

# VEP NEWS

• VEP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION •

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

The sun was warm but the wind was chill.  
You know how it is with an April day.

APRIL 2018

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— Robert Frost

## VEP COMMUNITY MEETING

► Tuesday, April 24th ◀

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

Vista Park Community Room  
475 Hyde Park Drive

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

## AGENDA

★ Updates on Martial Cottle Park ★  
Spring Festival, May 5<sup>th</sup>

*Presentation by*

**Eric Goodrich**

Manager, Martial Cottle Park, County of Santa Clara

**Sara Shellenbarger**

Interim Manager, Martial Cottle Park

★ VEP Business Meeting ★

**VEP Issues - Status Updates**

Brief Update - Review of VEP Bylaws

**Updates from Councilmember Khamis & Staff**

**Upcoming Events and Announcements**

**Special Event – Branham Lane “Wall Painting”  
Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> (See PAGE 8 for Info!)**

**Annual VEP Neighborhood-Wide Garage Sale  
Includes Salvation Army Donation Truck, 11am-3pm  
Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Annual VEP Membership Drive Continues**

**VEP's Next Meeting & Ice Cream Social  
- Tuesday, May 29th, 2018 -**

★ Your Concerns and Ideas ★

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

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 - Ginger Cardona  
Director - Helen Castillo  
Director - Rich Giammona  
Director & VEP News Editor - Rachel Witmeyer



◆ 2018 is VEP's 49th Year! ◆

## VEP's April Meeting Preview

By Marilyn Rodgers

VEP's Community Meeting: Tuesday, April 24th, 2018

► **Meeting Speakers:** Eric Goodrich, Manager, Martial Cottle Park (*who will be going on temporary administrative duty*) and Sara Shellenbarger, Interim Manager for Martial Cottle Park, will provide an update on all activities, programs, and possible volunteer activities at the Park, as well as highlighting information on the upcoming 2nd Annual Spring Festival scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup>.

► **VEP Business Meeting / Announcements:** There will be brief updates on VEP issues such as highlighting Bylaws review and status of VEP's Community Service Awards (scholarships). 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. Information will be provided on the status of Homeless Encampments and about upcoming events, particularly the **Branham Wall Painting Event on Saturday, April 28th.** (See [PAGE 8](#) of this newsletter)

► **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, April 24th.** (Please Note: **Late arrivals are always welcome!**)

## March Meeting Synopsis

By Marilyn Rodgers & Rachel Witmeyer

President Rodgers called the meeting to order. Everyone had been enjoying networking with friends and the special guests in attendance. She introduced VEP Board Members Katherine Decker, Ginger Cardona, Adina Pierce and Rich Giammona, as well as Past Presidents in attendance. She indicated that the group was somewhat smaller than usual due to Spring Breaks at some of the local schools, and was pleased to see that several people continued to arrive after the beginning of the meeting (which is always acceptable, as many people are often delayed in traffic after work).

She proceeded to say that she was especially pleased to have Assemblyman Ask Kalra, his District Director Stacie Shih, as well as our Councilmember Johnny Khamis attending this meeting. She then introduced Assemblyman Ash Kalra and invited him to speak.

**Assemblyman Kalra** thanked Ms. Rodgers, and proceeded to provide the audience with brief information on the issues he is most concerned about, and in which he has an opportunity to now do something about, in his new role in the State Assembly. He is on several committees and is Chairing one committee. He has been concerned for some time about the needs of Senior citizens, and now has an opportunity to provide assistance and leadership in this area. He stated that printed information was available on specific pieces of legislation, and that **he is open to residents contacting him and or his District Staff through his local office – telephone number 408-277-1220.**

The Assemblyman then made an announcement about an event he was sponsoring which was sched-



uled for the next day, Wednesday, March 28th. He indicated that everyone was welcome to attend (flyers were provided). This event is dedicated to honoring "Women of Distinction" in his State Assembly District. He went on to say that he was pleased to announce that Marilyn Rodgers was a recipient as a "Woman of Distinction." He talked briefly about all that Marilyn has contributed throughout the years – not only to her neighborhood, but to the larger community and the Assembly District.

