SJPD. He also very generously answered several questions from attendees.

President Rodgers then introduced the featured speaker for the evening, San Jose Unified School District Board member Paymon Zarghami. Mr. Zarghami represents the VEP area schools including Gunderson High School, Carson Elementary, and Erikson. He provided brief information about Erikson. He shared that he had grown up in the VEP neighborhood and attended Carson Elementary. Currently they have had some changes to deal with – a promotion of a principal for instance. Several members of the audience made comments about Carson – most reinforcing that there have been several changes, but the school continues to provide a positive environment for students. The majority of his presentation focused on Gunderson High School. He provided statistics and his personal excitement about the impressive improvement, in the last few years, of student graduation rates (an increase of 9%) and other increases/improvement to specific measures in student academics. He took several questions/comments from the audience. One which was strongly voiced by a couple of attendees: Why the sudden change to the academic calendar/Christmas holiday break? (i.e. - school in session up until December 23rd, then not resuming until the middle of the second week in January.) Paymon said he would provide the rationale for this decision as articulated by the District's Superintendent.

Ms. Rodgers thanked Mr. Zarghami for his enthusiastic presentation and asked that he come back again, in the not too distant future.

Vice President Katherine Decker assisted Ms. Rodgers with the raffle drawing for a free VEP membership as part of the kickoff for the VEP Annual Membership Drive. The winner of the free membership.....long time member, and very active volunteer, Josie Supencheck! Congratulations Josie!

Ms. Rodgers thanked everyone for coming, and announced the next meeting would be February 28th.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: VEP's New Post Office Box Number Was Incorrectly Listed

By Marilyn Rodgers

Please Note:

In the January VEP Newsletter, the new VEP P.O. Box Number listed was incorrect. The numbers were inadvertently transposed.

The Correct Number is: P.O. Box 18037

My sincere apologies for any confusion and/or inconvenience to our members.

A Note from VEP President, Marilyn Rodgers: The following is a "Thank you" Note written by Aiko Fadness and, addressed to the "Members of the VEP Community." This note had originally been scheduled for inclusion in the January edition of the VEP Newsletter. However, printing of the Note was delayed one month, as the length of the January newsletter was greatly reduced in number of pages to accommodate a one-time very large community distribution.

"Dear Members of the VEP Community,

I was impressed and touched by the number of volunteers who turned out for VEP's 2nd Annual Dave Fadness Memorial Beautification Day on November 12, 2016.

Like last year, we had a stunningly beautiful day to work at Vista Park, and Chynoweth and Pearl Avenues. Incredibly, the huge "mountain" of fibar in the Vista Park parking lot was moved to the children's play areas in a matter of hours by the hardworking volunteers.

It was heartening to see folks of all ages working together. David would be proud of the young children and high school students who were getting an early start in volunteering to improve the community.

Many thanks to the VEP Board members who gave their time and donations to assure success of the event. Gratitude is expressed to the San Jose Parks and Dept. of Transportation staffs who were instrumental in supplying materials and services needed for the day. Notable appreciation is expressed to the Erikson Neighborhood Association for the part it played in this clean up effort.

Thanks to everyone, the spirit of volunteerism is alive and well in our "neck of the woods." It is a legacy that David would be pleased to know is being followed by those he left behind.

*With heartfelt gratitude,
Aiko Fadness "*

What are the plans for Capitol Expressway?

County Roads & Airports has received a Federal grant to install sidewalk along the south side of Capitol Expressway between Narvaez and Copperfield as well as for other sidewalk and signal system improvements along the entire length of the expressway. The project will use the median of Capitol Expressway as a mitigation site to plant trees. Although the grant funds may be used for tree installation and replacement of the old irrigation system that is no longer working, they cannot be used to provide for the water and extra care necessary during the 3-year tree establishment period. Resources are still being sought for this period.

The Capitol Expressway Sidewalk/Signal System project will begin construction in the summer of 2017 and will take up to 18 months to complete. The tree replacements will be included in the construction contract and plantings will be scheduled to occur toward the completion stage in 2018.

