



VEP NEWS

VEP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION • SINCE 1969

Representing More Than 2,800 Families in the Blossom Valley Area of South San Jose

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VEP's COMMUNITY MEETING

► **Tuesday, September 25th** ◀

Meeting @7:30pm ~ Late Arrivals Okay! ☺

Vista Park Community Room - 475 Hyde Park Drive

► **Everyone is welcome. Invite a neighbor, or two!** ◀

~ September Meeting Agenda ~

☆ Martial Cottle Park - Update ☆

Highlights of 4th Annual
Fall/Harvest Festival, October 6th
Presentation by
Sara Shellenbarger
Interim Manager, Martial Cottle Park
Santa Clara County



☆ VEP Business Meeting ☆

Discussion/Approval of
Changes to Bylaws

Discussion/Approval of
Goals & Objectives for 2018/2019

Discussion/Approval of
Annual Budget



Election/Approval of 2018
"Slate" of VEP Board of Directors

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

☆ Upcoming Fall Events ☆ "Save the Dates"

☆ Your Concerns and Ideas ☆

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

VEP's September Meeting Preview

By Marilyn Rodgers

► **Meeting Speaker:** Update on **Martial Cottle Park** including the highlights of the Harvest Festival scheduled for Saturday, October 6th. Interim Park Manager, Sara Shellenbarger will provide an update on "all things Martial Cottle Park," including the upcoming Festival, and the newly formed "Friends of Martial Cottle Park" organization. Also included will be brief highlights of the just completed **Viva CalleSJ Street Race/Festival**, which will have taken place on Sunday, September 23rd, ending with its final stage at Martial Cottle Park. (See article on page 5 of this newsletter)

► **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: Either the Councilmember or his staff will provide a brief update on the status of the recent approval for the City of San Jose to move forward with the building/development of a **Community Gardens at Martial Cottle Park**. The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors approved the project at their meeting on August 14th (See article on page 6).

► **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, Sept. 27th**. (Please Note: **Late arrivals are always welcome!**)

☆ ATTENTION VEP MEMBERS ☆ Agenda Items Require Your Approval

"Voting" to be held at the September Meeting!

Please be sure to review the information on the following pages before attending the VEP Community Meeting on September 27th.
Thank You!

VEP's 2018-2019 Goals & Objectives

- I. Be an impetus to improve our community and our association
 - A. Create plan to increase membership with a result of at least 250 total members for 2019.
 - B. Prioritize volunteer efforts that reflect member-endorsed improvements in our community.
 - C. Hold a minimum of six general member meetings each fiscal year.
 - D. Create policy and procedure document for normal activities and to reduce the bulk of the bylaws.
- II. Promote Community Interaction, Pride, and Preparedness
 - A. Encourage member participation in neighborhood safety programs, crime prevention, and disaster/ emergency preparedness.
 - B. Continue to sponsor, promote, and financially underwrite community-wide annual events for all residents, such as:
 1. Garage Sale
 2. National Night Out
 3. "Santa in the Park" Holiday event
 - C. Continue to offer at least one Community Service Award acknowledging outstanding volunteer service by high school seniors.
 - D. Initiate projects to improve printed and social media marketing and self-promotion of VEP, as well as neighborhood signage.
 - E. Host at least 2 cleanup/beautification events.

Information Continues on the Following Page (p. 2) →

~ CALENDAR CORNER ~

2018 is VEP's 49TH YEAR!

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 9/23 | "Viva CalleSJ" Event
→ VEP Area Road Closures 10am-3pm
→ Go To: www.vivacallesj.org |
| 9/25 | <u>VEP Community Meeting</u> |
| 10/6 | Martial Cottle Park "Harvest Festival" |
| 10/27 | <u>4th Annual Dave Fadness Beautification Day</u> |
| 10/30 | <u>VEP Community Meeting</u> |
| 11/6 | Election Day! / Get Out & Vote! ☑ |
| 11/25 | <u>VEP's "Santa In the Park" Event!</u> |

VEP NEWS

The **VEP News** is the official publication of the VEP Community Association, a not-for-profit organization of volunteers established in 1969 to serve and represent homeowners in the Blossom Valley area of southern San Jose. Now, in 2018, this has grown to encompass more than 2,800 homes. 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.

