# VEP NEWS

#### • VEP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION •

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



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The "VEP News" is the official publication of the VEP Community Association, published monthly during the months of September through May each year. We appreciate and will, at the discretion of the VEP Executive Board, attempt to publish any and all articles that will be of general interest to our membership community. 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: 408-728-7296

## **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

## VEP COMMUNITY MEETING

## ► Tuesday, May 29th ◀

Vista Park Community Room 475 Hyde Park Drive

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

## AGENDA

## **☆Ice Cream Social @7:15PM☆**

## ★ Santa Clara County Fairgrounds ★

Update on Redevelopment of Property
Preview of Santa Clara County Fair: August 2-5, 2018

Presentation by

Valerie Merklin, Director of Development and Fair Manager Santa Clara County Fairgrounds

## **★ VEP Business Meeting ★**

Announcement of VEP's 2018 Community Service Award Winners

#### **Business Issues Deferred to September Meeting:**

Recommendations for Bylaws Changes Election of "Slate" of VEP Board of Directors Organizational Budget & Goals

**Announcements & Updates** 

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

#### **Upcoming Summer Events:**

VEP Beautification Day & Neighborhood Clean-Up Saturday, June 23rd - 8am to 11am / Meet at Vista Park

5th Annual - 4th of July Family Fireworks Festival, Lake Almaden

District 10 Leadership Coalition Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Fair ~ August 2018 >>> Watch for more Details!

"VEP Summer Break" June - August

VEP's Next Meeting - Tuesday, September 24, 2018

#### ★ Your Concerns and Ideas ★

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



### VEP's May Meeting Preview

By Marilyn Rodgers

- ► Early Start ► 7:15pm ► Ice Cream Social! The meeting will begin early with an Ice Cream Social everyone is welcome!
- ▶ Meeting Speakers: The formal presentations will follow including an overview and status of the Redevelopment of the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds property, as well as highlights for the August 2-5th Santa Clara County Fair.
- ▶ VEP Business Meeting / Announcements: Please note: All business items that have previously been included in either May and/or September meeting(s) are being deferred to the September 2018 membership meeting. These items include: review of the organization's annual budget, organization's annual goals, presentation of a "slate of names" for the election of the VEP Board of Directors, and a presentation, discussion, and passage of new and/or revised items to be included in the organization's bylaws. 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. Announcements and information will be highlighted for the upcoming events scheduled for the months of June, July, and August. (Reminder: VEP takes a "summer break" during the months of June through August. - Does VEP have your e-mail address? Important if critical issues arise during the Summer months!)
- ▶ 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 7:15pm on Tuesday, May 29th. (Please Note: Late arrivals are always welcome!)

## **April Meeting Synopsis**

By Marilyn Rodgers

President Rodgers welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced current VEP Board members in attendance, as well as Past Presidents. Ms. Rodgers continued by stating that as had also been reported last month, she wanted the membership to be aware that "we are currently 'out of compliance' with the Bylaws." The Executive Board recently met with the specific purpose of beginning the review/identification/and assessment of certain bylaws which may be problematic and therefore need to be changed and/ or clarified. She wanted to publicly thank Greg West, Past President, who also attended the meeting. Greg asked the group probing questions about "why the need to change the bylaws." Several concerns were identified, and once again Greg was able to provide helpful information that included a "historical perspective" of the organization, and why certain items were placed in the Bylaws. Once such area of interest/concern was having the Community Service Awards (scholarships offered by VEP to graduating high school seniors for outstanding "volunteer" service) included in the Bylaws, rather than offering them only as a "program" within the organization. It was a value statement by the organization that the CSA awards would be done each year. The only variable would be the dollar amounts of the awards depending on the financial viability of the organization in any given year. The Executive Board went quickly through all of the bylaws with a goal of continuing this important work over the Summer Break that VEP takes between June and August. The intent being the Executive Board would return in the Fall with recommendations for the membership to consider. Additional suggestions will be to include an increase in the number of members for the Board of Directors - possibly by 2 or 3 additional members. The Board would like to provide more activities and programs. To do this, additional Board members will be required. The Executive Board would also like to include any member and/or any Past President who would like to join in on these planning meetings over the Summer.