This information was provided by Ms. Dawn Cameron, Deputy Director, County of Santa Clara Roads & Airport Department

VOLUNTEER WITH "VEP"

~ We Are Seeking ~

A VEP Board Member / Treasurer

**A Few VEP Neighbors to Lead:
Neighborhood Beautification Projects
Community Events and/or Socials**

Or, Maybe You Have Ideas... ?

Please contact VEP President, Marilyn Rodgers
408-225-7553 // mrodersrn@aol.com

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Important Phone Numbers

San José Police Department Phone Numbers

City of San José and County Services Phone Numbers

San José Emergency Calls	9-1-1	City of San José 24-Hour Hotline Call Center	408-535-3500
San José Emergency Calls from a cellular phone	408-277-8911		
San José Non-Emergency Calls	3-1-1	Department of Transportation - Hotline	408-794-1900
San José Non-Emergency Calls from a cellular phone	408-277-8900	Department of Transportation - Vehicle Abatement	408-535-3850
		Department of Transportation - Street Lights	408-794-1903
Crime Prevention Unit - Community Education, Personal Safety and Neighborhood Watch Meetings	408-277-4133	Graffiti 24-Hour Hotline to Report Graffiti Anti-Graffiti & Anti-Litter Program	866-249-0543 408-975-7233
Family Violence Center	408-277-3700	Code Enforcement	408-535-7770
Records - Police Report Request Information	408-277-4143	Homeless Hotline: Concerns/Encampments	408-975-1440
Vehicle Impound/Stolen Confirmation Line	408-277-4263	Homeless Helpline: Resources/Services	408-510-7600
Traffic Enforcement	408-277-4341	Animal Care and Services	408-794-7297
TABS - Truancy Abatement Burglary Suppression	408-926-TABS (8227)	Rental Dispute Program	408-535-3860
24 HOUR ANONYMOUS TIP LINES		Santa Clara County Resource Helpline	2-1-1
Crime Stoppers	408-947-STOP (7867)	Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office	408-808-4400
Drugs (Narcotics Information)	408-971-DRUG (3784)	Conflict Resolution 24-Hour Hotline	408-792-2327
Gangs	408-293-GANG (4264)	Parent Project - Parenting Classes	408-808-3794
Internet		CPS - Child Protective Services	408-299-2071
San José Police Department Website	sjpd.org	Adult Protective Services Hotline	800-414-2002
Crime Statistics View Recent Crime in Your Neighborhood	crimemapping.com	Cal Trans - Overpasses/Underpasses/Freeways Report Homeless Encampments, Graffiti and Illegal Dumping	408-436-0930
Crime Statistics View Calls for Service and Crime Data	crimereports.com	Union Pacific Railroad - Near Railroad Tracks Report Homeless Encampments, Graffiti and Illegal Dumping	888-877-7267
Crime Stoppers	svcrimestoppers.org	Internet	
Megan's Law	meganslaw.ca.gov	City of San José Website	sanjoseca.gov



TOGETHER WE ARE SAFER

Host a Neighborhood Watch (408) 277-4133

* **VEP Members:** For help getting started w/ Neighborhood Watch, contact VEP President Marilyn Rodgers: MRodgersRN@aol.com *

San José Police Department - 201 W. Mission Street, San José, CA 95110



Revised: October 2016



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WHAT A DEAL

Contact "VEP News" Editor
Rachel Witmeyer
vepeditor@gmail.com



2017 State of the City

2017 "State of the City" Celebration

By Rachel Witmeyer

The morning of Saturday, February 11th, was crisp and clear as officials and residents gathered to recognize and celebrate the achievements of our city and its citizens.

Held at Gunderson High School, the event was well attended. Besides residents and City of San Jose officials, there were representatives from all 19 San Jose school districts, Mayors from neighboring cities, and leaders from San Jose neighborhood associations and commissions. Also in attendance were County Supervisor Mike Wasserman and State Senator Jim Beall. VEP was also well-represented, by President Marilyn Rodgers, Vice President Katherine Decker, Board Member and "VEP News" Editor Rachel Witmeyer, and several VEP members, including Mrs. Aiko Fadness, Ms. Josie Supencheck, Mr. Bob Aquino and others.

The MC for the morning was Muhammed Chaudhry of the Silicon Valley Education Foundation (SVEF), who expressed his joy at being part of the "obsession" with "getting kids ready for college."