VEP News is 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. 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, Mrs. Rachel Witmeyer. Business entities who are interested in advertising with the VEP News are encouraged to contact the Treasurer, Mrs. Ginger Cardona. (See Below for contact information.)

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."

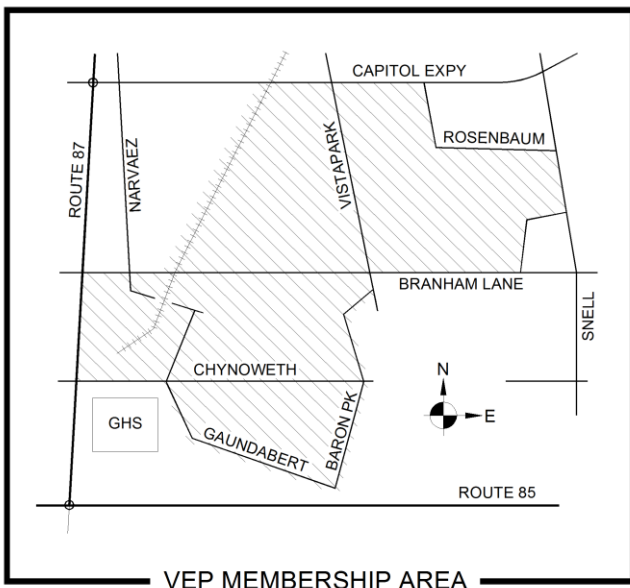
VEP Community Association ~ Executive Board of Directors

President: Marilyn Rodgers - MRODGERSRN@AOL.COM - 408-225-7553
Vice President: Katherine Decker - KDDUCKER@SBCGLOBAL.NET
Secretary: Adina Pierce - ADINAP@YAHOO.COM
Treasurer: Ginger Cardona - CARDONA@SBCGLOBAL.NET
Director: Helen Castillo - HCASTILLO@VBPROP.COM
Director: Rich Giammona - RGIAMMONA14@ICLOUD.COM
Director & VEP News Editor: Rachel Witmeyer - VEPEDITOR@GMAIL.COM

WEB: WWW.VEPCA.NET

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- Join VEP Community Association's Facebook Group -



"2018-19 Goals & Objectives" Continuing from Page 1:

III. Work with Local Government and Businesses

- A. Sponsor Election Forums to educate our members about candidates and ballot issues
- B. Work with City and County government to develop and/or maintain public landscaping in the VEP membership area.
- C. Work with City to provide traffic safety measures on VEP area streets as needed for street racing and donuts.
- D. Monitor and be reactive with the "Park and Ride" lots for development by VTA.

VEP Constitution & Bylaws: Proposed Revisions

Here, we provide a brief summary of the "Draft Revision" of the VEP Constitution and Bylaws. These changes were developed with the VEP Board of Directors and a small group of VEP Members who volunteered their time to this process. The VEP Board of Directors would like to recognize and thank the following VEP Volunteers: Aiko Fadness, Bob Aquino, Dave Noel, and Stephen Kinsey.

To read the full text of the revised documents, please visit our website, at www.vepca.net

Proposed Revisions to the VEP Constitution:

- 1.) Preamble and Article II.b – VEP Area/Boundaries: Addition of the term "Parkview" to represent "Parkview Valley" and "Carson" to align with the neighborhood designations being used by the online forum "Nextdoor."
- 2.) Article I.c – VEP's association "status": Replace "nonprofit" with "not-for-profit" since VEP does not meet the legal definition of a nonprofit.
- 3.) Article VI – Protecting Members' Privacy: Change in process for "Recall" of a Board Officer from the VEP Board of Directors to provide stronger protections against sharing VEP members' personal information. Adds a provision for VEP to distribute a recall petition on behalf of the initiator of the petition.