Regarding funding the 2018 Community Service Awards, Ginger Cardona, Board Member and Treasurer, volunteered to assure the CSA awards would be done this year, even though the organization was doing them later than usual. Ms. Cardona was present at the meeting, and President Rodgers asked her to make a motion as to the dollar amount for each of the CSA Awards for this year. Ms. Cardona recommended that VEP approve an amount of \$1,500 in order to provide \$500 for each of the three awards. The motion was seconded and approved by the membership.

Ms. Rodgers then introduced the primary guest speakers for the evening, Eric Goodrich, Manager for Martial Cottle Park, who would then introduce Sara Shellenbarger. Eric provided a very interesting and informative verbal presentation. Of particular interest, and very good news, is that the final park "partner" – the Community Gardens (provided by the City of San Jose) - had been approved by the County Board of Supervisors. This has been a long process with several revisions. The hope is the project will move forward beginning over the Summer and Fall, so by the time Eric and Sara return the end of September for an update and an overview of the annual Fall Festival significant progress will have been made. This will be a large project as water/irrigation systems will be implemented/installed for the garden plots. Additional information about sign ups for those interested in having a plot should also be available as the project moves forward.

Eric then provided an brief overview of the temporary change in management at Martial Cottle Park. He will be on a temporary assignment in the Administrative Offices for six months and Sara will become Interim Manager for Martial Cottle Park. Eric was quite enthusiastic and complimentary regarding Sara's skills and abilities and reassured everyone in the audience (who does not already know Sara) that he believes she will do an excellent job, as she has already proven herself in this regard.

Sara thanked Eric for his nice introduction and his trust in her ability. She also voiced her enthusiasm about her new role and how excited she is about all of the progress and programming now available at Martial Cottle Park. Both Sara and Eric had been very enthusiastic in praising several VEP members in the audience who are VERY ACTIVE volunteers already at the Park, thanking both them individually and as a group! Sara went on to provide information about the extensive variety of options and opportunities for people to take advantage/get involved in, should they too be interested in becoming active "volunteers" at Martial Cottle Park.

Eric and Sara both provided some exciting information about the 2nd Annual Spring Festival which was scheduled for Saturday, May 5th. President Rodgers thanked them both for their very interesting presentations, saying it is always so enjoyable to hear how Martial Cottle Park continues to grow and evolve. She also mentioned that May 5th weekend will be quite exciting, because in addition to the Spring Festival at Martial Cottle – which she hopes everyone will attend – VEP is having their Annual (for over 15 years) Neighborhood-wide Garage Sale the same day. So, have your Garage Sale in the morning, and go to Martial Cottle in the afternoon. The weather is expected to be really nice!

Ms. Rodgers also provided information on the upcoming Branham Lane Wall Painting Party which will take place on Saturday morning starting with shift 1 at 8am and followed by shift 2 at 11am. This is the largest wall that Councilmember Khamis has sponsored, so hoping to have a really good turn out of volunteers.

President Rodgers thanked everyone for coming, and asked that they help straighten up the room before leaving for the evening. The next VEP meeting is scheduled for Tuesday after Memorial Day Weekend, May 29th!

### The Branham Lane Wall "Painting Party" By Marilyn Rodgers

On Saturday, April 28th, very early in the morning, a hardy group of volunteers got together, including the event sponsor, District 10 Councilmember Khamis, and also Mayor Liccardo. As a team, they began to re-paint "the Great Wall of Branham." This section goes from Mia, west towards Vistapark, and north on Vistapark Drive for one block. Amazingly it was all done by 1:30pm in the afternoon! It looks amazing! Thanks to ALL of the volunteers, VEP members & VEP Board Members who came to help!



The VEP Board of Directors Invites You to Enter VEP's











Help VEP modernize!

Create an original logo that represents what VEP does and what it means to our community - and you!

Now through August 31st! ~ All Ages! 











1st Place - VEP Membership (1 yr.), \$50 Gift Card 2nd & 3rd Place - VEP Memberships (1 yr.)









Please, Submit Entries Electronically:

Send an email with your Name, Address, and Phone Number. and include your entry as a High-Resolution File

Email to: vepeditor@gmail.com



FINE PRINT: All submissions become the property of VEP Community Association. Following the contest deadline, the VEP Board of Directors will select a group of finalists from the submissions received. The finalists will be presented to the membership at a VEP Community Meeting in September, 2018, to be announced later. Questions may be directed to the entry email.