The first presentations were made by dignitaries of the San Jose Unified School District: Pamela Foley (School Board President), Kelli Knapp (GHS Principal), and Auria Kamal (GHS Senior and ASB President). Ms. Knapp shared the good news that Gunderson increased its graduation rate by 8.7% in the last year. Mr. Kamal, who is of Mexican, Persian, and Egyptian descent, expressed his appreciation for Gunderson's staff and students, whose "diverse and chill" nature helped to both welcome him and support his transition when he left private school. In his closing remarks, Mr. Kamal expressed that everyone at Gunderson is "diverse, friendly, and helpful" just like the people of San Jose.

Next, District 10 Councilmember Khamis introduced students from Del Roble Elementary School to lead the Pledge of Allegiance and sing the National Anthem. He took the opportunity to thank all the staff in the Oak Grove School District for their efforts for all the students in D10. The audience stood in respect for the pledge and for the anthem, which was sung by a young student named Christina Benijez.

An "Invocation" followed, given by Rinban Kenshin Fujimoto of the San Jose Buddhist Church. Mr. Fujimoto reminded everyone that "one-ness" is not equal to "same-ness" and that harmony and balance are important to all the work of our communities.

The first honors were the "Pride of San Jose Awards," for city employees who gave "outstanding public service." The awards were presented by Norberto Duenas, City Manager, who spoke of the importance of community, hospitality and generosity. The first honoree was Marcus Rosado, Senior Operations Specialist at San Jose-Mineta International Airport, for his excellent record in Customer Service. Next, several "teams" were honored for their various efforts which are helping to improve our city. Honored "Teams" included the City Manager's Budget Office Team (18 staff members), the Illegal Dumping Mitigation & Response Team (22 staff members), the PeopleSoft Upgrade & Budget Project Team (20 staff members), the Sparta Student Housing Team (4 staff members), and the Traffic Signal/Project Lighting Maintenance Team (9 staff members).

Of note, the Traffic Signal & Lighting staff were recognized for

all the upgrades to neighborhood street lights, as well as their efforts to thwart copper-wire thefts. According to City Manager Duenas, 3 years ago San Jose experienced approximately 1,000 copper-wire thefts per year. Due to the work of the team, there were only approximately 30 thefts in 2016. This has increased safety by keeping our streets well-lit, and has resulted in cost-savings for the city. Finally, several SJPD officers stood to receive an honor for their fallen brother, Officer Michael Katherman. Officer Katherman was a veteran member of the SJPD and was killed in a traffic accident while on-duty, on June 14th, 2016. City Manager Duenas recognized Officer Katherman as being dedicated to his duty and of great service to San Jose.

Next, four student "Commissioners" from the San Jose Youth Advisory Council presented the "Community Honorees" from each City Council District. Each Councilmember awarded an organization or individual that has made a difference in their district. In District 10, the honor was given to "Faith In Action" – 6 Local Churches: Holy Spirit Church, Almaden Hills United Methodist Church, The Episcopal Church in Almaden, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Venture Christian Church, and Westgate Church.

SVEF's Mr. Chaundhry finally called for "the main event": Mayor Sam Liccardo's "State of the City" address. Mayor Liccardo opened by giving many thanks, including an acknowledgement of VEP Vice President in attendance, Katherine Decker. Ms. Decker is the mother of fallen Officer Michael Johnson, who was an alumni of Gunderson High School. The Mayor then began his address by recognizing all the students in our city as representing the "future of San Jose." He gave examples of three diverse, former San Jose students who have achieved national success: Luis Valdez (Pulitzer prize-winning playwright), Khaled Hosseini (doctor & award-winning author), and Tam Nguyen (award-winning actress). The Mayor continued by acknowledging the social challenges facing America right now, and said San Jose "can offer another way" and show that we are "One City." Drawing on the tale of San Jose's founding as the first civil settlement in California, he said that its "founders" – both the Ohlone natives and the Spanish – wrote the first lesson for our city: we were "diverse people who worked together towards a common future." Mayor Liccardo expressed that this is what both city leaders and voters can work for.