Proposed Revisions to the VEP Bylaws:

- 1.) Article III – Membership Dues: Confusing & redundant Sections (B) and (C) were combined, updated and clarified.
- 2.) Articles IV.a and XX – Meeting Locations: Revises these sections to reflect the Vista Park Community Room as a standard meeting location and simplifies the language about how membership is notified of changes in meeting locations.
- 3.) Article V – Governance: Added language about outreach.
- 4.) Article IX – VEP Board of Directors: Various roles and/or responsibilities of VEP Officers on the VEP Board of Directors was updated and revised to reflect the current needs, jobs/duties and the manner in which most VEP business is handled. Section (F) was added to allow Officers to switch roles and trade duties, as needed.
- 5.) Article XIV.c – Membership Committee: Updated & clarified.
- 6.) Article XV.c – Funds & Expenditures: Adds a 90-day requirement for all Reimbursement Requests.
- 7.) Article XVII.b - Member Privacy: Omits a provision to disclose the entire membership database to an initiator of a recall petition.

2018-19 Slate for Election: VEP Board of Directors

Nominees:

Cindy Bosworth	Lisa Sanchez
Greg West	Rachel Witmeyer
Laura McGeever	Robert Supencheck
Leonard Lucero	

VEP Bylaws require that the VEP Membership approve a "Slate" of nominees for election to the VEP Board of Directors. This year's election will take place at the upcoming September Community Meeting (9/27). Once approved, the VEP Officers will determine which nominee shall take which role and associated duties. The new VEP Board of Directors will be formally introduced in the October 2018 Edition of the *VEP News*.

VEP's May 2018 Meeting - 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 quickly introduced both the current Board Members in attendance as well as present past presidents.

The first order of business was to present VEP's 2018 Community Service Awards to two awardees present at the meeting: Juliana Pierce and Jenny Duong (Please see photos, below). 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 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. However, this year, the Board is/has recommended that rather than elect the Slate for Board of Directors at the scheduled May meeting, that this item of business be delayed until the Fall/September membership meeting. The election of a "slate" for the Board of Directors will be included then as will recommendations for bylaws changes (if any), goals and objectives for the organization for the upcoming year, and an annual budget. All of these items would be worked on by the Board over the summer months. The Board would then bring back issues/recommendations for all of these outlined business items for the membership to discuss and approve at the September membership meeting. (Reminder: all VEP meetings are open, and members are encouraged to attend and participate as their time and interest allows. So if you are someone who is particularly intrigued by Bylaws, your participation is strongly encouraged, and welcomed!)

Ms. Rodgers then introduced the primary guest speaker Valerie Merklin, Director of Development and Fair Manager for Santa Clara County Fairgrounds. Ms. Merklin provided a very interesting overview of the current status of the Fairgrounds as well as the upcoming Fair scheduled for August 2nd – 5th. The management and the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors are continuing to discuss possible options for usage and plans for the Fairgrounds property going forward. No final decisions have been made at this point. She was excited to announce that the Fair was scheduled for this year, although starting with just a few days – August 2nd – 5th, rather than what had previously been planned in the past – up to two weeks in length. The hope is that the Fair will once again be increa-

sed each year in terms of length of days/time, in numbers and diversity of activities, and in vendors participating in the Fair. So far the community has been very encouraging and supportive of Santa Clara County renewing its commitment to have an annual Fair. Ms. Merklin indicated this was a new role for her, but one that she is enjoying and is committed to seeing that the Fair this year, as well as future years, will be both successful and very enjoyable for the residents of our County. She ended by encouraging everyone to plan to attend the Fair on one or all 4 days the Fair will be running.

President Rodgers thanked Ms. Merklin for her very interesting and thought-provoking presentation. Ms. Rodgers also went on to strongly encourage, once again, members/residents to not set off fireworks, but to volunteer for, and attend the 4th of July Fireworks and Festival at Lake Almaden, sponsored by Councilmember Khamis. Contact Denelle Fedor, Council Assistant to Councilmember Johnny Khamis for additional information, and to volunteer.

