

VEP NEWS

• VEP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION •

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



"By all these lovely tokens September days are here, With summer's best of weather And autumn's best of cheer."
- Helen Hunt Jackson

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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

★Ice Cream Social @7:00PM★
and Networking with Neighbors

► Tuesday, Sept. 26th; 7:30pm ◀

Vista Park Community Room
475 Hyde Park Drive

Everyone is welcome. Invite your neighbors!

AGENDA

★ Martial Cottle Park - Update ★
Highlights of 3rd Annual Harvest Festival

Presentation by

Eric Goodrich

Manager, Martial Cottle Park
Santa Clara County

★ VEP Business Meeting ★

Announcements & Updates

Councilmember Khamis and Staff
Updates on District 10 and City of San Jose

Upcoming Fall Events
Save the Dates

Martial Cottle Harvest Festival – Saturday, October 7th

3rd Annual Dave Fadness Beautification Day
Saturday, October 28th

★ 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 September Meeting Preview

By Marilyn Rodgers

► ICE CREAM SOCIAL @7:00PM!

The meeting will begin early with an **Ice Cream Social**. Network with your neighbors! Everyone is welcome! The formal presentations will follow with an **Update on Martial Cottle Park** including the progress and status of the improvement and completion of the Perimeter Trail around the Park property. This information will be provided by Martial Cottle Park Manager Eric Goodrich. Also included will be highlights of the upcoming **Annual Harvest Festival**

► VEP Business Meeting / Announcements

Other informational items and announcements will be provided including updates from Councilmember Khamis and Staff regarding issues of interest on District 10 and the City of San Jose.

Note: Does VEP have your e-mail address?

In between scheduled meetings and newsletters, there are often issues or items of interest that can be provided by e-mail. VEP is very careful not to overload your e-mail inbox with e-mails - usually limited to only two per month. Also VEP does not share e-mail addresses with anyone!

► 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, at the "ice cream social" starting at 7pm, and the meeting, starting at 7:30pm on **Tuesday, September 26th** (Note: late arrivals are welcome!).

May Meeting Synopsis

By Marilyn Rodgers

President Rodgers welcomed everyone to the meeting and continued to encourage those in attendance to enjoy the ice cream and networking with neighbors. Then to start the meeting, Ms. Rodgers introduced current VEP Board members in attendance: Katherine Decker, Adina Pierce, Rachel Witmeyer, Adina Pierce, and Rich Giammona, as well as past Presidents. She then introduced Councilmember Johnny Khamis, who had just arrived from a Council meeting. The Councilmember provided several updates, including plans and highlights for the upcoming (now annual) 4th of July Fireworks and Family Festival at Lake Almaden. (Note: VEP continues to be a "Community Sponsor" with a booth shared with the D10 Leadership Coalition volunteers.) He encouraged everyone to plan to attend this "family friendly" safe event. He reminded all that he had originally started the event as an alternative to "illegal fireworks" in San Jose. Ms. Rodgers also commented that this event is paid for by individual and business donations. While sanctioned by the City of San Jose, it is not paid for by the City.

Prior to introducing the guest speaker for the evening, President Rodgers stated that there was one important business item that needed to be taken care of.... That item being the election of the "slate" of members to the VEP Board of Directors. She reiterated that the VEP bylaws state that each year, a slate of names for Board of Directors is brought to the membership to be elected. Prior notification of the slate is provided by publication in the VEP Newsletter. Those included in the "slate" being nominated were: Ginger Cardona, Helen Castillo, Katherine Decker, Rich Giammona, Adina Pierce, Marilyn Rodgers, and Rachel Witmeyer. The motion for approval was seconded and followed by election of the slate. The bylaws also provide that the Board will then elect offic-

ers at their next meeting – President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Ms. Rodgers then introduced the primary guest speaker Joanne Bartholdy, Staff Specialist for San Jose Office of Emergency Preparedness. Ms. Bartholdy first provided some information about her background, and her lengthy experience in emergency preparedness. As the recent "emergency" in San Jose – the Coyote Creek Flood – was obviously on everyone's minds, she provided some brief information as to how everyone responded to those crises. Unfortunately there are still families that are in temporary housing. She (and President Rodgers) indicated that additional information will be available late in the Fall, as an "after incident report" is being prepared regarding what was done well during the emergency and what things need to be corrected/improved. Additionally, Ms. Rodgers indicated that as part of the overall plan going forward, both the City of San Jose and the Santa Clara Valley Water District are evaluating separately, and in conjunction with each other, regarding what items (such as communication between the two entities) needs to be changed/improved.

