



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

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

VEP's COMMUNITY MEETING

► **Tuesday, Oct. 29th, 2019** ◀

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

★ Homelessness Response Team ★

with Vanessa Beretta

Homelessness Response Team

City of San José Department of Housing

★ Information & Updates: City of San Jose ★ from the Office of District 10 Councilmember Khamis

★ VEP Business Meeting ★

Announcements & Updates

VEP Member Discussion Items:

- Membership Dues
- Printed Newsletter

Upcoming "Save the Dates"

★ Your Concerns and Ideas ★

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

VEP October Meeting Preview: City of San Jose's Homelessness Response Team

By Lisa Sanchez

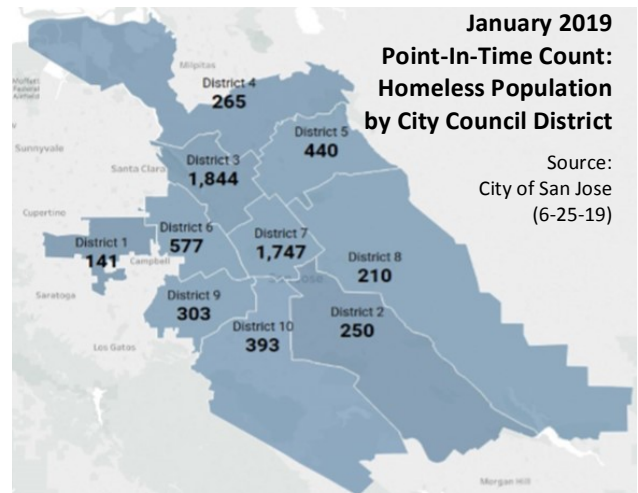
In response to neighbor's concerns, over increasing homelessness impacting our community, VEP has invited the Homelessness Response Team (HRT). HRT representatives will join our October 29th Community Meeting.

"Our mission is to strengthen and revitalize our community through housing and neighborhood investment" – H.R.T.

VEP neighbors have experienced growing issues related to homelessness (crime, encampments, health and safety). Please plan to attend so collectively we can understand how the city is addressing issues surrounding homelessness and their needs, through city programs and resources. VEP's goal is to understand how our community can effectively communicate issues and work together with HRT.

Colleagues, Vanessa Beretta and Darius Brown, both look forward to meeting VEP neighbors. They will give a brief overview regarding homelessness in San Jose and Santa Clara County (based on the 2019 Point in Time Count) and share HRT's approach through various programs and resources (Crisis response, Interim Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing). They will also share statistics specific to our District 10.

There will be time for Q&A, so again, please attend this very important VEP Community Meeting.



VEP's September Meeting Summary

Article By Greg West and Rachel Witmeyer

On September 24th, Captain Gina Tibaldi, Bureau of Field Operations, Southern Division, San Jose Police Department came to the VEP Community Meeting to discuss neighborhood crime and statistics for the Southern Division, of which VEP is a part. She reported the statistics for the previous quarter compared to the same quarter last year.

	Last Quarter	Year Ago Quarter
Aggravated Assaults	2	4
Burglaries	26	21
Robberies	1	4
Vandalism	7	
Vehicle stops	180	

Article Continues on Page 2

~ CALENDAR CORNER 2019 ~

- 10/26 VEP's Annual "Dave Fadness Memorial Beautification Day" @Vista Park
→ Please See Page 5 for Details!
- 11/3 Daylight Savings: Turn Back the Clocks!
- 11/16 Dumpster Day Event at Vista Park
8am to Noon, or until dumpsters are full
- 12/1 VEP's Annual "Santa in the Park" Event
→ Please See Page 7 for Details!
- 12/3 Nov./Dec. VEP Community Meeting

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 each month annually, with the exception of a "Summer Break" from June through August. We appreciate and will, at the discretion of the VEP Board of Directors, 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, Rachel Witmeyer. Business entities interested in advertising with the VEP News are encouraged to contact the Treasurer, Lisa Sanchez. (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 - 408-829-4686