Next, Mayor Liccardo acknowledged that there are challenges with budgets, but also a strong need to rebuild, repair, and restore San Jose in the areas of public services, roads, safety and policing. He went on to say that there are several projects moving ahead with some success and associated cost-savings. Mayor Liccardo recognized D10 Councilmember Khamis for his work that led to the current street-repaving projects, and thanked SJPD Chief Eddie Garcia for his work in leading the way with body-cams for all officers.

In the next portion of his address, Mayor Liccardo spoke about the "division" among our citizens - the gap between the rich and the poor. He gave examples of projects and programs that can help. First, the Mayor announced that, in collaboration with other Mayors in nearby cities, the Minimum Wage will be raised to \$15 by the year 2019. He then recognized the program to build a 500-unit "Micro-Housing Village" and also Supervisor Mike Wasserman with "Housing 1000" – a project to house homeless military veterans. Mayor Liccardo then acknowledged Dave Cortese and an effort to house all the homeless Veterans in San Jose by the end of this year.

Mayor Liccardo then addressed the fears on immigrants' minds by reminding them that immigrants are part of our "One City" – that San Jose has an "identity as immigrants." "We've got your back," he said continuing to explain that San Jose will not ex-

Continues on Page 6

-clude anyone and its police will not target immigrants.

Next, Mayor Liccardo shifted to the topic of the future. He said that "we always look to the future" and that San Jose needs more innovation. A major issue has been traffic and commuting. Mayor Liccardo expressed excitement about the BART extension, thanking former Mayor Ron Gonzalez for his work. He then said he wants to improve bus networks and build new transit infrastructure, with the help of regional teamwork and funding strategies.

"Let's get to work" said Mayor Liccardo. He said we need to innovate and improve all our city services. He wants San Jose to "test and demonstrate technologies with civic impact." He cited the new project sponsored by Facebook to bring free WiFi to downtown, the proposed "sensor networks" for lighting and safety, and the "Unleash Your Geek" initiatives. Mayor Liccardo said San Jose should set a "new standard for sustainability and climate leadership." He said that the CCE program for residential energy is moving ahead and that this new plan should "engage the entire community." In the next decade, Mayor Liccardo said San Jose should leave a "legacy of stewardship" by increasing use of electric vehicles, promoting more renewable energy (like solar), recycling water, and increasing options for commuters to utilize the trail systems.

Mayor Liccardo applauded the success of reinvigorating the San Jose Public Library system by opening 6 days a week, and offering more classes and programs around technology. Soon, he says, the SJPL will be offering classes for GED's and the "SJ Works" program is being expanded to offer jobs to even more students. Mayor Liccardo also mentioned "The San Jose Promise": a program to help students get their college education without going into debt. This involves more partnership with our community colleges.

San Jose will "define (the) future by our actions today," continued Mayor Liccardo. He acknowledged the impact of the recent "Women's March" and people's desire to keep working. The Mayor said a lot of people are asking, "What now?" and "What kind of action?" Everyone honors "service" and sacrifice, said Mayor Liccardo. His "collective call to action" is "To Serve!" He said that as we move forward, "we all embrace our roles as stewards of our neighborhoods." Organizations like "City Year" and "Our City Forest" will be supported and expand opportunities for youth service, through partnerships with outside funding. He said that several "Senior" organizations will engage our retirees. Mayor Liccardo quoted MLK, Jr.: "Everybody can be great. Because anyone can serve."

In his closing remarks, Mayor Liccardo announced a new project: "Beautify SJ." The Mayor acknowledged all the trash, graffiti, and illegal dumping that blights our city. He said that it "sends a bad message" to others, and ourselves. Jim Beall has been working with CalTrans to get the highways cleaned-up, and San Jose Conservation Corps will join the effort. The city will expand the Free Residential Junk Pick-Up services, and there will be a new App for reporting blight and dumping in our neighborhoods. Mayor Liccardo implored the audience to "take back" our city, through reporting and neighborhood cleanups. He said he wants to expand the budget for neighborhood grants that would fund beautification efforts and community gardens. The program website is www.BeautifySJ.org, and Mayor Liccardo asked everyone to go online and "join our team."

The Mayor's final words were surely meant to be inspiring: "Together, let's renew our beautiful city...This will be our story... We demonstrate the possibilities of collaboration...We are San Jose."