Ms. Bartholdy then provided helpful information via an audio-visual presentation on both the basics of emergency preparedness, as well as making audience participants think about their individual situations. Information included being sure to have adequate food and water for each member of the family, including those same items for "special members" of our families - our pets. She encouraged everyone to first "develop a family plan" and then to have practice drills with the family. She also brought printed materials for everyone, as well as suggestions and displays of several options/different kinds/types of "kits." There was also a discussion on medications, and what things those of us that are adults who live alone should plan for, and/or think about in an effort to "be better prepared."

She also indicated that the Office of Emergency Services hoped to be able to initiate classes once again for CERT training, beginning this Fall. Watch for additional information and/or opportunities for training. Everyone in attendance seemed enthusiastic regarding the information, and the supplies/kits on display. Several attendees indicated they had learned some new information, and mentioned they needed to go home and re-evaluate their own situation in terms of "preparedness."

You Can Help Make & Keep San Jose Beautiful

By Marilyn Rodgers

Are you concerned about the amount of litter, or the **graffiti**, or how to report an **abandoned vehicle**, or that **grocery cart** that has been sitting on the corner abandoned for two months, or a **broken street light** that has been dark for 3 months?

Or maybe you are interested in what "**volunteer opportunities**" are available to help **keep our creeks clean**, or other volunteer opportunities to **help beautify our City...**

San Jose now has an online portal to report these and other issues, as well as look for possible volunteer opportunities – all in one place...

That site is: beautifysj.org

The City of San Jose also continues to utilize its innovative App, "**San Jose Clean,**" through which residents can report things like blight, illegal dumping and graffiti. The city's team will then send the reporter status updates about the work that was done, and even photos of the completed project(s). This App can be downloaded for FREE from the Apple AppStore or from App-Order.com .

4th Annual July 4th Fireworks & Family Festival

By Marilyn Rodgers

At this year's 4th annual event at Lake Almaden, several VEP members volunteered to help "staff" some of the fun booths during the afternoon portion of the event. Also, VEP once again shared a booth with D10 Leadership Coalition. As in previous years, everyone enjoyed the many options for different kinds of food, with of course "traditional" items such as ice cream and hot dogs still being some of the favorites!

As the sun began to set, of course, anticipation mounted for the highlight of the day: **the fireworks display which takes place over the Lake!** For those of us who have attended this event all three previous years, we could not help but wonder: "Can it continue to be as wonderful as the year before?" Well... Everyone was thrilled! We all kept sayin, "How can they make it better each year?" But they did! It was wonderful! If you have not attended, please plan to go next year. It is well worth it. The event is free: funded by donations!

One new item this year which was very helpful: small "pen lights" were provided to many of the attendees. This visual tool was helpful, as everyone exited the park after the fireworks.

Thank you to Councilmember Johnny Khamis who continues to sponsor and provide this very enjoyable event! Thank you to the D10 office staff who also volunteer their time to ensure we all have an enjoyable time. **And, "Thank You!" to the many, many volunteers** who helped with set up the night before, helped with booths during the afternoon, the "break down" of tables and such, after the fireworks, and the "cleanup" of lots of litter the next morning. VEP was very well represented in all of these, so, thank you all for your commitment to making this a fun and safe event for everyone!

Very Busy Summer for VEP!

By Marilyn Rodgers

Traditionally, during the Summer months of June, July, and August, VEP takes "vacation" – *that is* – a break from both VEP scheduled membership meetings, and a break from producing the monthly VEP Newsletter. While that was true once again this Summer, some Board members were very involved in meetings regarding issues that had the potential for significant impacts on our members and residents. Listed below, are some of those issues, their status, and how VEP represented all of you even during the "Summer hiatus."