Vice President: Cindy Bosworth - BOZ555@MSN.COM

Secretary: Laura McGeever - LJMCGEEVER@ME.COM

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

Director: Robert Supencheck - ROBERTSUPENCHECK@GMAIL.COM

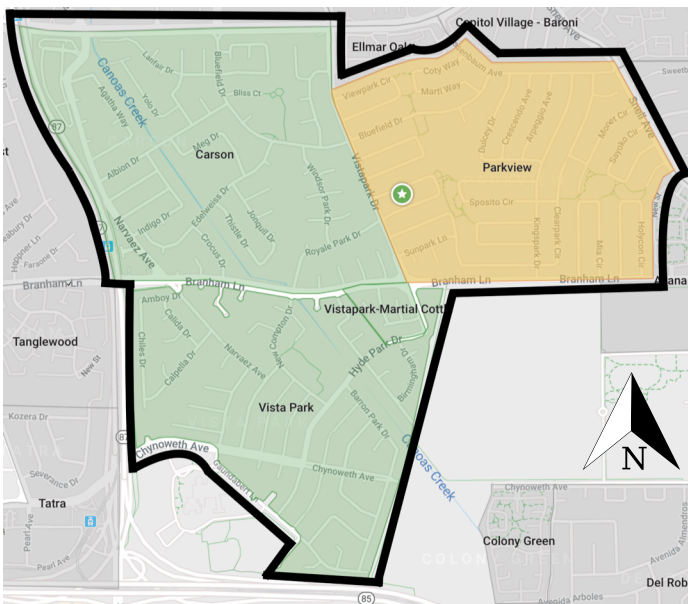
Director & VEP News Editor: Rachel Witmeyer - VEPEDITOR@GMAIL.COM

Director: POSITION VACANT

WEB: WWW.VEPCA.NET

EMAIL: VEPCA@VEPCA.NET

- Join VEP Community Association's Facebook Group! -



VEP Membership Area

Continued from Page 1

Captain Tibaldi reported that 60% of the burglaries last year were residential burglaries, with 42% involving unlocked doors or windows. There were 7,000 reported packaged thefts, considered larceny, in San Jose over the last 6 months. However package thefts are likely underreported since many people report these thefts to the company that sent the package, rather than the police department.

All of the San Jose crime statistics are available on the San Jose webpage: <https://www.sjpd.org/crimestats/>

Finally, she asked that if you see something, say something. You can call 311 to report suspicious activities.

In response to a question about speeding on Hyde Park Drive, Captain Tibaldi took note and will report to the Area Sergeant about speeding and running of stop signs on Hyde Park and see if the Traffic Unit can put it on their patrol queue. The Captain mentioned that this is under the Department of Transportation. She also mentioned that some Council members have the ability to place speed monitors in trouble spots.

In response to a question about a homicide near VEP, she confirmed that there was a homicide at 9PM the day before the meeting, at Chynoweth and Monterey Highway. There was little information about the incident as of meeting time.

Responding to questions about homeless encampments, the Captain clarified that the SJPD is only responsible for criminal activity. There was a discussion about the complexity of multiple owners of properties on which homeless camp.

There is a Homelessness Response Team for the City of San Jose. They are responsible for handling services for the homeless. They provide services and will give those in encampments 72 hours to move their items. After 72 hours, items left are removed and the area cleaned up. Vanessa Beretta is the Community Programs Administrator and can be contacted via email, at vanessa.beretta@sanjoseca.gov. Homeless issues can also be reported through the My San Jose App. The app can be downloaded from: <https://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=3375>

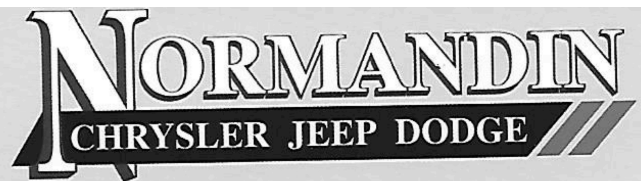
Finally the Captain advised neighbors to:

- Be present and visible
- Look at the feed on Next Door
- Be Proactive
- Call 311 / 911 when you see suspicious activities

Captain Tibaldi can be contacted at 3798@sanjoseca.gov or 408-277-4631.

