

# VEP NEWS

• VEP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION •

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

## January...

*is the month for dreaming.*

*- Jean Hersey -*



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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: 408-728-7296

#### 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

► Tuesday, January 30th ◀

Meeting @7:30pm ~ Late Arrivals O.K.!

Vista Park Community Room  
475 Hyde Park Drive

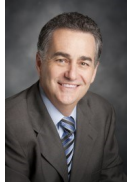
Everyone is welcome. Invite your neighbors!

### AGENDA

- ★ Updates on Measure A (Housing) ★  
& Other Initiatives Funded through  
the County of Santa Clara

*Presentation by*

**\*\* Mike Wasserman \*\***  
Supervisor, Santa Clara County



- ★ VEP Business Meeting ★  
Announcements & Updates

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

#### Upcoming Events:

City of San Jose  
"State of the City Celebration"  
Thursday, February 8, 2018; 6:30pm  
San Jose City College  
(See Page 9 for Details)

The Annual Senior "Winter Walk"  
Friday, February 23, 2018; 8:30pm  
Oakridge Mall  
(See Page 8 for Details)

VEP's Next Meeting - Tuesday, February 27th

- ★ Your Concerns and Ideas ★

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

# ◆ 2018 is VEP's 49th Year! ◆

## VEP's January Meeting Preview

By Marilyn Rodgers

► **Guest Speaker, Santa Clara County Supervisor Mike Waserman** will provide updates on projects and initiatives that the County of Santa Clara is responsible for overseeing. Especially, he will address Measure A (Housing) which was approved by voters in the last election. This measure is intended to provide relief for the severe shortage of affordable housing with particular emphasis on housing the homeless and others with special needs.

► **VEP Business Meeting / Announcements:** Additional 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.

► **Your Concerns & Ideas:** We want to hear from you! Together we can work toward positive resolution. This approach continues to make VEP neighborhoods strong, healthy and attractive.

We look forward to seeing you, your friends and neighbors at 7:30pm on **Tuesday, January 30th. (Please Note: Late arrivals are always welcome!)**

## November/December Meeting Synopsis

By Marilyn Rodgers

President Rodgers welcomed everyone to the meeting, and encouraged everyone to take a few minutes to visit/network with friends and neighbors in the room, while enjoying a "tasting" of holiday cookies. She then followed with brief introductions of current Board members and past Presidents of VEP.

Ms. Rodgers stated that there was a couple of additional/initial business items that needed to be addressed prior to hearing from the guest speakers. The first item of business was to let the membership know that each year, for many years, a line item in the budget has been included to provide for the Board Members and their spouses "going out to a special dinner" prior to the holidays. However, during the last 5 years, this had only occurred twice, which left said budgeted funds "unspent." This year, the Board requested an approval of an additional amount so that the Board and guests could do something special. Per VEP policy, any expenditure in excess of \$500.00 needs to be approved by the membership (it is anticipated that with dinner for board members, guests, taxes, and tip, the amount will be over \$500.00. Note: This does not include any alcohol, which will be up to individuals to purchase.) Two past presidents made and seconded motions, and the membership approved this expenditure. Ms. Rodgers thanked everyone, saying that the Board and their spouses appreciate it, as these volunteers spend a significant amount of time working on behalf of VEP throughout the year.

The next item of business was to introduce a special guest, who many VEP members already know: Rich Crowley. Rich is a member of D10 Leadership Coalition Board (as are VEP Board Members Marilyn, Katherine, and Rich G.). Rich is also another avid volunteer. Rich has attended and volunteered at each of the three Dave Fadness Memorial Beautification Days. Rich attended this meeting, with the permission of President Rodgers, to provide an overview of an additional project that he is currently undertaking. That project is to pay honor and tribute to Pat Dando, past City Councilmember who represented District 10 (and of course VEP) for over ten years. (Ms. Dando recently passed away. See article in the Sept. 2017 edition of the *VEP News*.) Rich provided a handout about Pat, saying (with some humor) that he had "stolen the picture and article written by Ms. Rodgers" to use in the handout. Rich went through Pat's many accomplishments, her role as an outstanding volunteer, as well as her dedication to both