Join Your Neighbors at VEP's









Vista Park Community Room (475 Hyde Park Dr.)

## Garage Sale ~ "Thank You"

Hello VEP Members, I wanted to reach out to all of you that participated in our Annual Garage Sale. I hope you found this a great way to start your spring cleaning and hopefully put some change in your pocket to buy a margarita for Cinco de Mayo.

A special Thanks goes out to our local Salvation Army for serving us throughout the years. I also want to thank all the volunteers who took their precious time and distributed the flyers, without your help this would not be possible. You are so appreciated! I cannot thank you enough.

I want to wish you all a fantastic summer!!!

## Helen Castillo

VEP Board Member



Save the Date! Annual Community-Wide Garage Sale! ~ Saturday, May 19th, 2019 ~

## **2018 VEP Community Service Award Winners**

By Ginger Cardona

VEP is excited to announce the winners of the 2018 Community Service Awards. VEP CSA's are a valuable way we can reward and encourage students to get involved and give back to their community.

Many applications were received from Gunderson, Andrew Hill, and via our at-large. We select a winner from each of these three groups based on their hours and types of community service, rewarding those who contribute the most to the community.

With the VEP Board of Directors, board, please congratulate the following High School Seniors:

Jenny Duong from Andrew Hill Juliana Pierce for At Large, Pioneer High School Olga Diana Luna from Gunderson

Congratulations! VEP wishes you all the very best!

VEP would also like to thank the judges: VEP Director & News Editor, Rachel Witmeyer; VEP Secretary Adina Pierce (who recused herself from the at-large candidate category); and VEP Past-President Greg West.

## **Resources for Homeless Concerns**

Encampment clean up operations will be coordinated by the agency of jurisdiction:

City of San Jose Homeless Helpline (408) 975-1440 Or Email: homelessconcerns@sanjoseca.gov

Santa Clara Valley Water District (creek areas) Water Shed hotline (408) 265-2600 x2378

Cal Trans (overpasses / underpasses / freeways) (408) 436-0930

Union Pacific Railroad Property (near rail road tracks) (888) 877-7267

City Parks (408) 535-3570

Private Property (contact the owner)

## **THE Resource for Concerns**

... about Graffiti, Illegal Dumping, Potholes, Abandoned Vehicles, Streetlight Outages and more!



"My San Jose"
App for Smartphones

Available from GooglePlay and the Apple App Store

Also Available Online, at https://sanjose.custhelp.com/

## Invitation to Attend City of San Jose D10 Neighborhood Commission Meetings

My name is Rich Giammona. I am a Director on the VEP Executive Board and a District 10 City of San Jose Neighborhood Commissioner. The Neighborhood Commission has been given the honor to form the "Independent Citizen Oversight Committee" for the 2016 Measure B Sales Tax. I am on the committee representing District 10. Meetings are open to the public and I encourage you all to attend.

For More Information:

www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=3562

# Do You Like to Walk Around the VEP Neighborhoods?

By Marilyn Rodgers & Helen Castillo

If the answer is YES, or even maybe, or sometimes... there is a "volunteer activity" that you may be interested in doing for VEP. That activity is providing a flyer to each of our neighbors on exciting upcoming events.

How often is this done – only two times per year – once in late Spring, and once in the Fall. We do not want to overwhelm our neighbors, but do wish to help keep them informed.

How does this volunteer project work. VEP Board Member Helen Castillo helps to organize the volunteers and provide them with a stack of flyers – usually around 200 (you can take more and/ or less). This is usually 2 to 3 hours of volunteer time (depending on how fast and/or leisurely you walk.)

If you are interested, please contact Helen Castillo at hcastillo@vbprop.com or at 408/981-5902.

Everyone in VEP thanks you!