President Rodgers also reminded everyone of the upcoming VEP neighborhood cleanup day. This was re-scheduled, so as to not conflict with the day it was originally to take place through-out the City in April – VEP had previously scheduled the Branham Lane Wall Painting very close to that original date.

Also, watch for additional information on the upcoming Public Safety Fair, sponsored by the District 10 Leadership Coalition. It is scheduled for late August, right after school starts. She thanked everyone for coming, wished them an enjoyable summer, and asked everyone to assist in helping organize the room, stacking chairs etc. The next membership meeting is scheduled for September 25th!

In Photos: VEP Community Service Award Recipients

★ Juliana Pierce, Pioneer High School Class of 2018 ★



★ Jenny Duong, Andrew Hill High School Class of 2018 ★



Not Pictured / Unable to Attend:

Olga Diana Luna, Gunderson High School Class of 2018

For more information about VEP's "2018 CSA's," please see the *May 2018 Edition* of the **VEP News**.

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VEP Board of Directors Meets and Works on Association Business During the Summer Hiatus

By Marilyn Rodgers

During the months of June through August, VEP traditionally takes a break – no meetings during those months. However, this past summer, the Board of Directors made a conscious decision and commitment to meet and accomplish preparatory work on behalf of the organization. That work included possible Bylaws changes, supporting the work of Nominations Committee, Chaired by Past President Bob Aquino in recruiting new/additional Board Members; this recruiting effort will be consummated in the development of a “Slate” of Nominated Board Members, that will be presented to the membership at the September meeting; to develop the annual goals and objectives for the organization; and to develop/provide for an annual budget. You will see, under separate items/articles each of the above was accomplished, and is being brought forward at the September membership meeting for members to discuss and approve. **(See page 2 & 3 of this newsletter.)**

Each year, VEP utilizes the development of a “slate” of nominated Board Members for the election process. Many organizations have, in recent years, adopted the “slate” process. What that means is – there is one candidate identified and listed for a specific Board position. This is done rather than having 2 candidates for each position, and a traditionally “political battling it out” between the two or more candidates for each position.

The role of the Nominations Committee is to contact and/or solicit potential candidates, tell them what the role and responsibilities are for each position, and to obtain that individuals’ consent to be placed on the “slate” for the ballot of the group of Board members. This ‘slate’ will then be elected/approved by an “up or down” vote by the membership. Traditionally, for VEP, this means a “vote by the membership” is done at the first subsequent membership meeting, i.e. this year in September. The only additional requirement is that each person who has their name submitted for the “slate” is that they “are a **member in good standing.**” That generally means they are a member who has paid their dues, and has not done anything untoward. In addition to the work of the Nominations Committee in recruiting/obtaining individuals who would agree to have their names placed on the slate for potential election, VEP encourages “self-nomination” – that is, the organization always verbally, at meetings, and in writing, via the newsletter and/or e-mails, encourages any member in good standing to consider running for the Board of Directors. Any member who might be interested, is encouraged to contact the Chair of the Nominations Committee for consideration prior to the “slate” being announced and/or published in the VEP Newsletter. “Self-nomination” is also used when there is a subsequent opening on the Board anytime during the year.

This year the Nominating Committee worked very hard to recruit potential new Board members, as the majority of the current Board members had continued to serve past the allotted number of years of service for individual Board members. **We want to once again, thank all of the current Board members who have continued to serve, as this shows an exceptional commitment to the VEP organization, and to the VEP communities the VEP Board serves!!**

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Summer Events: VEP Leadership & Participation

By Marilyn Rodgers

*** June 23rd – Rescheduled Event for Neighborhood Cleanup and Beautification

A small, but very determined group of volunteers began this very beautiful Saturday morning determined to make a difference in our neighborhood!! While several stayed to work on issues within Vista Park, three of us took off for the far end of Chynoweth, up next to Pearl. Helen Castillo and Steve Stroup made an excellent team in cleaning up one large section of the street gutter filled to approximately 3 inches high with dirt/mud, and weeds nicely growing up tall in the fertile dirt. Congratulations to Helen and Steve because they did make a significant dent in the area they worked on. ‘Yours truly’ decided to pick up litter on both sides of Chynoweth from the end of the Gunderson High School property, underneath Hwy 87 west to Pearl/Winfield. The litter pickup was accomplished on both sides of Chynoweth and in the median. Four very large bags of litter were picked up. We all agreed that it is quite impressive what a small band of “hardy volunteers” can accomplish in one morning!!