An extensive Resource Fair followed the celebration with over 30 local organizations represented. VEP's own Ms. Decker was the winner of a raffle basket in the SJ Animal Services' fundraiser.

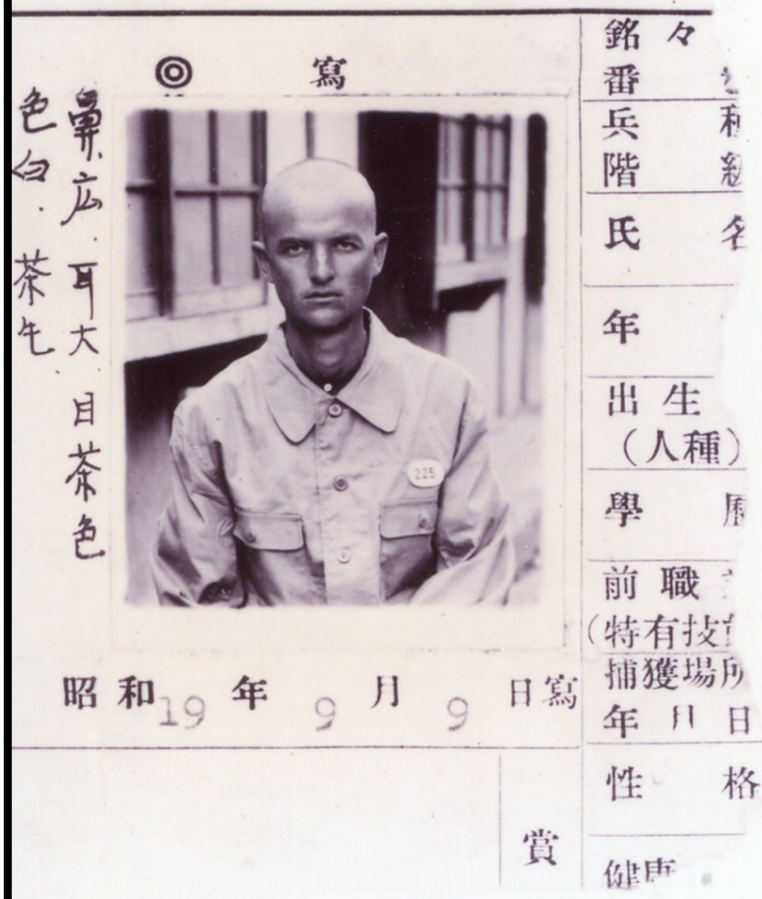
Honoring VEP Veterans: The Miller Family

Submitted by David Miller, VEP Member - Vista Park

Both of my parents are WW II veterans. My late father, Robert L. Miller, served in the 21st Pursuit Squadron, Army Air Corps, during WW II. He was captured on the Bataan Peninsula, Philippines, by the Japanese, and survived the infamous Bataan Death March. He spent most of the remainder of the war in the Cabanatuan POW camp in the Philippines, until July of 1944 when he was sent to Japan on the hellship 'Canadian Inventor' - a voyage which took 62 days. He worked as a slave for the Japanese in the Sanyo Corporation coal mines at the Omine Machi POW camp, near Hiroshima, Japan, until the end of the war. **(See photo, below, taken by the Japanese at Omine Machi.)** On a more personal note, his hero was President Truman because he ordered the dropping of the atomic bombs on Japan which ended the war and freed my father. After the war, he remained in the Air Force and retired after 20 years of service.

My mother, Marjorie S. Miller, was the first woman from Redwood City to enlist in the Navy WAVES. She served at the Anacostia Naval Air Station in Washington, D.C., until the war's end. At that time she left the Navy to marry my father, upon his return from Japan. She is currently living in Petaluma and religiously goes to Curves three times a week, at the age of 94.

Below: Robert L. Miller; POW Photograph, taken by the Japanese at Omine Machi. Photo courtesy of the Miller Family.



Want to Honor your Family's Veterans?

~ So Does VEP! ~

Send your stories & photos to VEPeditor@gmail.com

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.

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** VEP Membership Application **

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

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

Last name(s): _____

First name(s): _____

Street address:

Telephone # _____

Email address(es):

Comment(s):

Can you give VEP a few volunteer hours? _____

I am willing to volunteer for:

- ☐ Beautification/clean-up projects
- ☐ VEP News/mailling prep
- ☐ 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.