Greg West presented the 2020 VEP Budget for approval, as prepared by VEP Treasurer, Lisa Sanchez. The budget shows a spending deficit for the year. Several items were discussed including how to reduce the cost of the VEP News, and how to increase income from memberships (increase number of members or increase membership dues, or both). Following the discussion, the budget was approved as presented.

Joyce Chesnos reminded neighbors about the Fall Festival at Martial Cottle Park on October 5th (VEP had a booth at the event). She and husband Bob went on to talk about the next Friends of Martial Cottle Park (FOMCP) fundraiser. On October 17th, there will be another private tour of the Lester/Cottle Life Estate, including a luncheon.



900 Capitol Expwy Auto Mall
San Jose, CA 95136
Ph: 408.266.9500 • Fax: 408.265.6130
www.normandin.com



President's Corner

By Greg West

Just about 4:00 AM on the morning of September 22nd, a fire started in the backyard of the house 2 doors down from us. The house was turned into a senior residential care facility a few years back. I know approximately what time the fire started because I have a security camera pointing across the front of our house in that direction. The video footage didn't show the house or the fire, but it did show the reflection of the light from the fire off of the trees in front of the house. The first indication of fire on the time-stamped video was a faint light reflecting off of the trees at 4:05 AM. By 4:08 AM, the trees were lit up as bright as daylight. (We didn't find out about the fire until the next morning. We had closed our windows when we went to bed the night before because of the odor from a nearby fire pit. A couple of our neighbors have fire pits in their backyards, so the odor of smoke wasn't unusual or alarming.)

My camera also shows the courageous actions of our neighbor that lives between us and the house that caught fire: Ricardo "Cardie" Anima left his house at 4:09 AM to go into the burning house and rescue the seniors inside. He dropped the first person that he rescued in my front yard, and went back in to rescue more folks. Fortunately, he got everyone out of the house without serious injury. Fire trucks showed up from the fire station on Pearl Avenue at 4:15 AM with lights flashing, but no sirens. When I woke up the next morning and went out into my driveway to get the newspaper, around 6:30 AM, the fire was out, but the fire trucks were still there. (The newspaper *wasn't* there, because the fire trucks had the street blocked off.)

I went to the fire station on Pearl Avenue a couple of days later to ask about the cause of the fire, specifically for this article. I was given the phone number for the San Jose Fire Department headquarters. However, the person I talked to at the headquarters number wouldn't tell me the cause of the fire. Apparently, fire department reports on structure fires are not public documents. Lacking any official news or reports, neighbors in the area have begun to speculate that the fire may have originated from a fire pit going in the back yard on the evening of fire. It's very possible that embers from an improperly extinguished fire pit could catch backyard debris on fire, and that fire could very quickly spread to the house. However, our community will have to wait for official reports to ever know for sure. What we do know is that without the quick actions of Mr. Anima, the fire would have been a much bigger tragedy.

While walking the neighborhood to deliver flyers for the 5th Annual Dave Fadness Beautification Day, my wife, Robin, talked to a neighbor on Turnberry Place, a court that backs up to Highway 85. He said that their court has had 3 house fires in the last year. All of these were the result of fires from homeless encampments on the other side of the sound wall from the houses that back up to Hwy 85. (Yes, homeless are camping on the freeway.)

Given the rash of house fires in the neighborhood in the last year, a home fire safety checklist is included (See *Right* →). The VEP Board of Directors will also be working to make sure that this issue has the attention of District 10 Councilmember Khamis. Anyone in the community who has "fire concerns" is welcome and encouraged to attend a VEP Community Meeting in order to communicate directly with Councilmember Khamis and/or his staff.