*** 5th Annual “July 4th” Fireworks & Family Festival

At this year’s 5th annual event at Lake Almaden, VEP members volunteered to help “staff” several fun booths during the afternoon portion of the event. 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 you who have attended this event all five 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 saying, “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 and the event is free and funded by donations!) This event is enjoyable and well worth the time and effort to put it on for our communities. If you happen to be a parent and/or a grandparent, particularly of young children – this should be a “must attend” for your families. It is a very SAFE, enjoyable, and appropriate event for young children and families. **You won’t want to miss next year’s event!**

Thank you once again to our 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 volunteers who helped with set up the night before; helped with booths during the afternoon; the “break down” of tables etc. after the fireworks; and the “cleanup” of lots of Litter the next morning. VEP was represented in all of these. So thank you all for your commitment to making this a fun and safe event for everyone!

This article continues on page 5 →

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Continued from page 4:

*** District 10 Leadership Coalition-Sponsored Public Safety & Preparedness Fair

D10 Leadership Coalition sponsored its first and very successful Public Safety Fair on Saturday, August 18th. It was held at the Williams Elementary School in southern area of Almaden off of Almaden Expressway and Rajkovich. The focus was on "all things public safety, including representatives/vendors from San Jose and/or Santa Clara County for police and fire, but also included representatives from private businesses as well, such as Ambulances and Tai Qwan Do Martial Arts. Councilmember Khamis came to speak and welcome everyone, and thanked the group of volunteers for such a great job. Several volunteers from VEP came to assist as well.

A special thank-you to two very hard working D10 Leadership volunteers – Raylene Fedor and Michelle deoCampos. Raylene, who not only was the primary author of the BeautifySanJose grant that provided the major funding for this fair, but also was the person who had the vision that such a fair/function would be helpful and useful to our communities. She also was instrumental in contacting many of the vendors who participated. Michelle deoCampos was the second hardest working volunteer leader for this project. However, as any leader will quickly mention, all of the volunteers who helped before, during, and after this event, deserve to be recognized and thanked!

It was also gratifying to know that the majority of vendor/participants asked if we planned to do this event again next year, as they definitely wanted to be asked to participate!

"Viva CalleSJ" Comes to the VEP Neighborhoods

By Marilyn Rodgers

On Sunday, September 23rd, an exciting event will be coming south from downtown San Jose, all along Monterey Highway to Branham Lane, then turning west on Branham Lane, crossing Snell and continuing to a gate/inlet for Martial Cottle Park (across the street from Wells Fargo Bank), and entering "Viva CalleSJ." This is an exciting event that is coming to the north end of South San Jose for the first time! This is a run/race for residents who want to walk, and/or run, and/or ride their bicycles. The event will start at 10am, starting on Monterey in the South of First area of downtown San Jose, and it will last/continue until approximately 3pm, where its final staging area is at Martial Cottle Park.

The good news is it brings a lot of foot/bicycle traffic to our neighborhoods, and an opportunity for many San Jose residents to find out about/become familiar with our area, and to specifically learn more about Martial Cottle Park.

VEP Community Association will have a table/booth, along with Council Office District 10, Johnny Khamis, at the event inside of Martial Cottle Park. This is a wonderful opportunity for VEP to initiate a goal to start participating in Martial Cottle Park's Spring and Fall Festivals. It will be a "trial run" to see what people might be interested in knowing about VEP, and our very long involvement with the establishment of Martial Cottle Park. This will be an opportunity to talk to people (San Jose residents outside of our immediate area) about VEP, about our neighborhoods, and of course, about our special concern and involvement in the development and ongoing success long term of Martial Cottle Park, etc.

