



VEP NEWS

VEP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION • SINCE 1969

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



ISSUE: NOVEMBER 2018 ~ WEB: WWW.VEPCA.NET ~ EMAIL: VEPCA@VEPCA.NET ~ JOIN VEP ON FACEBOOK!

VEP's COMMUNITY MEETING

► **Tuesday, November 27th** ◀

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

Vista Park Community Room - 475 Hyde Park Drive

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

~ November Meeting Agenda ~

☆ Holiday Wellness Tips ☆

Presentation by

Laura McGeever, VEP Secretary

☆ VEP Business Meeting ☆

Honoring VEP's Outgoing VEP Board

Announcements & Updates

**Information & Updates from the
Office Councilmember Johnny Khamis
District 10 & City of San Jose**

"Save the Dates"

☆ Your Concerns and Ideas ☆

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

~ CALENDAR CORNER ~

2018 IS VEP'S 49TH YEAR!

- 11/25 **VEP's "Santa In the Park" Event!**
→ Free Photos with Santa! A VEP Tradition!
@Vista Park Community Room; 2:00-4:00pm
→ See Page 3 for More Details!
 - Dec. **VEP's Annual Holiday Decorations Contest!**
"Judging" Begins December 14th!
- ~ 2019 ~
- Spring **VEP Neighborhood Clean-Up Event (TBA!)**
 - 5/4 **VEP's Annual "Community-Wide Garage Sale"**

VEP's November Meeting Preview

By Laura McGeever

There will be a discussion regarding Holiday Wellness. It will cover basic tips for feeling less overwhelmed during the holiday season. This will be an informative presentation to help all of us enjoy the holiday season more.

VEP's October 2018 Meeting Summary

By Laura McGeever and Greg West

Our monthly presentation was from the San Jose Police Department's Lieutenant Carlos Acosta and Nancy Rueda of the Crime Prevention Unit. Lieutenant Acosta reported that there had been 7 burglaries, 5 stolen vehicles, 4 assaults, and 3 thefts in the VEP area over the previous 30 days. Community members reported that there is an increase in the number of cars racing at the end of Chynoweth near Martial Cottle Park; that Chynoweth and Barron Park have suspicious cars parked at about 4:30pm every day; that drivers are speeding through the stop sign near Gunderson; and that cars are parking for long periods of time near VEP Parks. Lieutenant Acosta stated that vehicles can park legally on the street for up to 72 hours, and that any vehicles parked longer than that can be reported to SJPD. Lieutenant Acosta also mentioned that if there are issues or suspicious vehicles or activity, call 911 if there is immediate danger, or call 311 if there is a non-urgent situation to report. Finally, he said that reporting all issues will assist the department in increasing their ability to cover the VEP area. He also gave some tips for ensuring that delivered packages aren't stolen over the holidays such as considering installing a surveillance system.

Ms. Rueda distributed important phone numbers for City of San Jose and County Services and San Jose Police Department Services. She also presented the areas covered by the Crime Prevention Unit and discussed the Neighborhood Watch program. She said that to set up a Neighborhood Watch program neighbors must have at least 10 households attending the Neighborhood Watch session; that the 2 hour session beginning at 6:30 or 7:00 PM on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday must be held indoors and at the end of the Neighborhood Watch session, each household would receive a Neighborhood Watch sign. Finally, she described the MySanJose app that can be used to report Graffiti. If it is gang related it will be removed within 2 hours and a confirmation will be posted through the app.

Councilmember Khamis reviewed the propositions on the mid-term election ballot; provided an update on the Santa Clara County land deal for the widening of Branham Lane to four lanes at Martial Cottle Park; and gave us an update on the homeless stating that CalTrans is cleaning up the shopping carts, and that fencing is being put up under Highway 87.

Leigh Moore GEN LIC 606322



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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, Mr. Leonard Lucero. (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: Greg West - GREG.WEST@EARTHLINK.NET - 408-225-7553

