



VEPCA's COMMUNITY CANDIDATES' FORUM

City of San Jose – District 10



Tuesday, January 28th

7:00pm – 9:00pm

in the Gunderson High School Forum
- 622 Gaundabert Lane -



A Public Forum and Q&A Session, Featuring All Three Candidates for San José City Council, District 10:

☆ Jenny Higgins Bradanini ☆

☆ Matt Mahan ☆

☆ Helen Wang ☆

(Candidate Statements Provided on Page 5)

~ CALENDAR CORNER ~

FEB.	Early & Absentee Ballot Voting Begins
2/18	Voter Registration Deadline to Vote in the March 2020 Primaries
2/25	VEP's February Community Meeting
3/3	ELECTION DAY! Get Out & Vote!
APR.	Neighborhood Clean-Up/Beautification
5/2	VEP's Community-Wide Garage Sale

VEP's January Community Meeting: S.J. District 10 Candidates' Forum

By Greg West

This month, the regular VEPCA Community Meeting is being replaced with a special event: District 10 Candidates' Forum! Come to meet, hear, and ask questions of the candidates for San Jose City Council District 10! (See "Agenda" at Left.)

Be sure to read the Candidate Statements on page 5 of this newsletter, and for additional details about this VEPCA-sponsored event, read "President's Corner" on page 3.

During the evening's proceedings, VEP members will also be asked to vote on a motion for funds to support the Candidates' Forum and publicity for VEP's 2020 membership drive

VEP's November/December Meeting Summary

By Laura McGeever and Rachel Witmeyer

Discussion Item: Funds for Membership Mailing

President West updated the VEP community regarding the January membership drive.

- Research: a direct mail company will deliver membership forms to everyone in the VEP neighborhood.
- The cost is \$0.20 per mailer
- Additional cost will be \$400 for the printing of the mailer
- Needed: additional information on the cost of the newsletter being mailed to the whole community.

A motion was presented, seconded and approved by the membership to move forward with the cost of mailing to the entire VEP community.

Presentation: Emergency Preparedness

Lee Steckmest, with Almaden CERT and San Jose Emergency Management Office, came to discuss and answers questions regarding individual preparedness for disasters. Lee reviewed the staffing limitations for the City of San Jose. With the number of people in San Jose and the number of response team members available, individuals will need to plan for how to handle an emergency on their own, for several days. The response team will always focus on the most populated areas first. Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) are "neighbors-helping-neighbors" organizations. Lee mentioned that the Almaden Valley CERT group has radios to assist with other neighbors.

Lee's Simple Steps to prepare yourself for emergency situation:

- Think about the gas shut-off.
- Think about what you can do without the internet.
- What about clean water?
- Make sure there is cash on hand since the ATM's won't work.
- Make sure your cars have at least 1/2 tank of gas at all times.

Lee also mentioned that there are many resources on the internet that will help you and your family get prepared. The "Ready.Gov" website is a standard staple, and PG&E has a Safety Center on-line for general prep.

Lee went on to explain that drinking water is the most essential item. Each person should have 1 gallon of water for each day. The same applies for kids. Also, all your pets will need water too.

Lee continued by going through a list of suggested items to consider preparing yourself and your home with:

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 2020, 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."

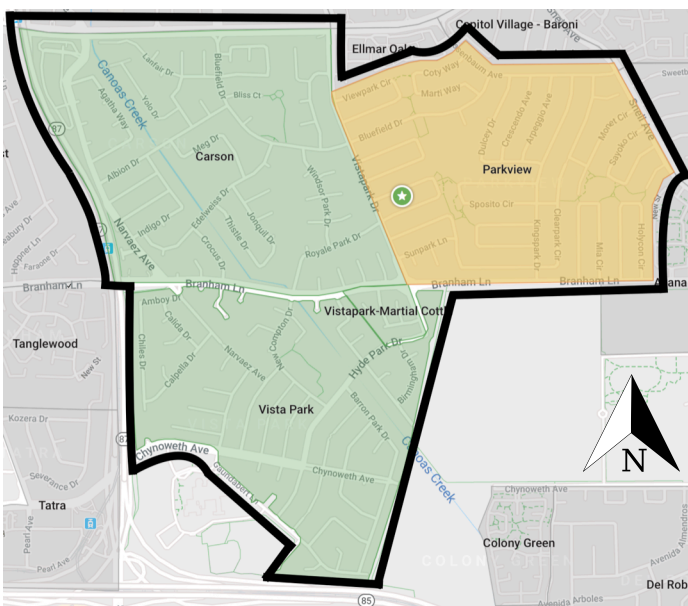
VEP Community Association ~ Executive Board of Directors

