



★ 2019 IS VEP'S 50TH YEAR! ~ CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE, ACTION & ADVOCACY ★

ISSUE: JANUARY 2019 ~ WEB: WWW.VEPCA.NET ~ EMAIL: VEPCA@VEPCA.NET ~ JOIN VEP ON FACEBOOK!

VEP's COMMUNITY MEETING

► **Tuesday, January 29th** ◀

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

Vista Park Community Room - 475 Hyde Park Drive

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

~ January Meeting Agenda ~

☆ Homelessness in the City of San Jose ☆

Presentation by

Kelly Hemphill

Homelessness Response Manager
City of San Jose

☆ VEP Business Meeting ☆

Announcements & Updates

Honoring VEP's Outgoing Board

Information & Updates from the
Office of 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 2019 ~

Starting in January: VEP 2019 Membership Drive!

→ Renew or Join Today! Tell a Neighbor!

→ See Page 7 For Your Membership Form!

Coming this Spring: March or April – TBA!

VEP's Annual Spring Neighborhood Clean-Up Event

Saturday, May 4th: Annual VEP Community Garage Sale

→ Plan now to take part in this profitable tradition!

May: VEP's "Community Service Awards" for HS Seniors

Watch for Details in Future Issues of the VEP News!

VEP's November 2018 Meeting Summary

By Laura McGeever and Greg West

The attendance at our November meeting was reasonably small, with about 20 people in attendance including board members. However, this did allow for some interesting and in depth discussion of neighborhood related topics. Greg West reported that Santa in the Park was attended by about 40 children and thanked those who helped set up and brought refreshments for the children.

Laura McGeever then presented some holiday wellness tips including remedies for holiday blues including loneliness, loss, and missing holidays past. If anyone is interested in getting a copy of Laura's presentation, send an email to VEPEditor@gmail.com.

Greg then presented a plaque to previous treasurer and board member Ginger Cardona recognizing her dedicated service to the organization from 2009 to 2018. Greg also mentioned that other officers' service would be recognized at future meetings.



The group then discussed the Holiday Home Decoration Contest, deciding on three categories: Best Decorated Home; Best Theme Decorated Home; and Best Decorated Street. Best Decorated Home and Best Theme Decorated Home would receive \$25 gift cards to Oakridge Mall, and Best Decorated Street would get bragging rights. The judges were Greg West, Cindy Bosworth, Lisa Sanchez and her two daughters (winners are reported in the President's Corner article).

We discussed the membership drive, the need for remittance envelopes, the 1st of the year postal rate increase, and the membership solicitation letter. We also discussed adding a feature to the Newsletter highlighting areas of the community for people to explore (see the first installment by Lynne Kinsey elsewhere in this edition); traffic, including speeding on Branham and Capitol and possible remedies; and the widening of Branham Lane at Martial Cottle Park. Finally, we noted that there has been stronger fencing put up on Branham Lane to minimize the encampments.

President's Corner

By Greg West

First of all, I'd like to thank Councilmember Khamis, his staff, and the City of San Jose for putting up the strong fencing at Branham Lane and Hwy 87 that is keeping homeless encampments from congregat-

Continues on Page 2 →

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 2019, 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

Treasurer: Leonard Lucero - LEONARDLUCEROJR@YMAIL.COM

Director: Robert Supencheck - ROBERTSUPENCHECK@GMAIL.COM

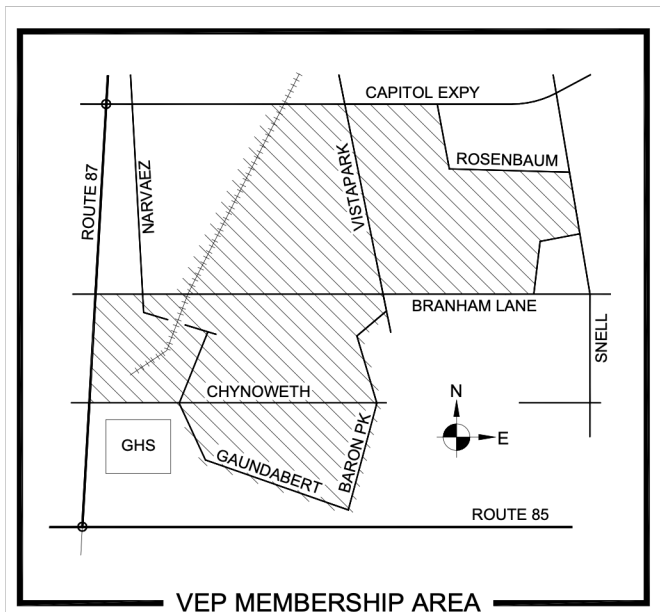
Director: Lisa Sanchez - LISAS.VEP@GMAIL.COM