the residents of District 10, and to the City of San Jose. Rich is proposing to initiate/spearhead the long process of honoring Pat by having her name added to the building that houses both the Almaden Library and Community Center on Camden. Pat was instrumental in having the Almaden Library and Community Center built. It was the first of its kind in San Jose: both a library and a community center. Also, while other options to honor Pat have been discussed/suggested, this option is being chosen because her "home and heart" were first and foremost with District 10. Ms. Rodgers thanked Rich for his volunteering to undertake this project to honor Pat. The process to accomplish this will be a long one, starting with attending many public meetings of groups within District 10. The intention is to both provide residents with information, and also to request their support of this proposal. The proposal will then also have to go through several steps for formal approval with such elected/appointed groups as both Library Commission and the Parks & Recreation Commission. The final step will be to go to and receive approval from the San Jose City Council. Those in attendance at the VEP meeting were in support of honoring Ms. Dando in this way.

Ms. Rodgers then introduced Councilmember Johnny Khamis who had not been able to attend the last few VEP membership meetings, due to extended length of recent City Council meetings. He provided brief updates on several issues, and encouraged everyone to both sign up for his newsletter online, (if you are not currently receiving it) and to take the opportunity to attend his twice monthly "community office hours."

As the initial items and speakers took longer than expected, Ms. Rodgers apologized to the featured guest speaker to cutting into her allotted time to speak. She then introduced Linda LeZotte, Board member and representative for the VEP area for the Santa Clara Valley Water District. Ms. LeZotte thanked President Rodgers and stated that Marilyn had requested that she describe the different roles & responsibilities between the **Santa Clara Valley Water District** and that of the **San Jose Water Company**, as these two entities are often confused. Ms. LeZotte is a lawyer by profession, and a past San Jose City Councilwoman. She explained that the Santa Clara Valley Water District is the provider of water for our area, and the San Jose Water Company is the retailer. There are 3 water retailers in our area with the San Jose Water Company being the largest one. The water retailers purchase water from the District and then sell it to residents and businesses. It is the San Jose Water Company that sends us our water bills, so she cannot help with those issues. Ms. LeZotte then continued to provide a brief overview of the large projects that the Water District is planning/involved with currently – these are to assure that our area has adequate water supplies going into the future. These included both the large project coming from the Delta, and the building of additional dams (in South County and the Central Valley). She also encouraged everyone to take advantage of the many educational opportunities the District provides: workshops, printed materials, their website, periodic classes at the District, tours, and so forth. She also provided a brief update on the issue of the flood that devastated parts of east San Jose last winter/spring. The District and the City of San Jose are continuing to work together going forward to assure we are all better prepared for the next such emergency. Ms. Rodgers thanked Ms. LeZotte for her excellent presentation. (Note: Please see an article provided by Ms. LeZotte on Page 7 of this newsletter.)

Ms. Rodgers thanked everyone for coming to the meeting, reminded everyone of upcoming Holiday events, such as the VEP Holiday Home Decorations Contest, the San Jose City Christmas in the Park (downtown); and to be safe over the holidays. She wished everyone Happy Holidays! Next meeting for VEP will be January 30, 2018!

(Note: See articles & photos of VEP Holiday Events on Page 3-6.)

## Holidays in VEP Community Neighborhoods!

Each year, VEP sponsors two very fun activities, right here in our own community/neighborhoods. First, starting with the Thanksgiving Holiday weekend, on Sunday afternoon: VEP's "Santa in the Park." Secondly: The 7th Annual VEP Holiday House and Yard Decorations Contest. Everyone living in the VEP neighborhoods of Carson, Parkview, and Vistapark are invited to participate. We want everyone to know that while there are several fun areas throughout the City of San Jose to visit during the holidays, but there are also some very special house and yard displays right here in our own VEP Community neighborhoods! See articles, below, and pictures on Pages 4 & 5.

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

By Helen Castillo, Rachel Witmeyer, & Marilyn Rodgers

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual VEP "Santa in the Park" (at Vistapark Community Room) took place on Sunday afternoon, November 26<sup>th</sup>. While the day was overcast, and partially rainy to start, the crowd attending grew steadily during the afternoon. **This is a very popular event, as VEP offers a "free" picture with Santa**, holiday snacks and drinks, time for the adults to "network" and meet new and old friends/neighbors, and take part in activities with crafts with the children. Once again, over 118 people attended during the afternoon event: a nice crowd, but never overly crowded.