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Vice President: Cindy Bosworth - BOZ555@MSN.COM
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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

For Your Consideration:

- Check your workplace / business environment for emergency preparedness.
- Make sure that your car has an emergency kit, including a fire extinguisher.
- Make a Grab and Go bag for a quick evacuation.
- Make a formal list of priority items. The list should be next to the front door.
- Have a Bug Out box. Include enough supplies for 2 weeks time.
- Life straws are available for you to be able to drink water from a swimming pool or other pools of water.

Documentation

After a disaster, everything you have may be destroyed. The following items should be copied into electronic files and kept on an encrypted drive: Marriage licenses, Birth certificates, Driver's licenses, and Passports.

Emergency contact list should be made and an outside California contact needs to be included. During an emergency, the California lines may be too busy to work.

Preparedness Homework

- Download the Ready SCC app
- Text 888777 for alerts for your zip code. Any zip code that you are interested you can send a text for.
- Know how to turn off the gas. Practice by 1/8 turn. If you cannot turn the knob, call PG&E, they will come out to turn it or they will replace it if it is stuck.
- Make certain your hot water heater is secured properly. The #1 cause of fires after earthquakes is the movement of water heaters.

More About CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)

- Trained fire, safety, health, and preparedness under FEMA
- Anyone can complete the training for free
- 20 hours provided
- Communication strategy & protocol is set-up
- Training available once a month from the City of San Jose. You can go to the city's website and search under CERT to find out more information.

Lee's final words – "Can't control disasters but you can be prepared."

☺ What Do You Like to Do? ☺

Do you have an idea about how you can play an active part in the VEP Community Association?

VEP NEEDS VOLUNTEERS TO STAY EFFECTIVE:

Can You Spare a Little Time?

- Distribute Flyers in VEP Neighborhoods (2 or 3 times/year)
- Staff an Event Booth (Ex: Martial Cattle Park Festivals, July 4th)
- Volunteer @Events like *Dave Fadness Memorial Beautification Day*
- Plan / Coordinate VEP Events for our Neighbors

Have a Little More Time?

- Serve as President, Vice President, or Secretary of VEP
- Serve as a VEP Director: Marketing/Social Media, or Other "Jobs"
- Serve as Editor of the "VEP News"

★ YOU and Your Neighbors Matter! ★
Help VEP Stay Strong and Effective!

→ Interested? Have Other Ideas? ←

Contact VEP President Greg West:

GREG.WEST@EARTHLINK.NET / 408-829-4686

President's Corner:

2020 Membership Drive Kick-Off and San Jose City Council District 10 Candidates' Forum By Greg West

This month, we mark the kick-off of the VEP Community Association's annual membership drive and we ask that you renew your membership in VEP Community Association. Just drop a check for \$20 in the enclosed membership envelope, affix a stamp and drop it in the mail, or bring a check to the next meeting on Tuesday, January 28th. Since you are already a current member, there is no need to fill out the membership application on the envelope, unless, of course, something has changed, or you want to forward a comment to us.

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 our members, people like you. 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 51st year of community involvement, we are one of the most successful and most enduring grass roots organizations in Santa Clara County.

As one of our benefits to the neighborhood, we have organized a City Council District 10 Candidates' Forum for our meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 28. As of this writing, we have invited the three candidates in the race, and have gotten confirmations of attendance from all three. **Note that we are starting this meeting a half an hour earlier than usual (at 7PM instead of 7:30PM) to accommodate member questions and discussion. Also note that we are meeting at Gunderson High School in the Forum to accommodate the expected attendance.** We've asked the candidates for a 200 word introduction of themselves, which is published in this issue of the News.

We are informing the entire neighborhood about the candidates' forum using the "Every Door Direct Mail" service from the Post Office. The postage for this service is about 18 cents per piece. We are also combining this mailing with our membership drive, so a membership application will be printed on the back of the flyer. Our membership drive would normally be a 1st class mailing to neighbors that aren't currently members. So, the cost of our flyer AND postage will cost less than our normal membership drive mailing costs alone. Please note that even though you are a current member, you will get this flyer as well.