Director & VEP News Editor: Rachel Witmeyer - VEPEDITOR@GMAIL.COM

WEB: WWW.VEPCA.NET

EMAIL: VEP@VEPCA.NET

- Join VEP Community Association's Facebook Group -



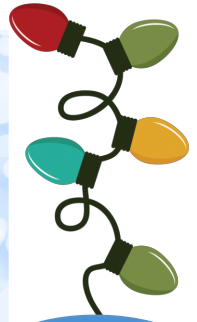
Continued from Page 3

-ing there. In addition, a CalTrans crew was out on January 11th cleaning up the encampments at Hwy 87 and Chynoweth (we will try to provide more detail about this and report back next month).

Homelessness in Silicon Valley is an issue that needs to be dealt with and solved, but allowing encampments, especially in the cold and wet weather that we've been having recently, is the wrong way. In addition, the accumulated junk at many encampments is not only an eyesore, but is a safety and health risk, not only for the campers, but for people walking by, and especially for the crew that cleaned it up. The City and County do provide services, funded by our tax money, for these unfortunate homeless folks.

Kelly Hemphill, Homelessness Response Manager for the City of San Jose will be our main speaker this month discussing homelessness in San Jose and what solutions/strategies the City has for this issue.

On a lighter side, the results of the 2018 VEP Holiday Home Decoration Contest are in!



See Page 5
for Photos!

The Winners!

♦ *Best Decorated House:*

Honorio Silveira - 4178 Dulcey Drive

♦ *Best Themed House:*

Brian Rudy - 4173 Monet Circle

♦ *Best Street:*

Savendish Court

The Best Decorated and Best Themed winners each received \$25 gift certificates from Oakridge Mall, and the Best Street has bragging rights.

The judges were Greg West, Cindy Bosworth, Lisa Sanchez and her 2 daughters, Samantha and Mila. Judging was done between December 14th and December 16th, with judges viewing all the neighborhood streets in the VEP area.

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Neighborhood Commission Update

By District 10 Neighborhood Commissioner, Rich Giammona

What is the City of San Jose Neighborhood Commission? We are a group of 20 citizens (2 from each district in San Jose) elected by community leaders, to work on issues such as code enforcement, public safety, department of transportation, and budget. As your representative on the commission, I've been primarily focused on the Citizens Oversight Committee that is monitoring the spending of the ¼-cent Sales Tax Measure passed in 2016. If you forget, below, please find a summary of the measure details.

To fund essential City services such as: improving police response to reduce violent crimes and burglaries; improving 911/emergency medical/fire response times; repairing potholes and streets; expanding gang prevention; and maintaining the City's long-term financial stability, shall the City of San Jose enact a ¼ percent sales tax for 15 years, providing about \$40 million annually, requiring Independent Citizens Oversight with public review of spending, and all revenues controlled locally?

This is a link for our report from the 2016-2017 year:

<http://www.sanjoseca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/79050>

Currently we are working with the budget department in reviewing the spending of money from 2017-2018. The report will be released by the committee most likely late June 2019. I'll keep you posted.

On a side note: If you ever want to attend the meeting, review agenda or see the minutes from our meetings these links will provide all the insight:

Agenda: <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=3562>

Commission Info: <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=376>

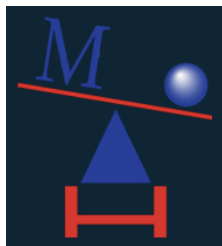
Contact Rich Giammona → nc10@sanjoseca.gov

Enjoy the Bay Area: Museum of American Heritage

By Lynne Kinsey

Stephen and I agreed to write articles for the VEP newsletter about places to visit in the bay area—quick drives and 1-day Trips. There are so many scenic, historic, and natural places to visit located close to us. Some are in San Jose, and others are in nearby communities. One place that we like to visit is the Museum of American Heritage (MOAH) in Palo Alto.