VERONICA "RONI" CASTRO | Account Executive



The J. MOREY
COMPANY, INC.
INSURANCE AGENTS & BROKERS

184 Jackson Street | San Jose, CA 95112
Direct: 408.605.9343 | p: 408.280.5551 | f: 408.280.1368

 | www.jmoreyins.com | [Refer a Friend!](#)

Fire Safe ... Fire Smart

Fire Safety & Preparedness



Home Safety Checklist

Smoke Alarms

- There is one smoke alarm on every level of the home and inside and outside each sleeping area.
- Smoke alarms are tested and cleaned monthly.
- Smoke alarm batteries are changed as needed.
- Smoke alarms are less than 10 years old.

Cooking Safety

- Cooking area is free from items that can catch fire.
- Kitchen stove hood is clean and vented to the outside.
- Pots are not left unattended on the stove.

Electrical & Appliance Safety

- Electrical cords do not run under rugs.
- Electrical cords are not frayed or cracked.
- Circuit-protected, multi-prong adapters are used for additional outlets.
- Large and small appliances are plugged directly into wall outlets.
- Clothes dryer lint filter and venting system are clean.

Candle Safety

- Candles are in sturdy fire-proof containers that won't be tipped over.
- All candles are extinguished before going to bed or leaving the room.
- Children and pets are never left unattended with candles.

Carbon Monoxide Alarms

- Carbon monoxide alarms are located on each level of the home.
- Carbon monoxide alarms are less than 7 years old.

Smoking Safety

- Family members who smoke only buy fire-safe cigarettes and smoke outside.
- Matches and lighters are secured out of children's sight.
- Ashtrays are large, deep and kept away from items that can catch fire.
- Ashtrays are emptied into a container that will not burn.

Heating Safety

- Chimney and furnace are cleaned and inspected yearly.
- Furniture and other items that can catch fire are at least 3 feet from fireplaces, wall heaters, baseboards, and space heaters.
- Fireplace and barbecue ashes are placed outdoors in a covered metal container at least 3 feet from anything that can catch fire.
- Extension cords are never used with space heaters.
- Heaters are approved by a national testing laboratory and have tip-over shut-off function.

Home Escape Plan

- Have two ways out of each room.
- Know to crawl low to the floor when escaping to avoid toxic smoke.
- Know that once you're out, stay out.
- Know where to meet after the escape.
- Meeting place should be near the front of your home, so firefighters know you are out.
- Practice your fire escape plan.

U.S. Fire Administration
www.usfa.fema.gov



ADVERTISE with the VEP NEWS!

★ *Special Promo for New Advertisers!* ★

**Purchase AD Space for 2020 NOW
and get the rest of 2019, FREE!**

(That's 2 Issues!)

INTERESTED?

Contact VEP Treasurer, Lisa Sanchez
LisaS.VEP@gmail.com

THE FINE PRINT:

Advertising Space is Sold for \$30 per Issue
for 8 Months (Jan.-May and Sept.-Nov.)
- Additional December Issue is always included, FREE!
(That's Just \$240 for 9 months of local advertising!)

Martial Cottle Park Fall Festival 2019

Article By L. McGeever - Photos By L. McGeever & A. Pierce

On Saturday, October 5th, Martial Cottle Park held its Annual Fall Festival. The Harvest Festival celebrates the agricultural heritage of the Santa Clara Valley and the newest park in the county. The festivities started at 10am with several local volunteer organizations lining the pathway to the Children's Play area. VEP hosted a booth to solicit new members.



Pictured Above: VEP President Greg West, Staffing the VEP Booth!

In addition to incredible local food and drink makers and local makers of handcrafted goods, attendees could buy and paint pumpkins at the pumpkin patch and play pumpkin carnival games.



Young festival-goers could enjoy a "pop-up" petting zoo and view up-close farm tractors and farm vehicles.



This year's festival also featured a fresh organic produce market, DIY craft workshops, and play-time at the "cattle corral." There was live music and a Square Dancing demonstration, where folks were welcome to join in.