Please help keep your neighborhood strong and prepared. **Please renew your VEP membership today by returning your check for \$20, made payable to "VEPCA" in the envelope enclosed with this issue of the VEP News.** We are eager to continue to grow and strengthen our organization with your help. Thank-you for your past and continued membership!

Here are some examples of activities that your \$20 annual VEP membership has supported in the last 51 years:

- Planting and maintaining 170 palm trees in the median on Chynoweth Avenue.
- Driving community input on the design and development of Martial Cottle Park.
- Lobbying for safety improvements in and completion of neighborhood parks.
- Sponsoring spring and fall neighborhood and park clean-up days.
- Sponsoring & advertising an annual community-wide garage sale.
- Saving the Belden Elementary School site (now Vista Park) from residential developers and helping it become a park.
- Winning traffic safety improvements at multiple locations: Rosenbaum and Snell, Vistapark and Capitol, Bluefield and Capitol, Bluefield and Vistapark, Royal Park and Branham, and also at the former Branham and Lick Branch railroad crossing.
- Brokering the deal between Summer Hill Homes and the City of San Jose to build a community room & facilities in Vista Park as part of the housing project in the old walnut grove. Later, VEP won an Art Grant for the "Gates."
- Challenging the City over increases in high-density housing projects in our neighborhoods.

- Working with the City to keep homeless encampments out of VEP neighborhoods.
- Increasing pedestrian safety and calming traffic around Parkview School by working with DOT to petition the neighborhood and obtain city approval for the installation of 4 speed "humps."
- Rewarding outstanding volunteerism each year to graduating seniors at Andrew Hill and Gunderson High Schools through the VEP Community Service Awards.
- Regularly sponsoring candidates' and ballot-issue forums to inform and encourage active voters, including our D10 forum coming up on Jan. 28!

"Volunteerism is Alive and Well"

A Note from Aiko Fadness

Once again, we were blessed with a beautiful and sunny day on October 26, 2019, for the 5th Annual Dave Fadness Memorial Beautification Day. I was touched by the fact that although David passed away on September 29, 2015, there were many volunteers who showed up bright and early at Meadows Park on Bluefield and Edelweiss Drives ready to work.

The community owes gratitude to the hardworking volunteers who transformed the park into a clean and beautifully trimmed place for the enjoyment of neighbors and all those who drive by daily. Appreciation is expressed to the energetic and dedicated VEP Board members who organized and showed up to work at the event. The City of San Jose's cooperation is vital to the success of such endeavors. Thanks to Mollie Tobias, Volunteer Coordinator for SJ Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services; Crew Leader Sue Bowling and her able assistant who brought the tools trailer and safety equipment; Senior Maintenance Manager John Dixon and Nico Rivera for delivery of tan bark and removal of green waste; and Rob and Josie Supencheck for making sure the coffee and donuts were delivered on time.

My special thanks to Dave Noel who showed up to work and had to be sent home to recuperate from an illness - (Folks, this is the caliber of volunteers in our community!) As usual, District 10 Councilmember Johnny Khamis, took time from his busy weekend to lend a hand. Working alongside him was Matt Mahan, candidate for the D10 council seat Johnny is being termed out of.

Among the volunteers this year was Michele Kato who honed her volunteering skills at Gunderson High School before graduating in the mid 80's. She now lives in Southern California. Michele grew up in the Meadows Park neighborhood and took time to help with the clean up on her weekend trip here.

HEARTFELT and HUGE HUGS to each and every volunteer who made the time to clean up our neighborhood, especially the high school students who worked toward their community service hours when they could have been doing something fun on a beautiful Saturday. Because of dedicated volunteers our community is one of the best in San Jose in which to live. David would be happy to know that the VEP spirit of volunteerism is alive and well!

Always with Appreciation,

Aiko

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VEPCA Hosts 12th Annual "Santa in the Park"

By Cindy Bosworth; Photos by VEP Board of Directors

On December 1st, VEP hosted it's 12th Annual "Santa in the Park" event. Despite the wet and soggy weather, we had a delightful turn out. Not only did the kids get to meet and have their picture taken with Santa, but they also had an opportunity to make several different holiday crafts. Hot chocolate, hot coffee (thank you Starbucks!) and cookies were provided to ward off the chill.