1.) VTA Proposal for Zoning Change: VTA "Park & Ride" Lot, at Branham & Narvaez

VTA initiated a proposal to request a zoning change at the VTA Property at the corner of Branham Lane and Narvaez Ave.

This proposal/request was sent to the San Jose Department of Planning and would have been tentatively scheduled to be heard first at the San Jose Planning Commission, and then if approved, sent on for approval to the San Jose City Council - all to take place prior to the end of the year (probably before Nov. 2017).

Prior notification to neighbors is required for any development, and/or, in this case, a request for zoning change prior to development. Unfortunately there was a glitch in the online notification process. However, a physical sign is also required to be placed on the property in question. Several neighbors noticed the posted sign immediately and started to ask questions.

VEP quickly contacted District 10 Councilmember Johnny Khamis for information, as well as the departments involved. Councilmember Khamis immediately obtained additional information, and communicated with VTA that he would not be able to support a future development project (after the initial step of a zoning change) at this site until significant improvements, previously promised, were completed, along Narvaez and the intersection of Narvaez and Capitol Expressway and the onramp to Hwy 87 north. (Editor's Note: For more information, please see *VEP News*, May 2017 Edition.)

Note: This site is one of seven VTA station sites that are being considered for housing development by VTA. Four of the seven VTA sites under consideration, fall within District 10.

In addition, several VEP members, including Board Member Rich Giammona and President Marilyn Rodgers, along with ENA President (and Past President of VEP) Dave Noel, and President of Pinehurst, Sabuhi Siddeque, came together, began asking questions, and requested additional information of both VTA and San Jose Planning Staff.

The initial request/proposal from VTA staff was for a "zoning change" – the first step in the process. The second part of the proposal was to then eventually develop the property. The secondary portion of the proposal would be to build housing, including a certain percentage of the project being built as affordable housing. There was also the possibility of some inclusion in the development for "commercial" property, for instance businesses such as Starbucks, or a Hair Salon etc. While all of this was in the initial discussion stages, VEP residents who live closest to Branham and Narvaez became understandably increasingly concerned.

By way of some brief background history / information for those of you that are new to the VEP area: Over 10 years ago, VTA initiated a similar proposal for a project to be located at the northern end of their property – at Capitol Expressway and Narvaez Ave. Even then residents had similar concerns: traffic congestion and problems with Narvaez being very narrow, (portions along Narvaez have almost no easement), which also results in absolutely no street parking being allowed along Narvaez. Conce-

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-rns were raised that available parking would be sought on nearby neighborhood streets, which already had (even 10 years ago) sparked a parking crises! The traffic at the intersection of Capitol Expressway and Narvaez, and the onramp to Hwy 87 was in gridlock even then, and unsafe! While some minor improvements have since been made to this intersection, it continues to be problematic.

Now, add to that, the recent large increases in both commercial and residential development within less than ½ mile of this location. A.) 2,200 additional homes being built on top of Communications Hill (previously approved as part of Phase II of III phases for development at this location) One of the primary outlets coming down off this Hill to this problematic intersection/onramp to Hwy 87; B.) the building/opening of CarMax with the potential of several thousand cars being delivered daily/weekly using Hwy 87/ Capitol Expressway as the main on/off ramp for double-decker trucks delivering cars; C.) the doubling/tripling of Toyota (across the street on Capitol Expressway from CarMax); D.) the already significant increase in traffic on Capitol Expressway, Narvaez, Branham, etc., even before these projects are completed.

Current Status: As questions/concerns were expressed, and additional information was being requested of the staff/ departments involved, **VEP was notified that VTA had decided to pull their request for a zoning change**, and to not go forward with this proposal for at least this year. Additionally, over the next several months, a study will be done to further evaluate the impact on this area of the issues and concerns brought forward and listed above. Watch your email and the VEP News for announcements of meetings, as well as status updates in the coming months!