We joined the Museum of American Heritage last year, because they were having an open house in their San Carlos warehouse where we could see their stored artifacts. The museum is free to everyone, but, as members, we also get to attend their quarterly lectures/concerts. Their exhibits are not huge but they are interesting and enjoyable. Located in the 1907 historic home & garden of Dr. Thomas Williams at 351 Homer St, Palo Alto. It is open Fri.-Sun., 11am-4pm. Dr. Williams' medical office with his original tools and devices is one of the rooms on display.



Right now there are the permanent exhibits and some 1-room changing exhibits:

Quack medicine

Vintage toys-until 2/17/19

I enjoyed seeing many items my father and aunts had in their homes. In the toy exhibit there were several toys I remember having. Take your family and friends!

MOAH Website: www.moah.org

We will share other nearby locations in future issues! Please let us know if you have a favorite place or an accidental find that you'd like to share or for us to visit & share, by sending us an email at, kinsey618@gmail.com

Have You Noticed the New Trees on Capitol?

By Ginger Cardona

With the various changes and improvement projects on Capitol Expressway in the recent years, all the trees had been removed between Narvaez and Copperfield. In addition, trees had to be removed due to accidents between Copperfield and Vistapark.

With a lot of research and communication, we were able to work with the county to get the trees replaced, increasing the beauty, safety, and greenness of Capitol.

We thank the county for working with the federal government to get a grant to replace the trees. "I am proud of the latest work that the county's roads and airports department has done to plant several trees on Capitol Expressway between Copperfield drive and Narvaez Avenue," said Santa Clara County Supervisor, Mike Wasserman.

The Roads and Airports Department has said that the new trees will be connected to an irrigation system, with a timer, and the current plan is to include them in the maintenance schedule with the existing trees in the median.

Additional work is still taking place down Capitol.

Please see this website:

<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/rda/pns/cp/its/pages/its.aspx>

Help Prevent Fireworks in VEP Neighborhoods!

Information Shared by San Jose Neighborhood Commission

The City of San Jose has provided some new resources for citizens to use on social media (like Facebook, Instagram, and Nextdoor), to help prevent the use of fireworks in our area!



Check out all the tools for all your "posting" needs, as well as printable postcards, and other resources:

[Link to Social Media Kit from the City of San Jose:](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?nid=6123)

<http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?nid=6123>

[Link to Fireworks FAQ's from the City of San Jose:](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/faq.aspx?tid=133)

<http://www.sanjoseca.gov/faq.aspx?tid=133>

[Link to Report Illegal Fireworks:](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/fireworks)

<http://www.sanjoseca.gov/fireworks>

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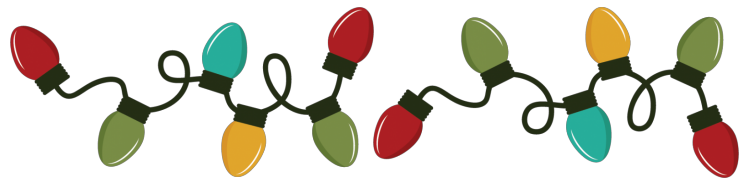
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- Marine Corps Veteran

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★ Holiday Fun with VEP! ★

~ VEP's 11th Annual Santa in the Park ~
 Sunday, November 25th, 2018





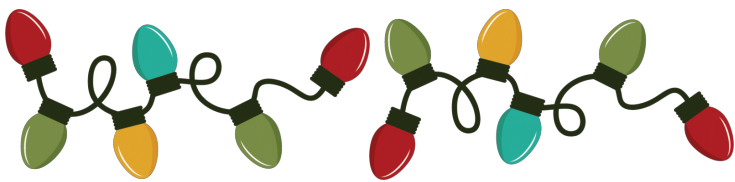
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❄️ New Year Reminders ❄️

Important Phone Numbers / Contacts

The City of San Jose & The County of Santa Clara



Winners!