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San Jose, CA 95158

Thank you!

Please Note:

**VEP's new P.O. Box #
was misprinted in the
January newsletter. The
correct no. is 18037.**

You're Invited to a Community Meeting

Upcoming Construction Project:

Parkview Elementary School

Parkview Perimeter Security Fencing

Expected Construction: May - July 2017

Meeting Date:

February 28, 2017 at 5 pm

Location:

Parkview Elementary School Computer Lab

330 Bluefield Drive

San Jose



*And later, stop by
VEP's Meeting, at 7:30pm!*



For questions/Inquiries, contact:

Mike Thomas

Construction Coordinator

Oak Grove School District

408-227-8300, Ext. # 100338



SUPERVISOR MIKE WASSERMAN

The #PixInParks Challenge Begins! Hike the Magnificent Seven. With 28 regional parks encompassing 52,000 acres, Santa Clara County Parks is full of hidden hiking gems. The #PixInParks challenge features seven magnificent handpicked hiking adventures, all nearby, to get you outside and experience new terrain and spectacular vistas. To entice you to hike the magnificent seven, a commemorative T-shirt awaits those who complete the #PixInParks challenge! View the #PixInParks web page for instructions on how to complete the challenge and to view the trail maps of the magnificent seven hikes. This fun challenge ends December 1, 2017. Follow @santaclaracountyparks on Instagram to view #PixInParks gallery and more! More information: <https://www.sccgov.org/sites/parks/Activities/Biking-Hiking/Pages/PixInParks-challenge.aspx>

Last month, the **Board of Supervisors unanimously approved body worn cameras for 1,142 sheriff deputies and jail officers.** The goal is to help restore trust and confidence in law enforcement. By using this technology, the public can be protected against officer misconduct, and officers can be protected from unfounded allegations. The cameras will be rolled out over the next year and will include a mid-year review by the Board.

Are you looking for meaningful volunteer work with a child or teen? Child Advocates of Silicon Valley hosts monthly Volunteer Informational sessions where you can learn how you make a difference to a child in the Santa Clara County foster care system. As a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer, you will undergo training and be empowered by the courts to provide critical emotional and educational support to a foster child and ensure that child's voice is heard in the dependency court system. Learn more at: www.BeMyAdvocate.org

As always, you can reach my office at (408) 299-5010, or you can email me at district1@bos.sccgov.org with your comments and concerns.

Mike Wasserman

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, District 1
www.supervisorwasserman.org



SJ Water Company Removes Drought Surcharges!

Many of you contacted my office to express concern about the high drought surcharges you have seen on your San Jose Water Company bills for the past several months. As many of you know, the City of San Jose has ZERO control or jurisdictional authority over the San Jose Water Company. They are overseen by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) who regulates utilities within California. Despite our lack of jurisdiction in this matter, as your District 10 Councilmember I held several meetings with public officials and staff from the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD), executives at the San Jose Water Company (SJWC), and with Mayor Liccardo to express your concerns.

Thankfully, in light of the improving water supply conditions and the SCVWD's Board's decision to continue with a 20% conservation goal but to remove the mandatory reduction language from their policy, the SJWC announced on Thursday, Jan 26th, that they prepared an expedited filing to the CPUC to remove the drought surcharges from their water conservation program. They received rapid approval from the CPUC and announced on Friday that they have removed the surcharges, effective February 1st.

SJWC is very appreciative of their customers' efforts to conserve water, which resulted in a 29% reduction in 2016 usage from 2013 levels. This reduction surpassed the Santa Clara Valley Water District's calls for conservation. Both the conservation that occurred and this winter's rains have greatly improved our water supply outlook.

For any further questions, comments or concerns please contact the SJWC directly: www.sjwater.com/about_us/san_jose_water/contact_us

Chynoweth Project Is Unanimously Approved by Council!

I am thrilled to share that on January 24th the City Council unanimously approved the award of the contract for construction of the Chynoweth Avenue Green Street Project. Construction is scheduled to commence this April, with completion expected October 2017, weather permitting. The project brings improvements that include bioretention facilities, median islands with trees, traffic calming bulb-outs with new ADA wheelchair ramps, additional parking, and sidewalks.

