



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

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

### VEP's COMMUNITY MEETING

► **Tuesday, February 26th** ◀

**Meeting @7:30pm ~ Late Arrivals Okay!** 😊

Vista Park Community Room - 475 Hyde Park Drive

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

### ~ February Meeting Agenda ~

#### ☆ San José Clean Energy (SJCE) ☆

*Presentation by*

**Zachary Struyk**

Deputy Director, San Jose Clean Energy

#### ☆ 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 ~

**Right Now!** → VEP Membership Drive!  
- Renew or Join Today! Tell a Neighbor!  
- See Page 5 For Your Membership Form!

**Saturday, April 27th:**  
VEP's Annual Spring Neighborhood Clean-Up Event

**Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>:** 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 February Meeting Preview

*By Zachary Struyk, Deputy Director - San Jose Clean Energy*

San José Clean Energy, or SJCE, is the City of San José's new electricity supplier—charting our path to a greener future. We are the Community Energy Department of the City of San José, dedicated to creating a more sustainable future for our customers and our community. We don't have to charge extra to generate a profit or pay dividends to shareholders, which helps keep our prices competitive and stable. Plus, we will invest in local programs, such as clean energy generation projects and energy efficiency, that create jobs and value for all residents here in San José. The San José City Council unanimously voted to create SJCE in May 2017 and began serving residents and businesses in February 2019.

#### VEP's January 2019 Meeting Summary

*By Laura McGeever*

##### Presentation By Kelly Hemphill

##### Homelessness Response Manager (City of San Jose)

Kelly Hemphill presented details and information regarding the City of San Jose's goal to end homelessness. She provided a breakdown of the reasons for homelessness and their strategies for addressing the issue.

The Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey is conducted every other year to provide more insight into San Jose's homeless population. A link to the last Census and Survey results can be found here: [www.sanjoseca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/70079](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/70079). During the meeting, Kelly reviewed and discussed the results and answered any questions.

The approach is for a long-term system of care and a better referral service. Shelters in general do not end homelessness but permanent housing does. There are 3 strategies followed by the City of San Jose from the Community Plan to End Homelessness:

- Disrupt the system
  - Transform the previous response system which focused on managing homelessness instead of ending homelessness.
- Build solutions
  - Build new housing opportunities scaled to meet the demand
- Manage the crisis
  - Serve the people with a client-centered approach to meet each person's needs where they are.

Examples of some of the programs that are managed by the City of San Jose include:

- Rental subsidies
- Homeless prevention
- Emergency shelter beds
- Plaza Hotel is used for interim housing while people are searching for permanent housing
- Street based outreach
- Mobile Hygiene vehicles
- Addressing homeless concerns
- Encampment Abatements (Clean-Ups)

The City received Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) in 2019, which is \$11M in one-time funding from the State to address emergency and interim housing solutions.

# 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

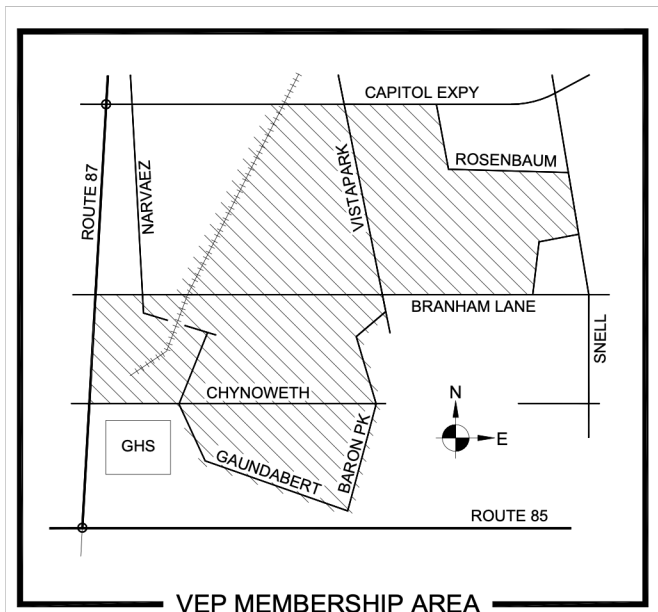
Director: Lisa Sanchez - LISAS.VEP@GMAIL.COM

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

**WEB: WWW.VEPCA.NET**

**EMAIL: VEP@VEPCA.NET**

- Join VEP Community Association's Facebook Group -



VEP MEMBERSHIP AREA

Continued from Page 1

## Q&A:

There was concern raised about left over carts from encampment clean-ups. Kelly mentioned that the owner of the property is required to clean-up the area. Caltrans as well as VTA have areas in our neighborhood. The city is working with those partners but doesn't have control over their processes for abatements.

Monterey Rd is a focus for a February clean-up by the City.

Questions about penalties for those taking the government provided assistance was addressed. The city of San Jose is working on building trust with the homeless community and is not penalty focused.

Kelly's request was for the City of San Jose residents to become more educated on the homeless and understand that the major reason for homelessness in San Jose and Santa Clara County is that people cannot afford the housing. The area median annual income in Santa Clara county is \$125,200. The fair market rent for a one bedroom is \$2,212.