Ms. Rodgers thanked the Assemblyman and stated that she was particularly appreciative to receive this award as it acknowledges the important work and contributions that Community and Neighborhood Leaders in San Jose have made and continue to make. She also indicated that she knew that Ash was well aware of all that community leaders do for their neighborhoods as he himself had been one – establishing the Hayes Neighborhood Association where he continues to live. She went on to say that she was appreciative of the support he had also shown during his tenure on the San Jose City Council for District 2, regarding issues of importance to VEP, such as needed improvements for Branham Lane and any issues regarding the planning and development of Martial Cottle Park.

The Assemblyman interjected that while the roles of neighborhood/community leaders was important, he wanted to make it clear that this award was not for community associations, but was indeed being awarded to Marilyn Rodgers herself! President Rodgers thanked him for this wonderful honor.

Ms. Rodgers then introduced the next speaker, stating that it is always an honor to have him attend VEP meetings - D10 Councilman Johnny Khamis. Councilmember Khamis thanked Marilyn. He then provided an update on issues of importance to our area. He wanted to first highlight some upcoming volunteer events. There will be several activities all during the month of April (flyers were provided). He also took the opportunity to talk about the competition that will be taking place along with the volunteer opportunities during the month of April. Traditionally this has been the month of litter pickups and beautification projects. The Mayor is offering prizes to the top 3 high schools in San Jose, based on the most volunteer hours contributed in the variety of sponsored activities throughout the month of April. **Councilmember Khamis really would like to have one of the High Schools in District 10 win this year – as a District 10 High School as never won.**

In addition to the usual litter and beautification projects being scheduled during the month of April, VEP, under the sponsorship of Councilmember Khamis' office, will have a **"Wall Painting Party" for Branham Lane.** This wall has not been painted in over 12 years and it is greatly needed. On **Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 8am**, the wall along Branham will be painted from Vistapark Drive, east, until it ends. The Councilmember has sponsored several "wall painting projects" to date in Almaden Valley, however, the Branham Lane wall is by far the largest wall to be painted. There will be two shifts on that day. **At least 60 volunteers will be needed - 30 per shift. Community Service Hours will be documented for students! (EDITOR'S NOTE: Please sign-up in advance! See the flyer on PAGE 8 of this newsletter for contact and registration information.)**

The Councilmember also provided information on recent issues taken up by the City Council. He highlighted his Community Office Hours, held twice a month in the community at the Almaden Community Center and at Hub's coffee (Flyers were provided).

President Rodgers then introduced the main speaker of the evening, Mackenzie Mosing, Volunteer Coordinator for the "stophedeception" campaign regarding the Evergreen development for Senior housing. Ms. Rodgers stated that she is pleased to

*Continues on Page 3*

have Ms. Mossing come to provide an overview of the project and issues. Ms. Rodgers stated that she is concerned as this project appears to be going around all of the processes put in place by the citizens Commission on Envision 2040 San Jose, which opened and spent over 2 years revising San Jose City's General Plan (Note: VEP's own Dave Fadness was a very active member of that citizens commission). Ms. Mossing then provided an informative overview of this development and the majority of their concerns.

Ms. Rodgers did apologize, saying that at the time that she had invited Ms. Mossing to attend, she wasn't aware that there was an opportunity to have representatives from the developer also attend to provide their viewpoint of this development. She stated that both Erikson Neighborhood Association and the District 10 Leadership Coalition were having meetings that same week to provide such an option for residents to hear. (Erikson's was held March 28<sup>th</sup> and D10 Leadership Coalition's (of which Ms. Rodgers is the Chair) was held on March 31<sup>st</sup>). Both meetings were open to everyone and everyone was encouraged to attend one.

In addition to Ms. Rodgers briefly sharing her concerns regarding this development initiative planned for the Evergreen area, both Assemblyman Kalra and Councilmember Khamis voiced strong concerns about it. In fact, they both announced that the **San Jose City Council had taken a position and a unanimous vote in opposition to this proposal** (something that rarely happens at the City Council).

Ms. Rodgers thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She announced that the next VEP meeting would be held on Tuesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. She also asked that everyone help stack chairs and organize the community room. She also took the opportunity to wish everyone a very nice Easter!

### **VEP Currently Operating "Out of Compliance"; VEP Executive Board Meets to Review Bylaws**

*By Marilyn Rodgers*

On April 3rd, the Executive Board met with a specific agenda for reviewing the VEP Bylaws; and to begin the process for bringing recommendations to the membership for possible solutions and/or revisions.

The Board was pleased to have Past President of VEP Greg West join in for a portion of the discussion. Greg came to ask several questions of the Board, and to help clarify the reasoning/rationale for why specific items and/or specific language had been included in the development of the VEP Bylaws (that the Board was currently questioning).