The "not so good news" is that **several main streets will be blocked to vehicle traffic all during the time of the event – from 10am (or earlier) to approximately 3pm (or as late as 4pm).** The streets that will be affected in our area will be: Branham Lane will be closed at Monterey and for all streets all along the route west to Vistapark Drive; Branham Lane will also be closed to vehicle traffic – north and south on Snell. Skyway will be blocked at Monterey.

For those wanting to participate in the walk/run/bike street race, there will be places to stop for water and/or food, places to shop, and other resources and accommodations such as public restrooms.

Merchants along the route will have a variety of merchandise for purchase.

The idea behind the walk/run/bike races like Viva CalleSJ is to get people out onto the streets to shop, eat, and socialize. This will be our first experience with this type of event – hopefully everyone will enjoy themselves!

For More Information, please visit www.vivacallesj.org

A Letter To All Those Who Love & Enjoy "Martial Cottle Park"

From the Friends of Martial Cottle Park

Perhaps you walk the trails, enjoy family picnics, attend park events, or learn ranch history at the Visitor Center; or maybe you soak up the views and quiet at the center of this 287 acre park. You might enjoy taking a tour or class presented by Santa Clara County staff, park volunteers or one of the park partner organizations. You may like the variety of wildlife living in the park, or watching the 4-H sheep and steer graze. Perhaps you bike, jog or walk your dog here, making friends along the way. Or maybe you simply take the time to play with your children, photograph clouds, watch the farm crew working in the fields or enjoy a summer movie under the stars. Although it may hold something different for each of us, all can agree that Martial Cottle Park is a unique and special place, a gift from the Cottle/Lester family to be enjoyed, preserved and shared with future generations of Santa Clara County residents and visitors.

If you have ever thought, "How can I help?" there is a new opportunity for you to get involved in supporting this park. This summer a group of volunteers, in collaboration with Santa Clara County Parks, formed a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization called the Friends of Martial Cottle Park (FOMCP).

Our mission is to inspire the community to care for, learn about, and enjoy Martial Cottle Park and the agricultural heritage of Santa Clara Valley by promoting agricultural and environmental awareness and education programs and projects that support and preserve Martial Cottle Park. The Friends of Martial Cottle Park will work in partnership with Park Staff and other stakeholders to support projects and programs that benefit the park, its partners, visitors, and volunteers. The funding will come from a combination of membership donations, public and private grants and fundraising drives.

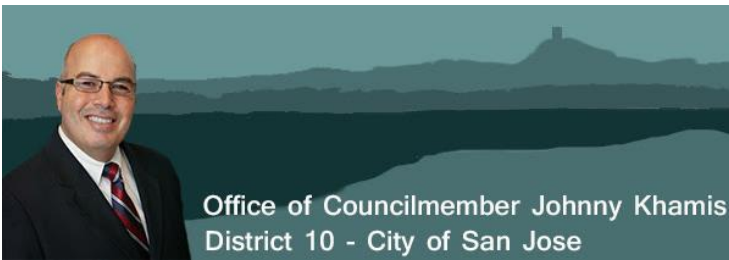
Recently, our Board of Directors issued the first call for volunteers including a link to our Volunteer Application to recruit people to support and serve on a variety of FOMCP committees, and that need continues. Once our filing requirements are completed, we will begin our **Membership Drive** providing you with the opportunity to join with others in supporting this wonderful park.

Yes, Friends of Martial Cottle Park wants to recruit you! As a member of FOMCP, you will be helping to support projects that directly impact Martial Cottle Park and the people it serves. These may include interpretive elements within the park, restoration projects on the life estate, agricultural and environmental awareness and education programs, park facilities and others. These projects are not only deserving of our support, but would not be accomplished without the help of Friends like you, so please consider joining. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, your donation to Friends of Martial Cottle Park is tax deductible (Federal Tax ID #83-1055927).

Watch for our **Membership Application Form** available soon. Members will be listed annually on our webpage Donor Wall.