2. Homeless Encampments in VEP's Vistapark Area

Homeless encampments have had a presence in the greater VEP Community area for over two years, particularly along Branham Lane, including in-and-around several of our schools and parks. However, during late Spring and the Summer months, it grew to a crisis stage for residents living along, or traveling along, Chynoweth from New World/Gaundabert to Pearl. Large encampments were under Hwy 87, close to the VTA station and close to Gunderson High School. One such encampment was under Hwy 87 overpass, and within feet of the sidewalk along Chynoweth, in which students walked to access either the VTA station and/or Gunderson H.S. Residents and parents became increasingly concerned. VEP assisted in providing contact information to residents regarding what agencies needed to be contacted for assistance for the homeless individuals, and to have the encampments removed.

One of the increasing concerns and frustrations for all involved is that of the number of "multiple agencies" which own, and are responsible for, maintaining their own property in areas such as this one. For instance, along this area, certain sections of property are owned by the City of San Jose, while other sections are owned by VTA/Santa Clara County, and an additional third portion is owned by yet a third agency: CalTrans, State of California. (Not involved in this particular area of the neighborhood, but an additional 4th Agency which also has property ownership and jurisdiction within VEP is the Santa Clara Valley Water District.)

While the City of San Jose has provided leadership on the issue of homeless encampments, they have to ask us to report issues of concern to the correct "owner" entity. Unfortunately this not only is frustrating to both VEP, and individual residents, it slows down the process in having the correct agencies quickly involved to resolve the concerns, for all those involved.

While significant progress has been made with intervention

by our City leaders in soliciting assistance and cooperation by partnering entities (VTA/Santa Clara County and CalTrans/State of CA), it is our hope that over the next several months a more transparent, and expedient process, can be developed!

3. Bridge Housing for Homeless: Tiny Homes

The issue of Bridge, or Temporary Housing for Homeless, using "Tiny Homes," came to the forefront this Summer for residents who live along, or close to, Branham Lane. Branham Lane between Almaden Expressway and Monterey Road crosses through three separate San Jose City Council Districts: Districts 9, 10, and 2. This is important because two years ago, the City Council voted to have temporary housing projects for homeless spread out to all of the City Council Districts, not just those in, or close to, downtown San Jose, or on the east side of San Jose - council districts which already were building/converting buildings, or planning for housing the homeless.

Following this vote, the Council gave direction to the Housing Department to evaluate several pieces of property: small lots that were currently not being used for other purposes, and owned by the City of San Jose. Originally this list included approximately 99 sites. Over the course of several months, the majority of these sites were eliminated for a variety of reasons: not close to public transportation, not easily accessible, and environmental issues, to name a few.

During the Summer, the possible list had been narrowed down to just a few possible remaining sites. Additional criteria had been identified and included during the process, which also included the original goal of placing possible sites in those Council Districts that did not already have projects to house the homeless. While no sites had been identified as being a definite location, information leaked to several communities that a site close to them may have been on the final list. For most residents, this was the first they were hearing of potential projects being located in residential areas. Adding to the concern and confusion, was the fact that very little, in terms of details for possible projects, had been developed.

In August, there were less than 10 possible sites remaining. Three sites identified as remaining as "possible" sites were in and/or close to Council Districts 9, 10, and 2. The area identified for District 9 was a park, located in the Thousand Oaks neighborhood (just east of Almaden Expressway and on north side of Branham Lane). Understandably the residents of Thousand Oaks became quite upset.

A second site that was identified as a potential location for Bridge Housing is a small triangle north of Branham Lane just west of Monterey Road. This is next to homes in Council District 10. However, not only were District 10 residents in that area concerned, so were the residents across the street (south of Branham), in Council District 9.