While Past President West was in attendance at the Executive Board meeting, he provided the Board with a brief history and rationale for specific items in the Bylaws – particularly that of the Community Service Awards. Several Board members had questioned the need to have the CSA's included in Bylaws, which has not been the process used by many other organizations in their Bylaws. This rationale will also be shared at the September membership meeting. The Board has concerns about several items:

- 1) The inclusion of the Community Service Awards (Scholarships for Graduating High School Seniors. These awards highlight the importance of "volunteer activity" by young people) in the Bylaws – which means it was mandatory to provide these each year
- 2) Inconsistent adherence to the VEP Bylaws in regards to various business functions, including: Annual Budget, Annual Goals & Objectives, Board Member Nomination Committee, et. al.
- 3) To increase the number of Board Members from 6 to 9 (or 10)

(based on the current workload for the Board and the amount of projects that need a Board leader).

For all three of these items/issues, **VEP is currently "out of compliance". This published article in the VEP Newsletter is to notify the VEP membership that we are out of compliance with the Bylaws of the association.** The Executive Board also has the intention/commitment of continuing the work needed to be done between April and September for the purpose of coming into compliance, as well as possibly changing/updating/improving the language and terms in the Bylaws (as appropriate), and then bringing recommendations for discussion, change, and approval to the membership at the September meeting.

Additionally, the September meeting is supposed to be where the Annual Meeting is held to review and approve the Goals and Objectives for the coming year, to approve a Budget for the year, and to Elect the Executive Board. All of these items will be agendaized for the September Membership meeting. (Please note: the Executive Board has been re-elected as dictated in the Bylaws, however that has taken place for past several years during the May membership meeting. Goals and Objectives and a formal Budget have either been done by continuing with the previous years, or on an informal basis. However, the Board wants to reassure the membership that the financial health of the organization is very good, and all required processes and signatures have been adhered to).

During the initial review another major issue came to the forefront: the number of years that any given member could serve on the Executive Board – Bylaws currently state that it is 8 years. While the terms for several Board members have gone beyond the 8 year term limit, it is the intention of Board members to continue to serve in their current roles, again until the September Membership Meeting. (This is partially due to the fact that additional work needs to be done for recommendations in this regard, and because VEP does not have formal meetings during the Summer months.)

The Executive Board is eager to have Past Presidents and/or other members of the VEP organization that have an interest in and/or concern about the VEP Bylaws, to join us in meetings between now and September to assist in the recommendations/revisions of the VEP Bylaws which will go forward to the VEP Membership in the September 2018 meeting. Anyone who is interested in joining this work is asked to contact VEP President Rodgers at 408-225-7553 // mroddgersrn@aol.com

### **★★★★★ Announcement ★★★★★ VEP's Community Service Awards (Scholarships for Graduating H.S. Seniors)**

VEP Community Association offers Community Service Awards (scholarships) to graduating Seniors at our two local high schools: Gunderson and Andrew Hill. **An additional scholarship is available to any VEP resident (student or parents must live in the VEP areas - Vistapark, Carson, or Parkview).** For this category, students may attend any high school within the City of San Jose.

Applicants must complete the application detailing the number of volunteer hours earned by the student, at what facilities or, for which organizations they have done this work, and have a recommendation from a teacher and/or school counselor.

#### ***Don't Delay! The deadline is fast approaching!***

Interested students and families may obtain and submit applications to VEP Board Member Ginger Cardona. Please contact Ms. Cardona's at cardona@sbcglobal.net or 408-227-0222.



The following article is reprinted courtesy of the San Jose Mercury News, and was originally printed on Sunday, March 25th, 2018.

## SJPD: Fallen officer honored with plaque at site of 2015 shooting

Article & Photos by Robert Salonga  
rsalonga@bayareanewsgroup.com

Family, friends, police gather at site where Michael Johnson was fatally shot on Senter Road three years ago. Gray skies and steady rain seemed like a fitting background for the police officers, family members and friends who gathered on a sidewalk in front of the nondescript apartment complex on Senter Road.

But for them and the broader San Jose community, the site was where San Jose Police Officer Michael Johnson, already a police folk hero when he was alive, was fatally shot on this exact day in 2015 by a suicidal rifle-toting man who ambushed him and several other officers responding to a 911 call he prompted.