# VEP is an All-Volunteer Organization We Need YOU to Volunteer!

## Be a VEP Board Member!

(Next Election in September 2018)

# Coordinate / Lead VEP Activities or Volunteer Just a Little 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)
  - Distribute VEP Event Flyers to Homes

<u>FLYER WALKERS</u>: Contact VEP Director Helen Castillo 408-981-5902 // hcastillo@vbprop.com

<u>ALL OTHERS</u>: Contact VEP President, Marilyn Rodgers 408-225-7553 // mrodgersrn@aol.com

# VEP Volunteers Make Our Community Even Better!

#### VEP Plans for June 23rd Beautification Event

Hello VEP Members! District 10 Leadership Council grants funds for cleanup projects in neighborhood associations over summer. VEP has decided to participate for this grant if we can get enough volunteers. We are in need of about twenty fun filled people looking to have a great time helping keep our neighborhood looking great! If you think you would like to be part of this group and have June 23rd available from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. we would love to have you. We will be meeting at Vista Park, in the community room on Hyde Park Drive. We will have water and all the supplies for cleanup. I look forward to seeing you there. Please call me or email me to sign up at helencastillohomes@gmail.com Please feel free to call me, Helen Castillo, for any questions at 408-981-5902.

## **Parkview School PSCA Needs Parent Support**

Dear Parkview Families,

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we are in dire need of a PSCA President for the next school year! Please consider stepping up to fill this spot.

In case you are unaware, PSCA is a parent group within the school that helps with fundraising for various activities.

Without this position filled, we will not be able to continue with our Parent Group- PSCA. Without the group we will risk losing MOST of the extra activities for our students. This includes field trips, the music program, assemblies, the academies for Los Culturas and PVCA, and much, much more.

Any parent of a Parkview student is eligible to serve as President. Meeting dates are open for negotiation. For more information, please email parkviewpsca@gmail.com .

Thank You! Ms. Cyndi Lubben

## **VEP Membership Drive Continues**

If you have already sent in your membership renewal for this coming year, thank you! If not, please use the enclosed form in this Newsletter, and send it in today! Thank you so much for your continued support of VEP!

## Members' Comments Included in Recent Membership Remits

The VEP Board appreciates members continuing support through renewing their membership with VEP. Additionally, it is also rewarding to see some of the comments members send in with their membership renewals.

The following are comments recently received:

You do wonderful work! Thanks for all you do!

Bob and I really appreciate all the time that VEP volunteers put in for our community!

Thank you and God Bless You - Good Work

Thank you!

Great Service! Great Newsletter

We appreciate all you do for our neighborhood

Thank you for all of the work and effort in keeping our neighborhood safe and wonderful

Keep up the good work

Thanks for your hard work

Thank you for all of the work you put into the Newsletters





#### **Branham Lane Wall Painting Project**

On April 28th, 29 volunteers painted the big wall on Branham Lane that runs from Vistapark Drive to near Snell Avenue. Once again, Orchard Supply Hardware was out in force working side-by-side with residents to tackle the biggest wall in D10 painted so far – over 16,000 square feet! And once again, our dedicated volunteer contractor, Dan Burnham from Burnham Construction, was the lead organizer for this event. This is the ninth wall we've painted together and Dan has been a superstar volunteer every time! In the photo below he is training a young volunteer, Stephen Dexter, on how to use a paint sprayer so that we could have two sprayers going at the same time. This allowed us to paint our biggest wall to-date, in the shortest amount of time to-date, only 4.5 hours!



Thank you to VEP Community Association President, Marilyn Rodgers, for her amazing support and help with this project. There were various reasons why this wall was different than all the

other walls we have done and Marilyn was instrumental in helping solve problems and help everyone keep the project on track. Aiko Fadness, Ginger Cardona, and a few other VEP residents helped out as well, and we appreciate their support and care for their community.

We are planning to paint the walls on Snell this fall, so watch for announcements and details.





#### From The Office of



#### Celebrate Bike Month and invite a friend for a ride!



You can bike to work, school, or lunch. Have you ever noticed people on bicycles are always smiling? That's because bicycling is a fun activity for almost everyone. Many Santa Clara County residents do not meet the recommended 150 minutes per week for physical activity. People often think that it is difficult to make

time to exercise and stay healthy in their busy lifestyles. When you chose to walk or bike as a daily form of exercise, you will not only feel good, but you will likely meet the recommended guidelines for staying active. Local parks are great destinations for biking and other forms of physical activity. Studies have shown that parks play an important role in improving overall health, including: increase physical activity, decrease the risk of diabetes, heart disease, and obesity and make new connections in our community. Learn more at www.sccphd.org/wechoose