If you have not had the opportunity to attend, plan on coming Thanksgiving Sunday of 2018. Everyone agrees: you won't be disappointed!

A **special thank you** to organizer/sponsor VEP Board Member Helen Castillo, photographer Board Member/Secretary Adina Pierce, and Board Member/VEP Editor Rachel Witmeyer for all of their work to make this event successful every year! And this year, everyone appreciated additional assistance from Josie Supencheck, and, of course, we do not want to forget Santa!

### 7<sup>th</sup> Annual VEP Holiday Home Decoration Contest

By Marilyn Rodgers and Katherine Decker

Every year for seven years, VEP has sponsored a house and yard holiday decorations contest. While there are some other very wonderful displays throughout San Jose, we feel that right here in our own neighborhoods/backyards, we too have "bragging rights" – and many people often are able to walk and/or ride their bicycles to see the great holiday displays.

Our neighbors also tell us how much they enjoy "showing off" our nicely decorated neighborhoods to "visiting" family and friends! (We do too!) This year we were especially pleased with the large increase in numbers of neighbors who decorated!! And, of course it made it more difficult to try to narrow it down to two or three in each category to acknowledge. We hope all of you enjoy-

ed driving or walking around our neighborhoods to see the wonderful decorations!

We want to thank **EVERYONE who decorated** – it adds so much to everyone's enjoyment and holiday spirit! Thank you!

### Grand Prize Winner & Reigning Champions: 595 Amboy Dr.

3 levels of fabulous! Reindeer, snow that looks so real you want to scoop it up, and much, much more! Very attractive during the daylight hours as well! We want to acknowledge this absolutely outstanding display by **The Olsens**, and thank them for once again providing us with a VERY SPECIAL display! It literally takes everyone's breath away!

### First Prize Winners, by Category

1. The "oh my goodness!" category: 4082 New World  
*Honorable Mention: 638 Chynoweth*
2. "Inflatables" category: 4168 Dulcey (large inflatables with very delightful use of lights)  
*Honorable Mention: 5878 Tottenham*
3. Religious theme category (large increase this year)  
TIE! - both 524 and 515 Hyde Park Dr.  
*Honorable Mentions: 4621 Mia, 4197 Victoria Park Dr.*
4. "Traditional" Christmas theme category: 5093 New England Ct  
*Honorable Mention: 430 Hyde Park Dr.*
5. "Something New/Combinations" theme category: Home located at corner of Luneta & Albion (inflatables with a variety of uses of lights, as well as lights & garlands on fences)  
*Honorable Mention: 4621 Holycon (variety of lights with use of electronic lighting display)*
6. "Something Different" theme category: 5247 Savendish Ct.  
(large lit bulbs in yard, electronic light show on whole house)  
*Honorable Mentions: 579 Hyde Park Dr. (large lighted bulbs on tree), 4220 Victoria Park Dr. (display of dogs in Christmaswear)*
7. **(New!)** Decorated Hedges and/or Fences theme category  
(More residents decorating this way!): 328 Lassenpark Circle  
*Honorable Mentions: 4322 Jonquil Dr. and 531 Churchill Park Dr. (Really made the neighborhoods look festive!)*
8. **(New!)** Early Decorator and/or Late Decorator theme category  
Winner-Early Decorator: 437 Hyde Park Dr.  
Winner-Late Decorator (after Jan 1): 4812 Birmingham Dr.
9. Streets with All or Majority of Houses Decorated:
  - a. Chynoweth: corner of Gaundabert south to Hyde Park Dr.
  - b. All Streets (east and west) that intersect with Chynoweth
  - c. Vistapark Dr. & All streets that intersect with Vistapark Dr.
  - d. Hyde Park Dr.
  - e. Hastings Park Ct & North Victoria Park Pl
  - f. Savendish & Devon Park Ct. (Note: This is two segregated streets which come together in the middle. A large decorated Christmas tree was very "neighborly")



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# "Santa In the Park"



Welcome to VEP's 10th Annual "Santa in the Park" FREE PHOTO  
LINK TO ACCESS YOUR FREE SANTA PHOTO @ <http://vepca.net>

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Photographs by  
Adina Pierce &  
Rachel Witmeyer



2017



VEP's  
7th Annual

Holiday  
Home  
Decoration  
Contest



\* 2017 Grand Prize Winners \*  
& Reigning Champions for 7 Years!  
The Olsens of Amboy Drive