And in almost cosmic deference, the rain let up for the 15 to 20 minutes that they filled the sidewalk and spilled out into the street to commemorate the third anniversary of Johnson's death with a sidewalk plaque near where he died.

"May it serve as a reminder to the city, to all who pass by, his ultimate sacrifice," SJPD Chaplain Jim Becknall said before the assembled crowd. "For years and generations to come as people see it, let it be a reminder also that we will never forget about our fallen brothers and sisters."

The weather reprieve allowed his mother, Katherine Decker, to share solemn moments with Johnson's police family and reflect on how three years have evaporated into memories she can still almost touch.

"When I saw this plaque, so close to where he was killed, it really brought up a lot emotions in me," Decker said. "It never stops, you miss him always."

The plaque adds to a number of tributes to Johnson since he gained the somber distinction as the 12th SJPD officer in department history to be killed in the line of duty. That number tragically increased a year later when Michael Katherman was killed in an on-duty collision while riding his police motorcycle.

A five-mile stretch of Highway 87 between Highway 85 and Interstate 280 was designated the "San Jose Police Officer Michael Johnson Memorial Highway" in 2016. "It's touching that he's being remembered in this way," Decker said, referring to the posthumous honors bestowed upon her son. "I feel so honored that he's not being forgotten."

Nikki Johnson, the officer's widow, shared similar thoughts, and voiced appreciation for the "big blue family" she said has supported her since her husband was killed. That includes the San Jose Police Officers' Association, which paid for the plaque.

"It's such a wonderful gesture," Nikki Johnson said. "I'm so glad they continue to do these things each and every year."

Johnson was one of several rifle specialists dispatched the evening of March 24, 2015, to an apartment complex on Senter Road. It turned out to be an ambush. A suicidal man, whom they had been called to help, shot Johnson as he stood in the street after exiting his patrol car. Another officer returned fire, killing the gunman. The plaque is on the sidewalk between the place on the street where Johnson died and the balcony where the gunman fired at him.

It's one of a number of commemorative gestures in the community inspired by fallen officers. Jeffrey Fontana Park in South San Jose honors Fontana, a rookie cop who was shot and killed in 2001

while conducting a traffic stop. And most recently, plans moved forward for a dedicated San Jose police memorial at the SJPD headquarters on West Mission Street.

Chief Eddie Garcia said that besides honoring Johnson, the Saturday morning gathering was a moment to reflect on how police face mortal risks every time they hit the streets.

"This plaque is not just a reminder for us, but a reminder for the community, of the sacrifice that Michael did, and the sacrifices that are made on a daily basis by the men and women who wear this uniform," he said.

Garcia added that experiencing two officer deaths as a top-level commander, first as assistant chief and then chief, has bestowed to him the gravity of what he asks of his officers.

"I'm not going to lie and tell you there's not a part of me that does not sleep well knowing our men and women are out being proactive to keep our community safe, and that there are dangers that come with that," he said. "They understand the perils of it. They know that's what our calling is."



San Jose Police Chief Eddie Garcia (center), gives remarks as SJPD chaplain Jim Becknall (left side), looks on, during the plaque dedication.



Mrs. Katherine Decker, mother of slain Officer Michael Johnson (**and Vice President of VEP Community Association**), kneels next to a sidewalk plaque on Senter Road that was dedicated on Saturday, March 24th - the third anniversary of when Johnson was shot and killed in the line of duty.

## VEP President Rodgers Honored as a 2018 "Woman of Distinction"

By Rachel Witmeyer

On Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, VEP President Marilyn Rodgers was one of five women to receive a 2018 "Woman of Distinction" Award, given by California State Assemblyman Ash Kalra at his 2nd Annual "Women's History Celebration."

The award plaque states:

*"Thank you for your dedication to improving your community by leading and activating your neighborhood association. Your selfless commitment to educating and empowering residents is an example of leadership for future generations to follow. On behalf of the 27<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, I thank you for your leadership as a woman of distinction."*

Honorable Ash Kalra

VEP congratulates Ms. Rodgers for this well-deserved honor!