Vice President: Cindy Bosworth - BOZ555@MSN.COM

Secretary: Laura McGeever - LJMCGEEVER@ME.COM

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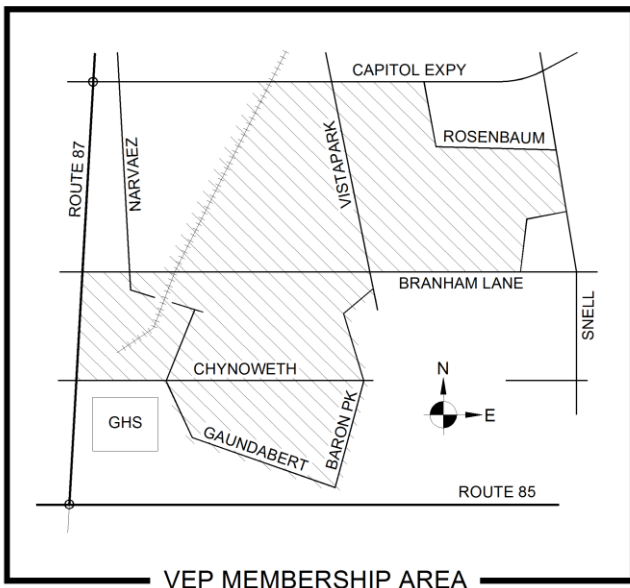
Director: Lisa Sanchez - LISAS.VEP@GMAIL.COM

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WEB: WWW.VEPCA.NET

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- Join VEP Community Association's Facebook Group -



President's Corner

By Greg West

As I write this on the one-hundredth anniversary of the armistice that ended the War to End All Wars (the people that gave WW1 this name had too much faith in human nature), I think about service to the nation and service to the community. I turned 18 just as the Viet Nam war was coming to an end, so, I wasn't asked to serve. My grandfathers, born in 1887 and 1890, were too old to serve at the outbreak of WWI but supported the war efforts on the home front in their own way. My father, however, left college on his 21st birthday, shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, to serve in the Army Air Corp as a navigator on troop transport airplanes in Europe for the duration. I can't help but to think of the sacrifice that so many young men and women made to keep the free world free and safe during both of these world-wide conflicts and that their sacrifices enable us to live free and prosperous lives today.

This is my second stint as VEP president, and I serve my community gladly in honor of the people that served and sacrificed without which our community might not otherwise exist. I was heartened to work with roughly 35 other community and VEP members as well as City employees, a couple of weeks ago working on neighborhood clean-up and beautification projects during the Fourth Annual Dave Fadness Memorial Beautification Day (See the complete article on page 4 of this issue). We got a lot done at Vista Park, along Chynoweth and Branham, and at the Parkview parks. During the next clean-up day, we will concentrate more on the Parkview neighborhoods. We also need to thank Aiko Fadness, first, for arranging the donation of, and providing the goodies in the community room at the beginning of the event, and for allowing us to honor the memory of her late husband and outstanding community member, Dave Fadness, with this event. We also need to thank the Safeway stores at Almaden and Cherry, and at Branham and Snell, as well as the Starbucks Coffee at Capitol and Timberloop Dr. (next to Home Depot) for their contributions of coffee and gift cards used to purchase the goodies that we enjoyed before we started working. Again, we had a wonderful and productive day, and I, personally, want to thank everyone involved.



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By Marilyn Rodgers & Rachel Witmeyer

The 8th Annual VEP Holiday Home Decoration Contest will be held this December, with judging beginning on Friday, December 14th. Do you and/or your neighbors really enjoy decorating the exterior of your houses and/or yards for the holidays? If so, this contest is for you! The VEP Board of Directors is once again sponsoring a contest for the best Holiday Decorating done on a house and/or yard in the VEP neighborhoods – Vistapark, Carson, and Parkview.

As in the past several years, there will be more than one winner! What will you win? Prizes for all the various categories will be a complimentary membership in VEP Community Association for the calendar year 2019 (\$20.00 value each), and bragging rights of course! For the Grand Prize Winner: a yard sign indicating they are the winner, a gift certificate, and membership in VEP for 2019 – and of course, bragging rights! In addition to these winners, there are usually several “honorable mentions” as well. There will be pictures and an article in the January edition of the VEP newsletter, so be sure to watch for it!

The Board of Directors functions as the judges for the contest! However, member and resident participation are greatly encouraged. Everyone can help by notifying the Board at www.vepca.net of houses/yards to consider. Please nominate your house/yard, and/or nominate a neighbor(s) for consideration!

A VEP e-mail announcement will be sent out prior to Christmas, indicating the winners, so that you, your family, and visiting friends and relatives, can drive and/or walk around the VEP neighborhoods to enjoy the spectacular decorations our festive neighbors put up for all to enjoy!



* 2017 Grand Prize Winners *
The Olsens of Amboy Dr.



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!

Bring your own camera!

VEP Photographers will be on-duty!

Fun for the whole family!

*** Crafts for the Kids! * Refreshments ***

Join your neighbors for this VEP community tradition!