~ December 2018 ~



Best Decorated House: 4178 Dulcey Drive




Best Themed House: 4173 Monet Circle



Best Street: Savendish Court

San José Emergency Calls	9-1-1
San José Emergency Calls from a cell phone	408-277-8911
San José Non-Emergency Calls	3-1-1
San José Non-Emergency Calls from a cell phone	408-277-8900
Crime Prevention Unit - Neighborhood Watch, Personal Safety and Community Education Meetings	408-277-4133
Family Violence Center	408-277-3700
Records - Police Report Request Information	408-277-4143
Vehicle Impound/Stolen Confirmation Line	408-277-4263
Traffic Enforcement	408-277-4341
TABS - Truancy Abatement Burglary Suppression	408-926-TABS (8227)
24 HOUR ANONYMOUS TIP LINES	
Crime Stoppers	408-947-STOP (7867)
Drugs	408-971-DRUG (3784)
Gangs	408-293-GANG (4264)
Internet	
San José Police Department Website	sjpd.org
Crime Statistics - View Recent Crime in Your Neighborhood	crimemapping.com
Crime Statistics - View Calls for Service and Crime Data	crimereports.com
Crime Stoppers - Anonymous Tip Line	svcrimestoppers.org
Megan's Law - Information on registered sex offenders	meganslaw.ca.gov

How to access My San Jose:	
1. Call Customer Contact Center	408-535-3500
2. Download the Mobile App: My San Jose	
3. Online access - sanjoseca.gov/mysanjose	
	
What to report with My San Jose:	
Abandoned vehicles, graffiti, code enforcement issues, pot holes, street lights and other services.	
City of San José Animal Care and Services	408-794-7297
Santa Clara County Animal Control	408-201-0660
Anti-Graffiti & Anti-Litter Program	408-975-7233
Code Enforcement Department	408-535-7770
Homeless Hotline: Concerns/Encampments	408-975-1440
Homeless Helpline: Resources/Services	408-510-7600
Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force - Youth Services	408-794-1630
Santa Clara County Resource Helpline	2-1-1
Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office	408-808-4400
Conflict Resolution 24-Hour Hotline	408-792-2327
Parent Project Program - Parenting Classes	408-808-3794
CPS - Child Protective Services Hotline	408-299-2071
APS - Adult Protective Services Hotline	800-414-2002
Cal Trans - Overpasses/Underpasses/Freeways	408-436-0930
To report homeless encampments, graffiti and illegal dumping	
Union Pacific Railroad - Near Railroad Tracks	888-877-7267
To report homeless encampments, graffiti and illegal dumping	
Internet	
City of San José	sanjoseca.gov

TOGETHER WE ARE SAFER

Host a Neighborhood Watch (408) 277-4133

San José Police Department - 201 W. Mission Street, San José, CA 95110



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

The “Reducing Crime and Keeping California Safe Act of 2020” and Prop 57

The San José police have recently announced that they have begun turning suspects accused of gun crimes over to Federal prosecutors so that they might obtain harsher penalties in Federal court than they would in State courts. These offenders have been getting off with light penalties in State courts due to reductions in mandatory minimum sentencing created by Proposition 57. I am thrilled with this new approach that San Jose Police Chief Eddie Garcia has implemented to help fix the unintended consequences of recent, voter-approved public safety reforms and keep us safe.

Proposition 57, approved by California voters in 2016, gives “nonviolent” offenders the ability to apply for early parole, as well as other opportunities at lessened punishment provided they complete rehabilitation programs. This poses an issue for the safety of the community because several inherently violent crimes are now classified as nonviolent.

The following are not considered to be violent felonies under now-current California law: Human trafficking of a child, abducting a minor for prostitution, rape by intoxication, rape of an unconscious person, felony sexual penetration when drugs are used or the victim is unconscious, drive by shooting, assault with a firearm, felony domestic violence, felony assault with a deadly weapon, serial arson, solicitation to commit murder, assault with caustic chemicals, assault by a caregiver on a child under 8 that results in death or coma, felony assault using force likely to produce great bodily injury, false imprisonment/taking a hostage when avoiding arrest or to use as a shield, assaulting a police officer with or without a firearm, exploding a bomb to injure people, felony hate crime, any felony when a deadly weapon is used, felony use of force or threats against a witness or victim of a crime, felony elder or dependent abuse, and conspiracy to commit any of the above offenses.

San José detectives will now be working with the FBI on cases where a gun is used so that the FBI may consider the case for Federal prosecution. This would allow prosecutors to sentence violent criminals with significantly longer mandatory minimum sentences than if only state charges were applied.