Finally, attendees could explore the park's Master Gardeners' Fall Garden Market where they had their Fall Garden Market plant sale offering a bounty of winter vegetable and flower seedlings plus beautiful low-water succulents. (Those looking carefully would also have seen a 7-month-old calf walking around with a volunteer.)

VEP Community Association Invites You to Join Us:

5th Annual Dave Fadness Memorial Beautification Day!

Meadows Park - Bluefield Dr. & Edelweiss Dr.
Saturday, October 26th - Starting at 9:00 am



Come help VEP continue our annual tradition of honoring Dave Fadness' legacy of volunteerism by beautifying our great neighborhoods. 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. Among the activities we engaged in last year for Dave Fadness Memorial Beautification Day were the following:



- Bush trimming & cleanup along Branham Ln.
- Tree planting at Vista Park
- Pruning at Vista Park
- Spreading wood chips at Vista Park
- Cleaning and litter pickup: Parkview Park 1&2
- Pruning, raking & sweeping: 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 Hwy 87 to Pearl Av.



We are looking forward to expanding this list of activities this year with your participation! Please come out for as long as you can to help us keep Dave's legacy of beautification projects alive!

Event Details:

- Light Breakfast & Water will be provided for volunteers.
- All the necessary tools & equipment will be provided by the City of San Jose Parks Department, including gloves! (Or bring your own!)
- Be safe and plan ahead for a day of work in the sun: Wear Hats, Sunglasses, and Sunscreen!

Community Service Hours Available!
Great for High School students!





Roberto Ruiz
Intero Broker Associate
BRE Lic. #01270734

- VEP Member
- Marine Corps Veteran

5580 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118
Cell: 408-234-7249
www.RobertoRuiz.info
Rruiz@interorealestate.com






October 2019 County Update

Modernizing 9-1-1. I am pleased to announce the launch of 9-1-1 texting services throughout Santa Clara County. This new option will help those who are deaf, hard of hearing, speech impaired and anyone who feels unsafe speaking over the phone. The County operates a consolidated (law, fire and medical) emergency communications center that is staffed by 130 employees, including 80 dispatchers who answer approximately 45,562 calls per month, 62 calls per hour, 1,497 calls in a 24-hour period (491 of them considered urgent or emergency calls), and 546,750 calls per year. Dialing 9-1-1 in an emergency is still the preferred way to request help, and the public is reminded to "Call if you can. Text if you can't." Texting is not always ideal because it takes longer than a voice call and does not provide the location of the texter. The service is currently available in the unincorporated areas of Santa Clara County and all local jurisdictions, except for Campbell and Los Gatos, which are scheduled to offer the service by the end of the year.

Content Magazine. My colleagues and I were featured in the September/October edition of Content Magazine. Published by SVCcreates, this beautiful and unique publication showcases South Bay artists, creative entrepreneurs, businesses and other organizations that help define the unique life and style of San Jose and Silicon Valley. You can subscribe or follow Content to be a part of their movement to fuel local pride, spark exchanges of inspiration and information, and strengthen our local economy.

Green Power Award. Doing the right thing is its own reward, but recognition is always appreciated. As the Chair of the County's Housing, Land Use, Environment and Transportation committee, I am proud to announce that the County has received a 2019 Green Power Leadership Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for our progressive efforts to use renewable energy. EPA's annual Green Power Leadership Awards recognize America's leading green power users for helping to advance the development of the nation's voluntary green power market. This leadership award demonstrates that we can continue to get closer to achieving our environmental stewardship goals while being fiscally responsible.

October is Adopt a Shelter Dog Month. ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) sponsors this event to promote the adoption of dogs from local shelters. According to the ASPCA, approximately 3.3 million dogs enter shelters every year. When these abandoned and often abused animals find their way to a shelter, each one needs a forever home and their potential is Martin to see if you find a match for your family!