City of San Jose D10 Councilmember Johnny Khamis (Left Side), State D27 Assemblyman Ash Kalra (Middle), and Santa Clara County D3 Supervisor Dave Cortese (Right Side) were present to honor Teresa Castellanos as 2018's "Woman of the Year" and 2018's 5 "Women of Distinction": Cao Thi Tinh, Daisy Barocio, Mita Dey, Darryl Ospring & Marilyn Rodgers



Councilmember Khamis, Ms. Rodgers, Ms. Michele deoCompo (D10 Leadership Coalition) and Mrs. Katherine Decker (VEP Vice President)



## Get Ready to Sell That Stuff, Sat., May 5<sup>th</sup> VEP's Annual Community-wide Garage Sale!

By G. Cardona, H. Castillo, M. Rodgers and R. Witmeyer

Are you ready for the big garage sale? This is a great opportunity for everyone in the VEP neighborhoods to sell their stored "treasures" – and make room for some needed space in your house and/or garage. Encourage neighbors to join in with you – and make it a really big and fun event for your street!

Remember, VEP pays for the advertising – the banners and posters, advertising in both print and online. Contact VEP Newsletter Editor Rachel Witmeyer if you plan to participate and would like to have your street specifically listed on Nextdoor, please e-mail just the street name to [vepeditor@gmail.com](mailto:vepeditor@gmail.com). Neighbors are also welcome to post their own notices on Nextdoor to help promote this community-wide event!

VEP is also happy to coordinate with the Salvation Army to provide a pick-up location on May 5<sup>th</sup>, so that neighbors can donate whatever they cannot sell. A donation truck will be parked at Chynoweth and Barron Park (south of Gunderson High School), from 11:00am to 3:00pm. Many thanks to VEP Board Member, Helen Castillo, for making this arrangement with S.A. every year!

Don't delay in your planning! Many of our VEP residents haven't planned quickly enough in the past, and were disappointed that they missed this great opportunity to be included in a large neighborhood-wide garage sale event. Because of the publicity, this event attracts many people and encourages a lot of "traffic" coming into the VEP neighborhoods. So be sure to take advantage of it on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Sit back and let the cash register ring!

## VEP Needs YOU to Volunteer!

### Be a VEP Board Member!

*(Elections Held in September!)*

### Coordinate / Lead VEP Activities or Volunteer Some of Your Time:

- Neighborhood Beautification Projects
  - Community Events and/or Socials
  - VEP Community Service Awards Committee
  - VEP Neighborhood "Welcoming" Committee
  - Mailing of the "VEP News" (Sept.-May)
- and/or

**Distribute VEP Event Flyers (Needed ASAP!)**

**FLYER WALKERS:** Contact VEP Director Helen Castillo  
408-981-5902 // [hcastillo@vbprop.com](mailto:hcastillo@vbprop.com)

**ALL OTHERS:** Contact VEP President, Marilyn Rodgers  
408-225-7553 // [mrodersrn@aol.com](mailto:mrodersrn@aol.com)

## ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP



VEP membership is based on a calendar year, January through December, so it's time to renew your membership. Please be sure to fill in the information requested, enclose your \$20 check made payable to VEP, and mail it 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!

### About the 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 49 years of success in our neighborhoods.



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## VEP Membership Application / Renewal

*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/ mailing 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 to receive my newsletters by email only.
- I prefer to receive my newsletters by email and mail.

Mail your \$20 check to:

VEP  
P.O. Box 18037  
San Jose, CA 95158

*Thank you!*



Office of Councilmember Johnny Khamis  
District 10 - City of San Jose

**Could you use extra income?  
Want to help solve the housing crisis?  
Come find out the "how to" and if an ADU is  
right for you!**

The District 10 Leadership Coalition is hosting a panel discussion on ADUs on **Thursday, April 19th**, at the Almaden Community Center (6445 Camden Avenue) in Room 4 (located upstairs, down the hall, at the end). Check-in begins at 5:00 PM and the panel discussion will start promptly at 5:30 PM and end at 6:30 PM.



Panelists include Michael Brilliot, Division Manager, City of San Jose, Greg Popovich, Owner, Gold Bar Builders, and Mia and Dan Burnham, District 10 residents who are real estate and construction professionals.

Please visit the ADU website at:  
<http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=6054>

**SJPD & D10 Neighbors Take Action!**

The San Jose Police Department is raising the bar for policing in San Jose through improved communication with the City's neighborhoods. Here is a look at the latest success story.