#### Women's Task Force Openings

Are you or someone you know passionate about improving outcomes for vulnerable women and girls in the County? Consider applying for the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Task Force. The Task Force members will provide recommendations by reviewing data and developing recommendations to improve the lives of women and girls in our community. The Task Force is seeking members of the community with the following areas of expertise: Economic development and security; Gender-based violence; Education and leadership; Health care issues; Housing; and Criminal justice. Learn more and apply here before June 1, 2018:

https://www.sccgov.org/sites/bos/bnc/Pages/cedaw-app.aspx

#### Fraud Prevention Seminar

Attention Seniors, Caregivers & Family Members: Please join me for a Fraud Prevention Seminar on Tuesday, May 29, 2018 from 11am-12pm at the Almaden Community Center. Led by experts from the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigations, the seminar will cover Elder Fraud, Auto & Workers' Comp Insurance Fraud. All members of the public are invited to attend this free, informative event. No RSVP required. Come learn about various insurance fraud schemes impacting our County, how to avoid being a victim, how to detect and report fraud. For more information, please contact my office at 408-299-5010.





VENTURA BARNETT PROPERTIES

Helen Castillo

BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS REAL ESTATE LLC VENTURA BARNETT PROPERTIES

5985 Almaden Expressway San Jose, CA 95120

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Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated

Office 408.997.9999 x555 Mobile 408.981.5902 Fax 408.997.1111 HCastillo@vbprop.com DRE #01472483



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 reguested, 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!

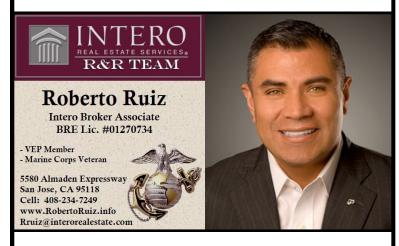
VEP membership is the best value you'll ever experience. Renew today and ask your neighbors to join our growing family. Thank you!

## 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.





Contact VEPeditor@gmail.com

## **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

- er to receive my newsietters 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!

# **VEP Community Calendar**

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¥ ,							
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
20	21	22 HARVEY DAY	23	24	25	26	
27	28  Nemorial	VEP Ice Cream Social and Community Meeting ~ 7:15 PM ~ @Vista Park Community Room	30	31	HAPPY NATIONAL DONUT DAY	2	
3	4	5 ELECTION DAY DON'T FORGET TO	District 10 Office Hours 8:30-9:30am @Almaden Valley Community Center (6445 Camden Ave.)	7	8 Happy Best Friends Day	District 10 Office Hours 10:30-11:30am @Hub's Coffee (630 Blossom Hill Rd.)	
10	11	12	13	14 FLAG DAY	15	16	

## **★** Coming Soon in the VEP Neighborhoods ★

## **VEP's Meetings**

Summer Break \$

Meetings Resume in September

Everyone is Welcome! Invite a Neighbor!



•Sales •Service •Rentals •Body Shop

900 CAPITOL EXPRESSWAY AUTO MALL • SAN JOSE

266-9500

**Serving San Jose Since 1875** 

## **VEP Community Events**

☆ 5<sup>th</sup> Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July ☆



@Almaden Lake

~ FREE Family Fun!!! ~



## **☆ Volunteers Needed!** ☆

Please Contact Denelle Fedor, D10 Council Asst. at denelle.fedor@sanjoseca.gov or at 408-535-4993



Be sure to attend
this month's

VEP Ice Cream Social

& Community Meeting!

Tuesday, May 29th

@7:15pm

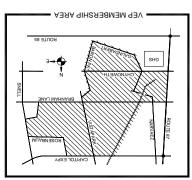
in the Vista Park Community Room 475 Hyde Park Drive





Please, let us know at vep@vepca.net

Would you prefer to receive Your newsletters via email?



VEP BOARD OF DIRECTORS							
mrodgersrn@aol.com	408-225-7553	Marilyn Rodgers	President				
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Published monthly by VEP Community Association, a not-for-profit organization of volunteers established in 1969 to serve and represent more than 2000 homes in the Blossom Valley area of southern San Jose. VEP is dedicated to neighborhood maintenance and improvement in its membership area as well as to active involvement in civic affairs. This newsletter is mailed monthly to all members in good standing, to our advertisers, and to schools and government officials serving our membership area. For membership or paid schools and government officials serving our membership area.

Email: vepca@vepca.net Website: www.vepca.net

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

**VEP Community Association** 

Publication of

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