Wage Theft. Santa Clara County has the undesirable honor of being home to the largest reported incidences of wage theft per capita in the state of California. This pervasive problem disproportionately affects immigrants and low-wage workers. The County's new Office of Labor Standards Enforcement and the Department of Environmental Health recently launched a Food Permit Enforcement Program that will enable the County to suspend food permits from businesses who have not paid their judgments. This new effort helps protect workers and gives an advantage to the majority of businesses who do follow the rules.

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



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

Bottles and Cans – what do we do now?

My office has received many calls from residents wondering how to get their California Redemption Value (CRV) money back, now that the local recycling centers have left store parking lots.

In case you missed the news reports, RePlanet, California's largest chain of recycling centers, shut down their business for financial reasons. In researching this issue my office learned a lot about the CRV, the recycling process, and how the money flows:

- When a company that produces spring water, beer, juice, soda, and other beverages in CRV-eligible containers ships their product, they must pay an up-front recycling fee to the State of California.

- The cost of these payments is passed on to you, the consumer, at the point of sale.

- When you take your bottles and cans to a Recycling Center, they give you the 5 or 10 cents you paid for each bottle or can, or they pay by weight, if possible. They then take all of the bottles and cans to a Processor.

- The Processor gives the Recycling Center the 5 or 10 cents per container, PLUS approximately 15-20 cents per pound, for the commodity value. That's how a Recycling Center makes money.

- Then, the Processor sells the items to the aluminum, plastic, or glass mills for approximately 25-35 cents per pound for the commodity value. That's how the Processor makes their money.

- The US has historically sold most of its recycled goods to China.

There are several challenges that have developed in the process, of late:

- Problem 1: China dramatically reduced the amount of plastic it will accept from the US, causing the commodity value to drop, so the Recycling Centers are only getting about 5 cents per pound, instead of 15-20 cents per pound - a huge reduction in revenue.

- Problem 2: Not enough residents are turning in their bottles and cans and redeeming the CRV. When we throw CRV items into the curbside recycling bin, it cuts the Recycling Centers out of the loop.

- Problem 3: Increased minimum wages, rents, and insurance costs compound the problem for companies operating on this model.

For more information about the CRV system in California, visit the CalRecycle FAQ page:

<https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/BevContainer/Consumers/FAQ/>

So, what can we do now? The options are limited, and each has their own problems, but there are still local ways to redeem CRV items:

1.) The State publishes a list of retail stores that are required to accept CRV items. According to one retailer we talked to, the closure of RePlanet has had a major impact on their business.

- Because these stores sell a certain volume of drinks in bottles and cans, the state requires them to accept those bottles and cans back for recycling.

- Since these are retail stores, they cannot pay by weight, only per piece. Some people are now bringing in hundreds of items each time, which must be counted by hand, since they do not have equipment to weigh the items.

- The store must find an available employee who can count the items and pay the CRV.

- Employees are not too fond of having to put these bags of dirty, smelly items into their cars to take to the Recycling Center, and they are not available to do their in-store duties while they run an errand for the store.

- Because CRV items are a significant source of income to our unhoused residents, the closure of the parking lot Recycling Centers

has brought more homeless folks into the retail stores. This can create an additional set of challenges for the stores.

- Current State recycling regulations do not allow these retailers to limit the hours they accept items - they must take the items all hours the store is open. They also are prevented from limiting the number of CRV items returned per day, per customer.

2.) There are still several large Recycling Centers open in and around San Jose. These centers recycle much more than just CRV items, so they are less impacted by the challenges faced by the CRV-only centers that operate in parking lots.

- Schnitzer – San Jose

<http://www.schnitzersteel.com>

- San Jose Metals

<http://www.sanjosemetalsrecycling.com/>

- Other locations that may be found on the CalRecycle website <https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/BevContainer/RecyclingCenters> or by calling 1-800-RECYCLE.