The City of San Jose Homelessness Response website is <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=738>

## Johnny Khamis

District 10 Councilmember Khamis contributed to the homelessness discussion about the purchase of tiny houses in Willow Glen in San Jose. He is working to have the price negotiated further down.

Khamis invited community to Winter Walk on 2/22/19 at 8am Oakridge Mall.

In addition, he reminded the community about his Drop-In Community Office Hours:

- 1st Wednesday of the month at Almaden Community
- 2nd Saturday of the month at Hub's coffee

Visit the district10 website at [www.sjd10.com](http://www.sjd10.com) for more details.

## Presentation of Plaques for Previous Board Members

VEP's Immediate Past President, Ms. Marilyn Rodgers, was in attendance and received a plaque from VEP for her many years of service to the association. (Photo Courtesy of Shivani Basnet, D10)



D10 Councilmember Khamis, Ms. Rodgers, and VEP Pres. Greg West

## Additional Meeting Discussion

Membership Drive: Many members submitted their membership renewals at the meeting. In addition, there was a drawing for a free VEP membership at the meeting. **Stephen Kinsey** (& Household) was chosen by the raffle and will receive a year of free Newsletters.

## President's Corner

By Greg West

February marks the kick-off for the VEP Community Association's annual membership drive. **We invite you to continue your VEP membership for only \$20 per year** and renew your dedication to community improvement.

As you know, VEP is an all-volunteer organization of friendly neighbors who are dedicated to serving the needs of our community—needs that are brought forward by you, our members. VEP volunteers do a variety of activities in our neighborhoods and represent our views before government at all levels. Founded in 1969 and celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> year of community involvement, we are one of the most successful and most enduring grass roots organizations in Santa Clara County.

We meet in the Vista Park Community Room at 7:30 PM on the fourth Tuesday of January through June, September, October, and on the first Tuesday of December. These meetings are held to get input from you and to allow you to meet and share your views with neighbors. We regularly invite key decision makers and community leaders and service providers as guest speakers, giving you first-hand opportunities to meet and be heard by them as well. **Everyone, whether a member or not is welcome to attend our meetings.** Even if you don't renew your membership, we hope to see you at a meeting soon.

Please help, once again, to keep your neighborhood strong and prepared. **Please renew your VEP membership today by returning your check for \$20, made payable to "VEPCA" in the enclosed pre-addressed membership envelope**—we are eager to continue to grow and strengthen our organization with your renewed help.

## VEP's 2019 Community Service Awards

By Ginger Cardona

The VEP Community Association has a proud 50 year tradition of community service. In order to encourage the continuation of community service in the next generation, VEP annually chooses up to three graduating and deserving high school seniors to receive a monetary award to be used for post-secondary education (college, junior college, technical school, trade school, etc.).

VEP asks the Gunderson High School and Hill High School administrations to nominate at least 2 graduating seniors per school (with no upper limit). At-large nominees are solicited through the VEP News (consider this article a solicitation). A VEP committee chooses one deserving and graduating senior each from Andrew Hill High School and Gunderson High School, regardless of where they live, and one deserving "at large" graduating senior who is a resident of the VEP neighborhood, regardless of the high school from which they graduate (other than Hill and Gunderson).

The winners will receive an award of \$1000 each, to be used for post-secondary education, based on their community service during high school (regardless of their GPA). At-large award applications can be obtained by emailing the CSA committee chair, Mrs. Ginger Cardona at [cardona@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cardona@sbcglobal.net)



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

## District 10's 2018 July-December Report Card



For those of you who are new to the District 10 newsletter, each six months my staff and I meet together to gain knowledge about a specific aspect of our great City and to assess what we've accomplished over the past six months and what we'll be working on during the months ahead. In December, we held this team meeting. Mike Boulland, Historian, retired teacher, published author, and collector of local artifacts, gave us a thorough overview about the influence of the native populations and early settlers on the course of the Santa Clara Valley and the impact that the quicksilver (mercury) mining operations had on the growth of San Jose. We are grateful for Mike's informative presentation!

In reviewing the accomplishments for the second half of last year, we noted the following:

- Hoffman-Via Monte safety & beautification efforts continued by working with property owners to facilitate replacement of failed pavement in parking areas. Phase I was completed and Phase II is in the works.
- Gained City and County approval of the land swap to facilitate safety improvements for Branham Lane along Martial Cottle Park.
- Worked with PG&E and City staff to ensure the PG&E pipeline safety tree removal process to minimize the impact on District residents, obtain and distribute replacement trees, and gain resources for other improvements yet to come.
- Incentivized the unhoused without employment to clean up litter by supporting the Mayor's pilot program to expand Downtown Streets Team outside of downtown. The pilot program employs 25 unhoused individuals at \$15/hour to clean up our City.
- City Council approved funding for the remaining interoperability radios for Police & Fire, to allow various public safety agencies to easily talk with one another in a disaster.
- Organized and hosted another great celebration of the birth of the USA with the 5TH Annual July 4TH Family Fun Festival & Fireworks Show at Almaden Lake!
- Distributed a Tax Transparency chart to inform the public of the potential impact on residents of each new or extended tax on the November 2018 ballot.
- A version of Bond Honesty legislation that I lobbied State lawmakers to implement was passed that required that ballot statements for bonds show the cost-per-unit-of-assessed-value of those bonds as part of the ballot summary.
- The historic Almaden Winery wine press has been restored, with the help of a skilled community volunteer, Bob Schneider, who also volunteers at History San Jose to keep the historic trolley running. The restored press is now in storage at History S.J.