Council District 9 also had one of the additional few sites remaining as a possible site within their Council District. Understandably, Council District 9 residents were upset, as they felt it unfair, that two possible projects were going to be built in, or on the border of, their District. In August, the issue of Bridge Housing (specifically on possible sites for developing temporary housing for homeless) came to the San Jose City Council Meeting. The Council Meeting followed shortly after two Community Meetings – one at Pearl Library for District 9 residents (Thousand Oaks) and one at Hayes Mansion (for District 10 and District 2 residents). Both of these meetings were emotionally charged with residents providing both objections to these sites, and suggestions for possible other sites and/or other options suggested as solutions for h-

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-eloping house the homeless.

At the Council meeting, 3 proposals were brought forward as part of the agenda item on Bridge Housing for the homeless. These 3 proposals were placed on the agenda and all were brought forward by one, or more, Councilmembers. Unfortunately these proposals had been developed in a fairly short period of time. As a result the vast majority of concerned public / community members who came to the Council meeting were unaware of (and or had not seen) these proposals. One proposal was initiated by Don Rocha, Council District 9; a second proposal was initiated by Councilmembers Jimenez (District 2), Khamis (District 10) and Davis (District 6); and the third proposal initiated by the Mayor, Vice Mayor, and several other Councilmembers.

The proposal initiated by Jimenez, Khamis, and Davis would have begun a time-specific (less than 6 months) task force which would have included a community member from each Council District, along with selected experts and/or agency representatives, ie. Santa Clara County, to come together to look at possible alternatives/solutions, and make recommendations to the Council. This proposal would have given an opportunity for community members to have significant input into the process, including whether temporary housing is cost effective, and are there other options and/or sites that may be appropriate. Unfortunately, the Council did not approve this proposal.

One suggestion initiated by several residents at the Council meeting was to look at other sites/properties that belonged to partner entities, ie. the County, VTA, and the Santa Clara Water District. The Council was uncomfortable soliciting assistance from other entities in identifying possible sites for temporary housing for homeless, with so few remaining possible sites that were on San Jose City property. As a result, the Council directed that all original 99 City sites be put back on the list for re-evaluation by the Housing Department, and to come back to the Council in 60 days with recommendations.

4. High-Speed Rail is Coming to San Jose.

Many residents are already aware of High-Speed Rail project in California (the first High-Speed Rail project in the nation), with

many having already attended community information meetings. The High-Speed Rail Authority has thus far worked through many of the controversial issues which previously stalled the project, ie. on the Peninsula (electrification of current rails has been approved for this portion of High Speed Rail). Additionally, the project coming north from Los Angeles through the Valley to Merced is on track, having worked through many of the issues affecting both farmland and towns/cities along this portion of the path. Currently, the last, and large remainder of the project, is that portion connecting Merced to San Jose.

High-Speed Rail will be coming across from Merced passing south of Pacheco Pass and San Luis Reservoir, to Gilroy (which will be a station), then north to Morgan Hill, and on to San Jose and Diridon Station (which will also be a High-Speed Rail station). The route from Morgan Hill to San Jose will be in conjunction with (near proximity to) Monterey Road.

Each section – Gilroy, Morgan Hill, and San Jose – will have, or already has, its own Task Force. Each city task force group will work through three possible alternatives: underground/tunnel, street level, and/or elevated (something akin to the Disney monorail), up in the air 40 to 80 feet. Each section will have/has a Task Force of Community Leaders to provide input on behalf of the communities affected (and in which they are active representatives), prior to a final alternative(s) being selected. VEP President Marilyn Rodgers is representing the San Jose section, specifically the Monterey/Branham and Monterey/Capitol Expressway areas of the route. There, of course, is overlap between representatives, and interest by all representatives for the entire route through the San Jose area. The San Jose Task Force has had three meetings thus far (starting during the Summer). All meetings are open to the public. Additional informational community meetings will also be provided going forward.

VEP Helps Us Solve Community Problems!

Join us at Carson Elementary School's

☆ Harvest Festival ☆

Friday, October 27th ~ 5pm-9pm

Proceeds support various student activities throughout the year, including Field Trip Transportation, the Music Program, and Project Cornerstone.

RACHEL CARSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

4245 Meg Drive, San Jose, CA 95136

Carnival Games!

Fun for the Whole Family!

20-Foot Slide!