FOMCP looks forward to your support.





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

Eagerly Awaited Project to Build "Community Gardens" at Martial Cottle Park was Approved on August 14th!

After several years of back-and-forth between the County and the City, an agreement has finally been signed by both parties for the building of the Community Gardens at Martial Cottle Park. Please join me in thanking Parks staff for their hard work and patience throughout these challenging negotiations. And a special "Thank You" goes to Supervisor Mike Wasserman who worked diligently to keep things moving forward to a successful end.

The City of San Jose will be responsible for building, managing, and maintaining this facility that will be located within the County-owned park. The design process is under way and expected to be completed by the end of September, after which an RFP will be issued for contractors to bid on carrying out the plans and creating the garden. If all goes smoothly, construction is expected to start in April 2019, and the community should have access by the end of summer – just in time for fall planting!

The gardens have also been named, by action of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors at their August 14th meeting, the Rusty Areias Community Gardens, for the former State Parks Director instrumental in securing the State funding used to acquire the Lester property for preservation as a park for future generations.

Thank you to all the community members who wrote letters to the County Board of Supervisors and attended meetings to advocate on behalf of your fellow residents. Soon, you will have the chance to enjoy the fruits of your labors!

Introducing Council Assistant Shivani Basnet!



I am pleased to introduce you to the newest member of the District 10 team, Shivani Basnet! Shivani will be taking over Council Assistant Dora Gonzalez's responsibilities and policy issues related to transportation, the environment, immigration and education. Shivani speaks several languages in addition to English (Nepali, Hindi, and Punjabi).

Shivani immigrated with her family to Santa Clara from Nepal in 2010, and has called it home ever since. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of California, Davis. During her time in Davis, she was an intern at the office of Congressman John Garamendi and at Morgan Stanley. Prior to joining the District 10 staff, Shivani worked as a finance assistant for Congressman Mike Honda's 2016 re-election campaign, as the Development and Communications Officer for Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence (a non-profit group), and, more recently, as a Policy Aide for District 9 Councilmember Don Rocha. She cares deeply about women's empowerment, economic development, and public safety. In her free time, Shivani likes to explore new restaurants in the San José-San Francisco Bay Area, read fiction novels, and hike.

Please join me in welcoming Shivani to the team! You may contact her at shivani.basnet@sanjoseca.gov or at 408-535-4982.

Monthly Community Office Hours in the VEP Area:

Hub's Coffee, 630 Blossom Hill Rd. ~ 10:00-11:30am
2nd Saturdays: October 13th, November 10th, December 8th,
January 12th, February 9th, March 9th, April 13th, May 11th

Contact the Office of D10 Councilmember Khamis:
408-535-4910 www.sjd10.com district10@sanjoseca.gov

Visit the VEP Booth at:

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Contact the VEP News: vepeditor@gmail.com



VEP Community Association Invites You to Join Us!

4th Annual Dave Fadness Memorial Beautification Day!

**Vista Park Community Room: 475 Hyde Park Drive
Saturday, October 27th ~ Starting at 9:00am**



We all know how much Dave loved to help keep our community beautiful! His dedication and love of volunteering in the VEP and in greater San Jose is greatly missed.

Please come out for as long as you can to help us keep Dave's legacy of "beautification" projects alive!

Bring your work gloves and help us spruce-up the park!

We hope to see you there!

*** Santa is Coming! ***

*...to the Vista Park Community Room
475 Hyde Park Drive*

**Sunday, November 25th
Santa Hours: 2:00pm to 4:00pm**

Bring the kids, or the whole family, for a free photo with Santa! A VEP Photographer will be on-duty, or bring your own camera.

Fun for the whole family!

*** Crafts! * Refreshments! ***

**Join your neighbors for this
VEP neighborhood tradition!**

*** FREE! ***



VEP Community Association

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San Jose, CA 95158

www.VEPCA.net

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VEP
Community Meeting
Tues., Sept. 25th
7:30pm
Vista Park
Community Room
475 Vista Park Dr.