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VEP's 4th Annual Dave Fadness Memorial Beautification Day

Article Written By Robert Supencheck
Photos By Dave Noel & Lisa Sanchez

The turnout for our 4th annual Dave Fadness Memorial Beautification Day was great! The projects we worked on were:

- Bush trimming and cleanup along Branham Lane
- Tree planting at Vista Park
- Pruning at Vista Park
- Spreading wood chips at Vista Park
- Cleaning and litter pick up at Parkview Parks 1 & 2
- Pruning, raking and sweeping at Parkview Park 1
- Sweeping and raking along the extended fence at the corner of Vista Park Drive and Branham Lane
- Leaf raking and litter pick up along Chynoweth Avenue, from highway 87 to Pearl Avenue

We thank all the volunteers for their time and effort toward honoring Dave Fadness' legacy by beautifying our great neighborhoods.

Among these volunteers were:

Nancy Alsobrook
Cindy Bosworth (VEP Vice President) and Robert Bosworth
Ginger Cardona (Past VEP Treasurer)
Lori Clark (Dave's Sister)
Dave, Debbie, and Ethan Danitz
Aiko Fadness (Dave's Widow)
Ian Jones
Johnny Khamis (District 10 Councilmember), and his son
Carol and Frank Lettieri
Clarence M. (Aiko Fadness' Brother)
Richard Maresas
Laura McGeever (VEP Secretary), and Alycia & Marc McGeever
Jeannette Moghrabi
Jonethan Nguyen
Dave Noel (Past VEP President, ENA President)
Thryo'ng Pham
Marilyn Rodgers (Past VEP President)
Lisa Sanchez (VEP Director)
Kristine Sellas
Bob Shoberg
Robert Supencheck (VEP Director) and Josie Supencheck
Greg West (VEP President), Robin West
Rachel Witmeyer (VEP Director)
Keven Yarg, and
Bonon Zhang

and from the city of San Jose Parks Dept.:

Aminah, John Dixon, Melody Goodwin, and Mollie Tobias

~ THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS ~

On Saturday, October 27, 2018, we were blessed for the fourth time with a gloriously sunny day to work on cleaning up our community. It was heartwarming to know that after his death on September 29, 2015, volunteers continued to keep alive David's legacy of beautification projects. These volunteers included VEP members who have lived here for decades, folks who came for the first time after learning about it on Nextdoor, and a multiple of good people in between. It was wonderful to see young children with their parents and high school students who want to fulfill their community service requirement. David's sister, Lori Clark, traveled from Wisconsin to once again volunteer with our community in this annual event which took planning and cooperation among many people.

My sincere gratitude is expressed to past and present VEP Board members who put the event together with the help of City of San Jose staff. Thanks to Mollie Tobias, Volunteer Coordinator for SJ Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, and her crew: John Dixon, Senior Parks Maintenance worker; Melody Goodwin, Vista Park gardener; and other city workers on site for the event.

Appreciation is expressed to the Safeway Stores at Branham/Snell and Almaden Expressway/Cherry for donations of bottled water and donuts, and to Starbucks at Capitol Expressway/Hwy 87 for fresh coffee and condiments for our volunteers. It's a pleasure to know that these merchants generously support our community.

Thanks to our District 10 Councilmember Johnny Khamis who can always be counted on to volunteer his services at our events. For this year's beautification day, he left with blisters on his hand for his efforts. I'm quite sure others went home with aches and pains after several hours of hard work, but with pride in their hearts for a job well done.

David's spirit of volunteerism is alive and well. My sincere gratitude and appreciation to each and every one who devoted a Saturday morning to making our community a clean and beautiful place in which to live.

With warmest thanks,

Aiko Fadness



Signing-In / Dave Noel wears the T-Shirt Dave Fadness designed.



Working outside the Vista Park Community Room, in front of Dave Fadness' Memorial Bench



Above (Left to Right): City Parks Staff - John Dixon & Mollie Tobias, Lori Clark, Clarence M., Aiko Fadness, Robert & Cindy Bosworth

We Volunteers

Above in Foreground (From Left to Right): Dave Noel, Greg West, & Marilyn Rodgers



7 Days of Fantastic Holiday Savings

For smart travelers, the 19th - 21st and the 25th are the best days to catch bargain flights, so book quickly!

Need a camera to capture important memories? 3 refurbished cameras top rated by TechRadar are on sale at Canon.com!

This Christmas falls on Saturday, so on the days prior, look out for extended hours (sometimes up to 24 hours) at top stores like Kohl's, Macy's, Toys R Us, and others.

Since newer model laptops tend to launch in January, Amazon & Apple stores have awesome discounts on new and refurbished items, respectively.