Adrenaline Rush Obstacle Challenge!

Field Games!

Auction, featuring Student Artwork from each class!

FOOD Provided By: Quick Dog Catering, Los Altos Food Truck and Carson PTA

Crime & Safety Issues in VEP Neighborhoods

By Marilyn Rodgers

1. Speeding / Racing / "Donuts" – in Vista Park Area

Over the Summer, there was a continuous issue of cars racing, speeding, and/or doing "donuts" at intersections in the Vista Park area of VEP. Chynoweth was the main focus of this behavior, with drivers doing "donuts" at each intersection along Chynoweth: New World, Hyde Park, and Barron Park Drives. Additionally, the other favorite intersection was where Vistapark Drive dead-ends at Hyde Park Drive. As this behavior is intermittent, it has been difficult to get pictures of the cars involved, due to speed and the amount of smoke generated. However, several residents who live along Chynoweth, Hyde Park Drive, and Vistapark Drives have come together to "track" on time of day, day of week, and as much information as possible on the vehicles involved in driving at excessive speeds (Note: speed limit is 25 on Hyde Park, and 30 on Chynoweth), racing with other vehicles, and performing "donuts" at intersections. What is most concerning is that this activity has also been done during the daytime, putting other non-involved drivers (and pedestrians) at risk. San Jose Police Department is working with these residents to apprehend individuals involved in this reckless behavior.

2. Houses for Sale – Yard Signage May Put Houses at Risk

If you plan to put your house up for sale, and/or have a neighbor who is in the process of selling their house, and the house is empty with a "For Sale" sign in the yard – take note: your house may be a risk. There is a new trend, that of young people targeting such houses, coming together for a party in the house! There have been two such incidences in the VEP area:

a. The first incidence was a house in the Vista Park area – across from Vista Park on New Compton. This happened about 4 months ago. Approximately 70 young adults/teenagers broke into the empty house, partying with loud music etc. Several of the neighbors called 911 to report what was happening. SJPD responded immediately with several squad cars and sirens going. The party-goers scattered. Unfortunately a significant amount of damage was done to the interior of the house and the yard.

b. A second incident happened in the Carson area of VEP (last week of August) – house located on Thames off of Victoria Park Place. Same situation: empty house for sale, large group of young people partying. Unfortunately in this situation, there was also gunfire, with someone apparently being shot. This occurred at approximately 4am. SJPD was called and quickly responded. Local streets were blocked off for several hours to accommodate a lengthy investigation.

Recommendation is that if the house is for sale after everyone has moved out, owners may want to consider putting in video cameras and alarm system, and/or hiring private security service.

3. Vehicle Accident on Hyde Park – West of Vistapark Drive

Approximately 4 weeks ago, (first week in August) at 9am on a weekday morning, a vehicle travelling east on Hyde Park Drive, hit the left rear bumper of a utility vehicle parked along the curb on the south side of the street, just a few feet from Vistapark Drive. The driver of the vehicle lost control of the car, and spun into the front left side (wheel) of the parked vehicle, resulting in both vehicles being locked together, and the vehicle that lost control, perpendicular across the street. Very dangerous situation, as cars coming from both directions were not able to see the vehicle stuck across Hyde Park Drive. With the amount of traffic on this street, this could have easily resulted in a multicar pile-up! SJPD and Paramedics both responded. **Please be careful of this area** – driving east on Hyde Park: it is a blind curve just before reaching Birmingham Drive. Several accidents have occurred at this loca-

tion. Also, please slow down driving south on Vistapark Drive and observe the speed limit of **25 miles per hour on both residential streets**, as well as the **15 mile/hour limit** for the right-hand turn going around the corner (also cannot see oncoming traffic) turning from Vistapark Drive onto Hyde Park Drive. Be safe everyone!

Pat Dando In Memoriam

Pat Dando passed away peacefully on July 16, 2017. Pat will be remembered fondly by many residents and especially by many VEP members, who she represented as their San Jose City Councilwoman. San Jose was her home, and the City she was dedicated to for many years. Pat, however, was originally from Texas, born in Vernon, on June 1, 1946. She attended North

Texas State University, earning a double major in Elementary Education and English.