**Roberto Ruiz**  
Intero Broker Associate  
BRE Lic. #01270734

- VEP Member  
- Marine Corps Veteran

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- Wall painting continued, with the long Branham Lane wall getting its turn at a makeover.
- Sponsored, facilitated, and participated in a successful annual Veteran's Day Parade when challenges with the United Veteran's non-profit status threatened the annual observance.

Another thing that I have the opportunity to do, as your Councilmember, is to support worthwhile cultural, educational, and recreational non-profits through grants that each City Council office administers with funds received through the naming rights agreement with SAP for the SAP Center (aka the Shark Tank). Here are some highlights of the programs that I supported in the first half of the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year:

- Supported educational endeavors to uplift our community with a total of \$5,585.00 in grants, including worthwhile initiatives such as the Commission on the Status of Women, Sunday Friends, Parkview and Los Alamitos Elementary Schools, the Bret Harte Educational Association, the San Jose Police Foundation, and Silicon Valley Crime Stoppers.
- Supported recreational programs to benefit the health and welfare of our community with a total of \$9,500, including the Almaden Valley Community Association, Christmas in the Park, the Santa Teresa Foothills Neighborhood Association, South Valley YMCA, and the San Jose Parks Foundation.

I look forward to supporting further worthy cultural, educational, and recreational endeavors through the use of the SAP Grant funds in the months ahead and continuing my work to improve the City of San Jose to make it a welcoming place to start or grow a family or business, and to achieve your own version of the American Dream!

★ **“Save the Date” ~ Saturday, May 4th, 2019** ★



**VEP pays for the advertising - You make the profit!**



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**Do we owe you money?**

The County of Santa Clara Department of Tax and Collections (DTAC) has identified approximately 4,900 taxpayers who are potential owners of \$3.5 million in unclaimed property tax. DTAC issues more than 500,000 property tax bills and collects over \$6 billion on an annual basis. The unclaimed property tax monies come from a variety of sources including, but not limited to: reduced assessments (re-evaluation of assessed values), overpayments, and duplicate payments.

DTAC makes many attempts to refund the rightful owners including contacting taxpayers by phone and skip tracing in pursuit of refunding the rightful owners, but these channels are not always successful. Publishing the list on the County web site is another attempt to reach the rightful owners. This new online search will provide eligible property tax claimants with the tools to search for property tax refunds where applicable.

Potential owners qualifying for refunds must file their claims by February 28, 2019. The list of names and claim forms can be obtained on the DTAC website here:

**[www.sccgov.org/sites/dtac/tax/Pages/unclaimed-property-tax-refunds.aspx](http://www.sccgov.org/sites/dtac/tax/Pages/unclaimed-property-tax-refunds.aspx)**

DTAC has also launched a new app to make paying your property tax payments easier! Business and personal property taxpayers in Santa Clara County now have access to SCC DTAC, a mobile app that may provide more than 500,000 property owners with convenient access to pay the second installment of their annual secured property tax payments. The SCC DTAC app is available for Apple iOS and Android mobile devices. More information about the benefits of the app is available at [www.sccdtac.org/mobileapp](http://www.sccdtac.org/mobileapp). Property owners who would like more information about paying their taxes in general can contact the DTAC Tax Information Unit at (408) 808-7900 or [scctax.collector@fin.sccgo.org](mailto:scctax.collector@fin.sccgo.org).

On January 9th, I was thrilled to welcome and make opening comments at the second meeting of the Women's Equality 2020 Leadership Council at the Morgan Hill Community Center. Even with heavy rain, we had a full house. The mission of the Leadership Council is to encourage census and voter engagement, commemorate and honor the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage, and advance women's equality issues.

The organization is comprised of members dedicated to find solutions that promote inclusion in all areas of society. Meetings are open to the public and held the 2nd Wednesday of every month. All are welcome to attend! Please visit the following link for more details about the council:

**[www.sccgov.org/sites/owp/board/womensequality2020/Pages/Womens-Equality-2020-Application.aspx](http://www.sccgov.org/sites/owp/board/womensequality2020/Pages/Womens-Equality-2020-Application.aspx)**

Mike Wasserman, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, Dist. 1  
[www.supervisorwasserman.org](http://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!

**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 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.

Mail your \$20 check to:

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***Thank you!***

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50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
~ 1969 - 2019 ~*

*50 Years of Community Service, Action &  
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  
& Keep Volunteering!*