The day after Christmas is most popular for returns. Due to heavy foot traffic, stores can offer deep discounts on clearance.

Winter is a perfect time to update your look and get deals on cosmetics and clothing which usually have designer items on massive sales to make way for the next season's look.

Unhappy with your gift card present? Check out sites that let you trade in your gift card for cash or exchange for something more suitable (like GiftCardGranny.com, CardCash.com, or Raise.com).

Apple Pizza Pie

Shared by Laura McGeever

Pastry for single crust pie:

1 1/3 cups flour 1/2 teaspoon salt
 1/2 cup shortening 3 Tablespoons water
 Mix flour and salt in a large bowl.
 Cut-in shortening with pastry blender.
 Add water; stir with a fork.
 Shape into a ball and roll into 13-14 inch circle.
 Place on ungreased pizza pan. Turn edges under and flute.



Meanwhile, make the pie filling and crumb topping:

1/2 cup sugar
 1 teaspoon cinnamon
 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
 4 tart apples, peeled, cored and sliced 1/4-inch;
 1/2 cup sugar
 3/4 cup flour
 1/2 cup butter (chilled)

Preheat oven to 450 degrees.
 Combine 1/2 cup of the sugar, cinnamon and nutmeg.
 Mix apples with cinnamon-sugar, then place mixture on prepared crust.

Mix other 1/2 cup sugar, flour and butter with pastry blender until crumbly. Sprinkle on top of apples. (Wrap and refrigerate 1 day if needed.)

Bake 20-25 minutes until crust is golden brown and apples are tender.

Best served warm with ice cream.

KEEP YOUR HO-HO-HOME ENERGY EFFICIENT & SAFE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!



Plug your holiday lights into a **timer**



Replace your **furnace filter** monthly to keep your furnace running **efficiently**



Never run electrical cords under rugs or carpeting. This is a **fire hazard!**



Cook your holiday meal in a **slow cooker** for only about **17 cents** worth of energy



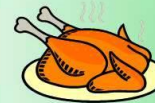
Buy **Energy Star LED** lights for **70% less energy use**



Cook as many dishes as possible in your microwave for **75% less energy use** than a conventional oven



Use reflective **ornaments** and **tinsel** for **energy free** decorating



Don't open the oven door to take a peek at that turkey. Use the oven light instead.

Opening the oven door lowers the temperature by 25 degrees which increases cook time and wastes energy.

If all decorative lights sold in the U.S. this year were ENERGY STAR certified, the energy cost savings would grow to about **\$195 million** each year!



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Holiday Safety Checklist

Delivery Alternatives



- Schedule deliveries on days when someone will be home (weekends)
- Deliver packages to your work address
- Ship deliveries directly to the store for pick up
- Utilize shipping locker kiosks, when available
- Reroute delivery to a trusted neighbor or relative who is home
- Request a "Hold for Pick Up" or "Hold Mail" at your local USPS
- Require signature (someone will still need to sign!)
- Use a planter or gate to obstruct the street view of your porch
- Do NOT let packages sit on your porch, especially overnight
- Track your package & set up Delivery Alert then text a neighbor or friend to grab it for you!
- Obtain a P.O. Box, it will be worth the peace of mind

Holiday Shopping Tips



- Don't announce you are "away for the holidays", wait until you return home then go for it!
- Opt for a house sitter (college student, newlyweds, single friends...)
- Do NOT advertise your Black Friday deals or those great gift on social media
- Don't leave anything in vehicle (even sweaters or water bottles)
- Make purchases with a credit card v.s. ATM/Debit, tis the season for identity theft
- Put everything in the trunk of your car, **prior** to reaching your destination
(Thieves are watching shoppers & can open the trunks by breaking into the car)
- Create a dedicated email address exclusively to be used for on-line shopping
- If you are out for the evening: Leave lights, radio or TV on, this will create an illusion you're home
- Take the time to cut up big cardboard boxes & dispose inside your recyclable bin
(Leaving flatten boxes next to garbage bins displays those pretty, big box purchases)
- When you're away from home, keep side gates, windows, garage & back doors locked, at all times
- Get to know your neighbors, keep an eye out over each others homes when away for the holidays
(exchange telephone #s, send a quick text if somethings suspicious)
- Keep the garage remote with you, so thieves don't have easy access if breaking into your car
- If finances permit
 - Install visible security cameras and/or smart doorbell
 - Install a heavy duty, metal security screen door
 - Be a fur-ever home & adopt a dog from a shelter 🐶

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