In 1967, she married Bob Dando, an Army officer, and they moved to Schenectady, New York, where she began her career as a school teacher, and they began their family: one daughter Lesa, and two sons – Kyle and Todd. They relocated to San Jose in 1973, where Pat focused on family life, and volunteerism. That included being a softball manager, scout leader, vacation Bible School teacher, and PTA President. She became a strong advocate to improve local schools, and support for her community which included co-founding the Almaden Valley Youth Counselling Center and the Almaden Valley Art and Wine Festival. She also co-founded the Stroke Awareness Foundation in 2002.

Pat had an impactful career which focused on serving the people of San Jose. In 1986 she worked for Mayor Tom McEnery, and helped lead the campaign that resulted in a new sports arena being built in downtown San Jose. In 1995, she was elected to represent San Jose Council District 10, and was subsequently appointed to be Vice Mayor. She later served as the Director of Local Government Affairs for Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger before being wooed back to the City she loved, San Jose, for an appointment as CEO of the San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce in 2005. In 2011, she decided to step back, slow down and enjoy retirement, allowing more time for family (especially her husband, 3 children and 9 grandchildren) and friends.

A very well attended Celebration of Life was held on August 20th at Cinnabar Hills Golf Club. The family suggests that remembrances of Pat can be made via donations to either the Stroke Awareness Foundation or to Cancer CAREpoint.

Note: VEP President Marilyn Rodgers wrote this remembrance, using information from both an article and the obituary printed in the San Jose Mercury News, and from speeches given at the Celebration of Life.



FROM THE OFFICE OF



JOHNNY KHAMIS
SAN JOSE CITY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 10

Bridge Housing Communities

Thank you to the constituents who attended the City Council meeting on August 29th and weighed in on Bridge Housing Communities. Your voices were heard and although the Bridge Housing Communities idea is moving forward, the City Council is very much aware of the controversies connected with this program.

I arrived at my decision to vote against Bridge Housing Communities by asking myself, is this program achievable, affordable, or acceptable to the community? I couldn't confidently answer yes to any of these questions:

Is it achievable?

The Housing Department is already working on the following:

- 698 permanent housing units that the City Council approved (with my support)
- Implementing the new Apartment Rent Ordinance
- Implementing the Apartment Rent Registry
- Developing the Evans Lane Transitional Housing Project
- Developing new Mobile Home Park policies
- Ongoing Coyote Creek Flood recovery efforts
- Housing unhoused veterans
- Administering the new Just Cause Eviction ordinance

In addition to additional work on the Bridge Housing Communities that the Housing Department was assigned, the City Council directed the Housing Department to explore sanctioned encampments for the unhoused (on a 7-3 vote, with Mayor Liccardo, Councilmember Diep, and me opposed).

With all these activities, how will City staff possibly have the bandwidth to succeed? We are spreading them far too thin and a project that was approved over a year ago as transitional housing for the unhoused, the Evans Lane project, is still only in the environmental review stage. How will giving City staff yet another project – Bridge Housing – help get Evans Lane completed or new units of supportive housing built?

Is it cost-effective?

The estimate given for implementing a Bridge Housing Community is \$1.4 million for the site and plus \$700,000 in annual operating costs to house about 20 people. This comes to a first-year, monthly cost of \$8,750 per-person. It seems as though we could house people much more quickly by distributing these funds as vouchers

or by using the funds to help homeowners provide accessory dwelling units (in-law or granny units) throughout the City to allow residents to "adopt" those who need a home.

Is it acceptable to our community?

I'm not convinced that Bridge Housing Communities is the right solution for San Jose. We have community-based solutions that are providing help to the unhoused, such as the rotating shelter program which I enthusiastically support and which is administered by communities of faith throughout San Jose. This program provides needed shelter along with the empathetic, personal interactions that a City cannot. We also have other programs that I have supported - vouchers and the conversion of hotels, like the Plaza Hotel - to get people housed more quickly, and, in the memo that I, and my colleagues Councilmembers Jimenez and Davis, we called for a task force to look at the best, most effective ways to quickly assist the unhoused. I was happy that the task force idea was, at least, included in the Council's action.