Photographs by Katherine Decker & Rachel Witmeyer



# VEP's Board of Directors & Valuable Volunteers Celebrate Christmas Together!



VEP Board Member, Mrs. Helen Castillo, and Husband, Albert



VEP Treasurer, Mrs. Ginger Cardona, and Husband, Alan



VEP Vice President, Mrs. Katherine Decker, and Husband, Dann



VEP Board Member, Mr. Rich Giammona, and Wife, Lisa



VEP Secretary, Mrs. Adina Pierce, and Husband, Russ



VEP News Editor, Mrs. Rachel Witmeyer, and Husband, Robert



VEP Past-President, Mr. Bob Aquino, and Wife, Barbara: Long-time Volunteers, "VEP News" and VEP Mailings Support



VEP Past-President & Current ENA President, Mr. Dave Noel, and Wife, Maureen: Long-time VEP Volunteers



VEP President, Mrs. Marilyn Rodgers



## Water District Working to Protect the Environment

Guest Column, Submitted By:

Director Linda LeZotte, District 4; Santa Clara Valley Water District

Along with providing a safe, reliable supply of drinking water and flood protection, the Santa Clara Valley Water District also has a goal to protect and restore creek, bay, and other aquatic ecosystems. Caring for streams, habitat and the environment is critical to our mission to provide Silicon Valley a healthy life, environment and economy.

SCVWD is working diligently to achieve that aspect of our mission. Our efforts span the county and run the gamut of activities. We annually support volunteer efforts to clean our creeks through National River Cleanup Day and Coastal Cleanup Day. This year, we hosted an additional volunteer cleanup day on Coyote Creek. The three cleanups resulted in more than 101,000 pounds of trash being removed from creeks. Our crews removed 393 tons of trash throughout last year. Working together we make a greater impact.

In 2012, voters overwhelmingly passed the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection parcel tax that helps fund a variety of water-related stewardship work throughout our county including habitat enhancement, trails and water quality enhancement. Partnering with local companies, nonprofit organizations and other governmental agencies has helped the money for these items go further. Over the 15-year life of the program, the district expects to distribute nearly \$35 million in grants, partnerships and rebate programs, as part of the water district's commitment to protecting our environment and our work to restore habitat along creeks and the bay, clean pollutants from the water, and make sure water is used efficiently throughout the community.

The water district has completed several projects and is planning new fish passage improvement projects along Stevens Creek and Uvas Creek. We are also partnering with the City of San José for improvements along Coyote Creek. These passage improvements make it easier for fish to migrate upstream in our creeks. To expand our knowledge of the fisheries and the health of our streams, we also monitor various parameters including water quality, habitat quality, and perform sampling to track whether mercury accumulates within the food web.

Keeping our waterways and their habitats healthy is important for clean water and environmental stewardship. That's why the water district is involved in contaminant remediation activities such as reducing mercury, responding to hazardous material releases in waterways, and dealing with pathogens in the environment.

Mitigation and the improvement of habitat is an important part of our work. We manage more than 3,600 acres of land around the county for stream and watershed preservation. We also participate in regional efforts to keep plant pathogens out of local habitats. We are making a concerted effort to plant clean plants in our watersheds so that pathogens do not spread.

Other activities the water district has participated in include monit-

oring wildlife corridors in Coyote Valley, participating in a global study of carbon dynamics in freshwater and marine soils, and continued work on our One Water Plan, a forward-thinking holistic approach to water resource management.

The water district is proud to be a staunch environmental advocate. We work hard to enhance, protect and restore our creeks and habitat.

**As always, I am available for questions or comments as your District 4 representative. Feel free to contact me at (408)265.2600 or at [llezotte@valleywater.org](mailto:llezotte@valleywater.org)**



As we begin the new year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the initiatives undertaken by the County in 2017. The County continues to address our homeless and housing crisis; with the implementation of Measure A, approximately 350 units of housing will be added throughout the County. Cold weather shelters have also expanded their services in an effort to get more people off the streets, and out of the cold.

As your Representative on the Board of Supervisors, I serve on 30 committees, from continued service as Chair of the Public Safety and Justice Committee (PSJC) and Vice Chair of the Housing, Land Use, Environment and Transportation (HLUET) committee, to my new assignments on the West Valley Sanitation District and the Joint County/Water District Task Force. In addition, I have committed to help promote security and emergency preparedness throughout the County. As the Chair of the Emergency Operational Area Council, I work with different jurisdictions in creating countywide emergency plans.