On February 15, 2018 three suspects were in a rear yard of a home. They were able to enter the home through the back door. An alarm was triggered inside the home, and the individuals fled the scene. Neighbors noticed the suspects were jumping fences and they immediately called 9-1-1. Officers responded to the scene, and the suspects fled the immediate area. The same suspects then went to the area of Crown Boulevard and Trinidad Drive. Residents from this neighborhood also noted they were suspicious, and they called 9-1-1, as well. SJPD officers responded to the area and located two of the three suspects, who were hiding in the bushes around the Almaden Country Club. The third suspect was found nearby, and taken into custody. All suspects were apprehended without incident, and it was determined they were responsible for the earlier burglary on Echo Valley Drive. A stolen rifle and other stolen items were recovered in the suspects' car. All three suspects were booked into jail for burglary.

The apprehension of these suspects would not have been possible without the cooperation of both neighborhoods, and their immediate action in calling 911. Councilmember Khamis and Captain Fong of the SJPD encourage all residents to work with the police and with one another, as a team, because when we do, criminals get caught and crimes get solved! And be sure to call 911 to report anything suspicious, like the neighbors did in this case.

WARNING

ALL SUSPICIOUS PERSONS AND  
ACTIVITIES ARE IMMEDIATELY REPORTED  
TO OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

WE LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER!

Neighborhood Watch groups are an excellent tool to help you get to know your neighbors and learn crime prevention tips to protect your home and neighborhood.

If you and your neighbors are interested in learning more about this program, please reach out to:

Grace Kobylinski  
408.535.4983  
[grace.kobylinski@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:grace.kobylinski@sanjoseca.gov)

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South Bay # 408-849-9509

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNNY KHAMIS NEEDS YOUR HELP:

# WALL PAINTING BRANHAM & VISTAPARK

SAT. APRIL 28TH

## Shifts Available:

- 8-11AM: 30 volunteers needed
- 11AM-2PM: 30 volunteers needed

Please contact Michele Dexter to sign up for a shift  
at 408.535.4978 | [michele.dexter@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:michele.dexter@sanjoseca.gov)

*Wear appropriate clothing for painting & closed toe shoes.  
All ages welcome and can count towards volunteer hours.*





Litter pick up  
supplies will also be  
available for those  
that want to pick up  
litter around the  
neighborhood.

Paid for by City of San José



# VEP Community Calendar

🌸 April / May 🌻 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
15	16	17 <b>TAX DAY</b>	18	19	20	21
		<b>PLEASE SIGN-UP TO HELP! 50 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! ←← See Flyer on PAGE 8</b>				
22	23	<b>24</b> VEP Community Meeting ~ 7:30 PM ~ @Vista Park Community Room	25  <i>Administrative Professionals' Day</i>	26	27	<b>28</b> <b>Branham Wall-Painting Project Day</b>
29	30 SJUSD Town Hall 6:00-8:00pm @Lincoln H.S. (555 Dana Ave.)	1	2 District 10 Office Hours 8:30-9:30am @Almaden Valley Community Center (6445 Camden Ave.)	3	4 <b>SELL THAT STUFF!</b>	5 <b>VEP's COMMUNITY-WIDE GARAGE SALE</b> 
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 District 10 Office Hours 10:30-11:30am @Hub's Coffee (630 Blossom Hill Rd.)

## ★ Coming Soon in the VEP Neighborhoods ★

### VEP's Meetings

Tuesday, May 29th

\* Includes Ice Cream Social! \*

Everyone is Welcome!  
Invite a Neighbor!

### VEP Community Events

☆ **Branham Wall Painting** ☆

Saturday, April 28th

<<< Details on PAGE 8

**Annual Community-Wide**

☆ **Garage Sale** ☆

First Saturday in May! (May 5th)

4th of July

🎆 **Fireworks & Festival** 🎆

@Almaden Lake



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April showers    
 Bring May flowers    



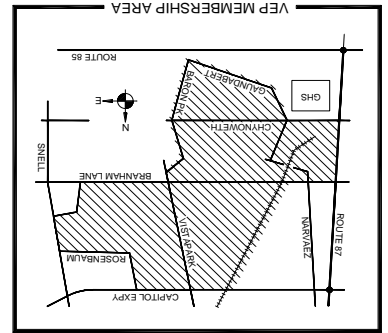
**VEP Community Garage Sale**  
**Coming May 5th!**

*Be sure to attend  
 this month's  
 VEP Community Meeting!  
 Tuesday, April 24th  
 @7:30pm  
 in the Vista Park Community Room  
 475 Hyde Park Drive*

**VEP**  
**Community Meeting**  
**Tues., April 24th**  
**7:30pm**



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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**

A Publication of

**THE VEP NEWS**



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