For many in District 10, the first larger-scale Recycling Center that comes to mind is Ranch Town Recycling Center on Lincoln Avenue. However, several people have indicated that they are no longer accepting CRV items. My office contacted them and found out that they are a family run business, and one of their family members is having some significant health problems, which has limited their ability to provide all the services they would like to offer. At the same time, the closure of the RePlanet centers has caused them to be bombarded with customers, creating potentially dangerous backups onto Lincoln Avenue. For these reasons, they have temporarily stopped accepting CRV items. However, they are now working to resolve these issues and expect to accept CRV items again by the beginning of November.

One ray of hope they mentioned is a rumor floating around the industry that a southern California company, operating on a model similar to RePlanet, is looking into filling the void left by RePlanet's closure. If we hear anything further on this, we will let you know.

For more recycling information, visit the City's new website - **SanJoseRecycles.org**. You can scroll down and click through to a searchable map of recycling centers in San Jose. There is also a lot of other great information on what belongs in the trash, what goes in the recycling bin, and how to recycle right.

Update from the Pearl Avenue Library

By Ila Langner – Part-Time Librarian

Community Conversation Survey - Pearl Library hosts a quarterly Community Conversation, where librarians talk to community members for feedback on various community issues. Librarians then relay that information to our managers, who relay the information to appropriate City agencies. In August, we ran a display called "What Do You Bring to the Table?" On a table, we fastened 6 paper plates with various issues and asked community members to tick mark issues that they found important. Here are the results:

Homelessness: 110 - approx. 37%

High Cost of Living: 73 - approx. 24%

Climate Change: 52 - approx. 17%

Crime: 43 - approx. 14%

Traffic Congestion: 21 - approx. 7%

Miscellaneous: *Services for the mentally ill; racism & discrimination; cigarettes; illegal immigration; drugs & alcohol abuse; healthcare; increasing bicycling; and food costs.*

Homework Club - If you are in elementary school and you need help with your homework, please come to the Pearl Avenue Library's Homework Club on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:00-6:00 p.m. each week, except for San Jose Unified School District or library holidays. 4270 Pearl Avenue Library, San Jose, CA 95136. Tutors are local high school or San Jose State University students who receive either A's or B's in school.

Thank you for your patronage of the Pearl Avenue Library!

Squirrels Eating us Out of House and Home

By Bob Aquino

We live in the Arcadia 5 bedroom model house. Several of these models can be seen on New Compton Drive. (As you go down New Compton on the second block from Branham, the second and third houses on the left side are examples of the Arcadia 5 Bedroom model. They are two stories with a three car garage - You can't miss them. They were the largest model in the Arcadia project.)

Recently we noticed that wood chips were appearing on the cement around the chimney. Then they appeared on the concrete by the slider in the back yard. Our next-door neighbor, a construction contractor, looking from the ground, said that it seemed that there was a problem with the flashing around the chimney. He said that he was booked but he recommended a roofing contractor, whom we contacted. The roofer verified that there were flashing problems at the chimney and gave us a quote to fix the problem. He told us that a squirrel was to blame. The squirrel was not eating the wood, but



rather chewing it apart for nesting material. The wood had been softened by being continually wet, making it easier for the squirrel to utilize.

I was not particularly surprised that there was a problem with the flashing around the chimney. These houses have a reputation for poorly flashed windows, which

had necessitated the re-stuccoing of our house, but we also had our house re-roofed years ago, to replace the shake roof. I asked the foreman to tell me if the flashing had been done by the re-roofers or the builder. The verdict turned to be that (gasp!) the original builder was at fault.

So a note of warning to owners of the Arcadia 5 bedroom houses, beware the maternally-inclined squirrel! (Or, check your chimney flashing!)

The Rodin Garden at Stanford University

By Stephen & Lynne Kinsey

The Rodin Garden at Stanford University is one of our favorite places to take people that are visiting, or are locals that have never been there. We love to sit and gaze at the impressive detail on the massive sculptures on display. You will often see people with easels or clipboards sketching the sculptures. Feel free to do so or to take pictures yourself.

It is located outside the back of the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Center for Visual Arts at 328 Lomita Drive. During the week, when classes are in session, parking can be a challenge. On weekends nearby parking is usually available.