Communications technology is another large component of emergency response. I also serve on the Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Authority (SVRIA), which is replacing older radio systems with EComm microwave systems and offering intercommunications between emergency response crews from different jurisdictions. This system will create faster and more efficient response times in an emergency.

We all know that disasters may occur at any given time, which is why we are promoting individual preparedness and planning. We encourage you to create a plan and have materials and resources ready for an emergency. If you would like to learn more about how you can prepare for a disaster situation, please visit [www.sccgov.org/sites/oes](http://www.sccgov.org/sites/oes)

I look forward to another year of service at the County and I hope you all stay safe. Have a great 2018!

Mike Wasserman  
[www.supervisorwasserman.org](http://www.supervisorwasserman.org)

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Hosted by Councilmembers

**Johnny Khamis, Don Rocha, & Sergio Jimenez**

11TH ANNUAL

# Senior Winter Walk & Resource Fair

**Friday Feb. 23, 2018**

**8:30 - 10:30 AM**

**With Special Guest MC...**



**Oakridge Mall (in the Macy's Court)**

925 Blossom Hill Rd, 95118

- FREE on-site registration
- FREE continental breakfast
- FREE PRIZE DRAWING
- Donate your used eye glasses at the Lions Club table

For more information 408.535.4910 | [district10@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district10@sanjoseca.gov)

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# VEP Community Calendar

👤 January / February ♥ 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Edenvale Library Booksale 10am-3pm
28	29	<b>30</b> VEP Community Meeting and ~ 7:30 PM ~ @Vista Park Community Room	31	1	2  GROUNDHOG DAY	3
4  Rosa Parks Day	5	6	7 District 10 Office Hours 8:30-9:30am @Almaden Valley Community Center (6445 Camden Ave.)	8 State of the City Celebration ( See Below 🖱 )	9	10 District 10 Office Hours 10:30-11:30am @Hub's Coffee (630 Blossom Hill Rd.)
 <p>State of the City Celebration</p> <p>Thursday, February 8, 2018</p> <p>SAN JOSE CITY COLLEGE 2100 Moorpark Ave   San José, CA 95128 Doors open at 6:00 P.M.   Program Starts at 6:30 P.M.</p> <p>Register Online at: <a href="http://www.sjmayor.org">www.sjmayor.org</a></p>			14  Happy Valentine's Day	15	16	17
			21	22	23 11 <sup>th</sup> Annual * Senior * Winter Walk & Resource Fair ( 🖱 See page 8 )	24

## ★ Coming Soon in the VEP Neighborhoods ★

### VEP's Meetings

Tuesday, February 27th

Tuesday, March 27th

Tuesday, April 24th

*Everyone is Welcome!  
Invite a Neighbor!*



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Local People Through:  
VEP's Website & News (print & digital)

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Contact the "VEP News" Editor  
[vepeditor@gmail.com](mailto:vepeditor@gmail.com)

### VEP Community Events

Annual Community-Wide

☆ Garage Sale ☆

First Saturday in May! (May 5th)

4th of July

🌴 Fireworks & Festival 🌴

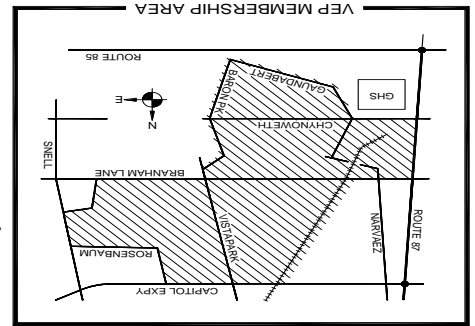
@Almaden Lake



Be sure to attend this month's  
**VEP Community Meeting!**  
**Tuesday, January 30th @7:30pm**  
 in the Vista Park Community Room  
 475 Hyde Park Drive



**Would you  
 prefer to receive  
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 Please, let us know  
 at [vep@vepca.net](mailto:vep@vepca.net)



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Secretary	Adina Pierce		<a href="mailto:adinap@yahoo.com">adinap@yahoo.com</a>
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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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**VEP Community Association**

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**THE VEP NEWS**



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