This is a project that I worked on since I first took office and I am happy to see it has finally funded and on the way to being delivered! Our hope is that this project will improve traffic and pedestrian safety, enhance the aesthetics of the neighborhood and Martial Cottle Park, and deter illegal and undesirable activities thanks to better lighting. The lighting improvement is made possible by a budget request I submitted for the current year's budget that was approved by the City Council and provided enough funding to add this to the scope of work for the project. Please note that residential parking at the end of Chynoweth near the Colony Green HOA will remain available after construction of this project. As is to be expected with a project of this type, please expect some minor traffic inconveniences during the construction period.

A big THANK YOU to Environmental Services Department, Department of Transportation, Public Works Department, and Mayor Liccardo for their ingenuity and support in making this happen.

For questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Dora Gonzalez at 408.535.4982 or email dora.gonzalez@sanjoseca.gov

Hosted by Councilmembers
Johnny Khamis,
Donald Rocha & Sergio Jimenez

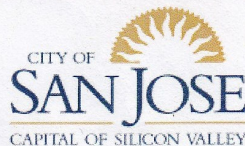
10TH ANNUAL
**SENIOR WINTER WALK
& RESOURCE FAIR**

FRIDAY FEB. 24, 2017
8:30AM-10:30AM

MACY'S COURT

at
Oakridge
Mall


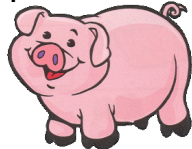



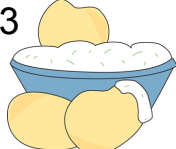

FREE Continental Breakfast!
FREE On-site Registration!



For more information 408.535.4910 | district10@sanjoseca.gov

VEP Community Calendar

February / March 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
19	20 <i>Schools Closed</i> 	21	22	23	24 Senior Winter Walk & Resource Fair	25 <i>See Flyer on Page 10 for more information!</i>
OGUSD and SJUSD Schools on Break No School This Week!						
26	27 <i>Also Happening On the 28th —></i> Parkview School Community Mtg. 2/28 @5:00pm	28 VEP Community Meeting ~ 7:30 PM ~ @Vista Park Community Room	1  National Pig Day	2	3	4
5	6 <i>See Flyer on Page 8 for more information!</i>	7	8 District 10 Office Hours 8:30-9:30am @Almaden Valley Community Center (6445 Camden Ave.)	9	10	11 District 10 Office Hours 10:30-11:30am @Hub's Coffee (630 Blossom Hill Rd.)
12  DAYLIGHT SAVINGS Spring Forward!	13	14  National Potato Chip Day	15	16	17  HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY	18
19	20	21	22	23  National Chip and Dip Day	24  National Chocolate Covered Raisins Day	25

★ Coming Soon in the VEP Neighborhoods ★

VEP's Meetings

MARCH
Tuesday, March 28th

APRIL
Tuesday, April 25th

MAY
Tuesday, May 30th

Everyone is Welcome! Invite a Neighbor!

ADVERTISE WITH US

Reach Thousands of
Local People Through:

VEP's Website & News (print & digital)

Reasonable Rates!

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

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

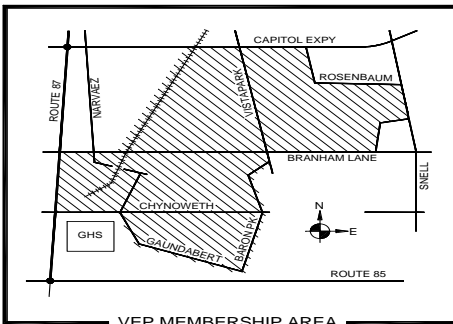
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Published monthly by VEP Community Association, a not-for-profit organization of volunteers established in 1969 to serve and represent more than 2000 homes in the Blossom Valley area of southern San Jose. VEP is dedicated to neighborhood maintenance 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
Tues., Feb. 28th
7:30pm

Check our website: www.vepca.net

in the Vista Park
Community Room



Be sure to attend VEP's
Community Meeting!
Tuesday, February 28th @ 7:30pm