Ultimately, the Council moved forward with Bridge Housing Communities on a vote of 9 to 2, with Councilmember Rocha and I voting "no."

The Council action included:

- Maintaining the original council direction of identifying potential sites for siting a Bridge House Community in each council district, bringing back all 99 sites for consideration
- Directing staff to identify additional sites that could host a BHC pilot project.
- Identifying commercial or industrial sites.
- Renewing requests to other public agencies—specifically the County, Santa Clara Valley Water District, Valley Transportation Authority, and Caltrans—to identify underutilized lands in their inventories for potential use as BHC sites.
- Returning to City Council in 60 days with a list of potential BHC sites and seeking Council direction as to whether to proceed with a BHC pilot project on three or fewer sites.

In 60 days, staff will return to Council to report their findings on the direction given to them by Council. I hope you will stay engaged on this issue and voice your opinions on establishing Bridge Housing Communities in San Jose and other efforts.

SENIOR SAFARI WALKABOUT
SELECT THURSDAYS IN 2017
Happy Hollow Park & Zoo - Sept. 28, Oct. 26 - 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.
<http://www.hhpz.org/index.cfm/id/310/> 408-794-6400



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- Vintage Autos & Farm Equipment
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- Fresh Organic Produce
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- Jacobs Farm Tours & Pumpkin Patch
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Mike Wasserman
DISTRICT 1



VEP Community Calendar



September

/ October

2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
17 	18 Mt. Umunhum Officially Opens to the Public!!! OpenSpace.org/mount-umunhum	19	20	21 Rosh Hashanah 	22 First Day of Fall! 	23
24	25 	26 VEP Community Meeting and Ice Cream Social ~ 7:00 PM ~ @Vista Park Community Room	27	28 Senior Safari Walkabout 9:00-10:00am @Happy Hollow (See info. on p. 7)	29	30 Yom Kippur
1	2 	3	4 District 10 Office Hours 8:30-9:30am @Almaden Valley Community Center (6445 Camden Ave.)	5 SUKKOT סוכות	6	7 Martial Cottle Fall Festival!
8	9 	10 	11 Emergency Nurses DAY!	12 	13	14 District 10 Office Hours 10:30-11:30am @Hub's Coffee (630 Blossom Hill Rd.)
15 	16 October 16 National Boss Day 	17	18	19 QUACKERS LIZ WONG	20 READ FOR THE RECORD October 19	21 At Your Local Libraries! Check Out www.sjpl.org

★ Coming Soon in the VEP Neighborhoods ★

VEP's Meetings

Tuesday, October 24th

Tuesday, December 5th

Tuesday, January 30th

Everyone is Welcome!
Invite a Neighbor!



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

3rd Annual Dave Fadness

★ Beautification Day ★

Saturday, October 28th @Vista Park

★ Santa in the Park ★

Sunday, Nov. 26th @Vista Park Community Rm.

★ Annual Holiday Decoration Contest ★

December, in VEP Neighborhoods

Join Your Neighbors at VEP's



Ice Cream Social and



Community Meeting



Tuesday, Sept. 26th

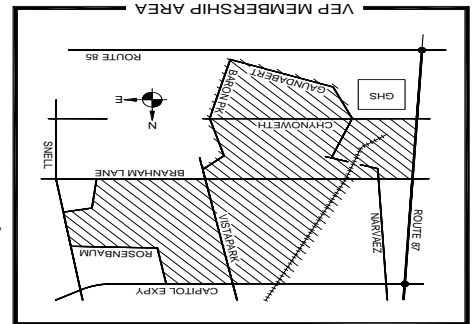


Social @7:00 p.m. ~and~ Meeting @7:30 p.m.

Vista Park Community Room (475 Hyde Park Dr.)



Would you prefer to receive your newsletters via email? Please, let us know at vep@vepca.net



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VEP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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