The whole university, including the Cantor Center was a gift from Leland and Jane Stanford in memory of their son, Leland Jr. Their son died at age 16, from typhoid fever, while on an art-buying trip to Athens. The Rodin Garden was built on the foundation of the South Annex and Rotunda of the magnificent Cantor Center. The Garden contains numerous mammoth sculptures, some of which will be familiar to you.

Rodin lived from 1840-1917 and his will gave permission for the Musee Rodin to cast his sculptures posthumously. French law later limited this to 12 casts from each model.

The most interesting sculpture to view is the very detailed Gates of Hell. It was originally intended for the grand entrance portal of a French Museum that was never built. It contains hundreds of figures, which Rodin was known to exhibit separately. Inside the museum there are display of many Rodin pieces, including some of the hands and faces from other famous sculptures.

When you visit, be sure to allow yourself enough time to view the detail of these magnificent works of art.

HALLOWEEN TIPS & TRICKS

~ THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31 ~

Use **Nextdoor** Treat Map & mark your homes

Choose: **Hosting Haunted House**, **Giving Treats** or **Giving Allergy Free Treats**

*** If you are NOT handing out candy: KEEP YOUR PORCH LIGHTS OFF***
(This is a universal signal to bypass these homes)

"Teal Project" Info:

www.foodallergy.org/education-awareness/teal-pumpkin-project

Halloween Safety Tips:

- + Keep pets inside, Trick-o-Treaters spook & noise will cause stress
- + Use face paints vs. masks whenever possible
- + Have children wear glow sticks and/or carry flashlights
- + Use "reflective tape" on the front/back of costumes
- + Don't let children run ahead or cross streets between cars
- + Encourage children to stay on sidewalks and use crosswalks
- + Have fun & enjoy your time with all the ghosts and goblins of the VEP area!

YOU PICK: CANDY OR PRIZE



We support kids with food allergies. Our teal pumpkin means we have non-food treats available!



TEALPUMPKINPROJECT.ORG
#TEALPUMPKINPROJECT

Thanks to Lisa Sanchez for this Contribution to the VEP News!

VEP Community Association - Fall & Winter Events

Representing More Than 2,800 Families in the Blossom Valley Area of South San Jose Since 1969 -> 2019 is VEP's 50th Year!
(Including the "Nextdoor" Neighborhoods of Carson, Parkview, Vista Park and Vistapark-Martial Cottle)

5th Annual Dave Fadness Memorial Beautification Day

Honoring Dave's Legacy of Volunteerism & Community Improvement!



Saturday, October 26th

Starting at 9:00am - Meet @Meadows Park
Light Refreshments **Bluefield Dr. & Edelweiss Dr.**

Help beautify an area of your choice, anywhere in VEP neighborhoods!
Equipment & Tools Provided By City of San Jose Department of Parks, or bring your own!
Work until lunchtime, or as long as you want. (Lunch is on your own.)
Earn Community Service Hours! Great for High School Students!

VEP's 12th Annual "Santa in the Park"

FREE Family Fun and FREE Santa Photos!
All Welcome! (Open to Non-Members!)

Sunday, December 1st ~ 2 - 4 p.m.
@Vista Park Community Room - 475 Hyde Park Drive

Santa will be present for FREE Family Photos!
Bring your family and your own camera!
Free Refreshments, Arts & Crafts, and Activities for Families



VEP's 9th Annual "Holiday Home Decoration Contest"

Open to ALL single-family homes in the "Nextdoor" Neighborhoods of Carson, Parkview, Vista Park and Vistapark-Martial Cottle

Judging Weekend: Dec. 13-15th, 2019

Award Categories: Best Decorated Home & Best Themed Home
PRIZES: FREE year of VEP Membership, Gift Cards, & Bragging Rights!
Honorable Mention for Best Decorated Street!



VEP Community Association
P.O. Box 18037
San Jose, CA 95158

www.VEPCA.net

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SAN JOSE, CA
PERMIT #5242