This Federal prosecution tactic will be strictly focused on the following crimes: armed robberies, armed carjacking, felony arrests for possessing handguns, and drug trafficking. Crimes where a gun was fired, and not fired, but present during the crime, will be treated with the same level of seriousness, because of the potential risk of harm to the community.

Proponents of Proposition 57 need not worry, since San José detectives are only focusing on these four crimes, since the SJPD’s focus is on violent offenders. This will not eliminate Proposition 57 in any way, but rather offers a creative solution for the unintended consequences created by its passage.

I am grateful to Chief Garcia for his passion for closing the revolving door of criminals re-entering the system after only brief prison or jail time. This new focus by the San José Police Department will strengthen their relationship with the community and help keep us safe from repeat, violent offenders. If you would like to read more about the impact Proposition 57 has had on crime in California, and the details about realignment, check out my memorandum of support for the Reducing Crime and Keeping California Safe Act of 2020.

<https://sanjoseca.sharepoint.com/teams/Council/District10/Policy/2018-04-26%20Reducing%20Crime%20and%20Keeping%20California%20Safe%20Act%20of%202018-GNK.pdf>



2019 has kicked off in full gear and Santa Clara County is well-positioned to meet our housing, safety, and community service goals. Since the Affordable Housing Bond passed in November 2016, the County has approved 19 multi-family housing developments across six cities, equating to 1,437 new affordable apartments and 484 renovated ones. By collaborating with the City of San Jose, the Housing Authority and Destination: Home, the “All the Way Home” housing effort has resulted in housing for 1,237 local veterans to date and our Landlord Incentives Program has increased ongoing funding for supportive housing programs for homeless veterans by \$1.8 million annually.



I am also proud that the County approved \$10 million in matching funds for many new all-inclusive playgrounds for children of all abilities. Soon our County will have Magical Bridge Playgrounds located in San Jose, Morgan Hill, Sunnyvale, Mountain View and Palo Alto to provide a fun space for people with autism, sensory challenges, cognitive developmental, physical disabilities, as well as those without special needs. In addition, we just approved several more playgrounds including one at Lake Almaden.

Through another collaborative effort between the County and the City of San Jose, **safety and traffic on Branham Lane and Snell Ave will be improved.** Thanks to an innovative exchange of parkland, plans are now moving forward with a **street-widening project near Martial Cottle Park.** I am grateful for Councilmember Johnny Khamis’s dedication to working with us on this win-win for County residents.

I firmly believe that 2019 will be another great year for our County residents. The reason why Santa Clara County is one of the best places to live in the country is because we all work to improve the lives of everyone. And last but not least, I hope 2019 is a healthy year for all of you!

Mike Wasserman
Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, District 1
www.supervisorwasserman.org

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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! Ask your neighbors to join our growing family! Thank you!

About the VEP Community Association

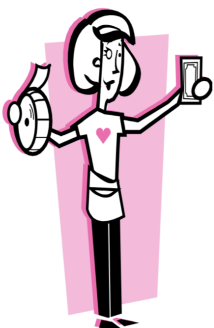
- VEP is an all-volunteer organization of your neighbors working to improve our neighborhoods.
- VEP sponsors many projects and events that improve safety, our quality of life, and the appearance of our community.
- VEP volunteers make our neighborhood's needs, views, and concerns known to government 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 help keep our neighborhoods beautiful, safe, strong, and well-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 50 years of success in our neighborhoods!

YOU COULD WIN A FREE 2019 VEP MEMBERSHIP!

Bring your completed Membership Application (See Right), with payment, to this month's VEP General Meeting on Tuesday, January 29th!



You will be entered in a drawing to have your membership fee returned to you, that night!

Just imagine getting all the great benefits of VEP Membership, free!

Tell a neighbor!

VEP Membership Application / Renewal

Note: None of 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 spare a few volunteer hours for VEP? Yes No

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 US Mail only.
- I prefer to receive my newsletters by email only.
- I prefer to receive my newsletters by email and mail.

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VEP
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San Jose, CA 95158

Thank you!

VEP's
50th Anniversary
~ 1969 - 2019 ~

*Celebrating 50 Years of Community
Service, Action and Advocacy for
2,800 Homes in the Neighborhoods
of Vista Park, Parkview & Carson*



*Help VEP Stay Strong
for Another 50 Years!
Join or Renew Today
and Keep Volunteering!*