Many thanks to Leonard Lucero, VEP member (and former VEP Treasurer), for his help in arranging for Santa to appear at our event. Santa - You were great!!!

Thank you to everyone in the community who donated food for Second Harvest Food Bank!

More thanks to Roberto Ruiz, VEP member and newsletter advertiser. Roberto coordinated a Marine Corps "Toys for Tots" drop off point which was accompanied by two of the Marine Corps finest.

Huge thank you's to Greg West, Laura McGeever, Rachel Witmeyer, Lisa Sanchez, Robert Supencheck and Cindy Bosworth for organizing, setting up and cleaning up after the event.

Save the date to see Santa this year:

★ Sunday, November 29, 2020 ★



Above (Left to Right): Robert Supencheck (VEP Director), Greg West (VEP President), U.S. Marines from the "Toys for Tots" program, Matt Mahan, Cindy Bosworth (VEP Vice President), Lisa Sanchez (VEP Treasurer) and Rachel Witmeyer (VEP Director & Editor of the "VEP News")

VEPCA's 9th Annual Holiday Home Décor Contest

By Lisa Sanchez

Wow! Did you see it? There were mega lights, sparkly decorations, so many characters, music and holiday magic!

I hope everyone had a chance to drive around to experience all of the amazing holiday displays. It was quite a sight! You could just feel the holiday spirit throughout our VEP neighborhoods: Parkview, Carson, Martial Cottle & Vista Park.

🎄 Thank you to all who participated, no matter how big or small the displays, collectively our neighborhood looked beautiful.

"Shout out" to our Judges for a job well done. They drove around in heavy winds and rain for days. It took emailing, texting, sharing pictures, videos, tallying, voting, driving again, voting and tallying some more. *Whew!* LOTS of discussion went into the final decisions. Here are the results for 2019:

Best Street: Savendish Court, was completely lit up!

Best Themed: The Broderick's @ 4220 Victoria Park Drive



"Santa's Dog Park" was inspired by their love of dogs and their four very own "fur babies."

Best Decorated: The Siler's @ 5220 Savendish Court



A "Synchronized radio, light show." This was not only an amazing house of displayed lights and props, but synchronized radio music (18 songs), holiday video on a porch-mounted flat screen AND a huge interactive Christmas tree! So much effort was put into this over-the-top display, which must have required quite some technical engineering and lots of elbow grease. Thanks, Joe!

🎁 The winners of Best Theme & Best Decorated Home each received a \$50 Gift Card and a Free VEP Membership for 2020.

Honorable Mentions (in no particular order): 4173 Monet Cir., 595 Amboy Dr., 3998 Lux Ct. at Lanfair, 4670 Holycon, 3925/6 Luneta, 4982 New World, 437 Hyde Park Dr., 728 Potomac Ct., 5093 New England, 4242 Dulcey Dr., 394 Sposito, 4094 Luneta, Lots on Hyde Park, Jonquil Ct./Dr. & Lanfair Dr.

We can't wait to see next year's competition!

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS, IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER



**Jenny
Higgins
Bradani**

I am running for City Council for a very simple reason, I care. I care about our families, our future and San José.

We have been D10 neighbors for twenty years. D10 is where I raised my two children and owned a small business. San José is where I went from the first hire of a start-up to the VP of Sales & Marketing, as the company grew internationally. I am a hard working, accomplished professional.

I am from our neighborhoods, not the political class. I was the mom involved on the first day and been involved ever since. I was recognized as SJUSD Volunteer of the Year in 2010 and am still active on the PTA. I am proudly endorsed by our teachers.

San José is in a time of change. Decisions made at City Council will shape the future of Silicon Valley. Many residents are thriving, many are being left behind. Housing prices, freeway congestion, and crime are increasing while our quality of life suffers.

As the only candidate with experience working at City Hall and a strong connection to D10, I know your concerns and know how to get the job done. I love our neighborhoods and want to be your voice to see better days for our families, for our community, for all.

Please visit VoteJenny.org to learn more about my story and my hopes for San José. Thank you for your vote on March 3, 2020.



**Matt
Mahan**

Great neighborhoods are the soul of our city. That's why we need to keep a strong voice for our neighborhoods on the City Council. As the founding CEO of a technology company that increased government transparency and accountability, I know what it takes to make government responsive to our community.

As your neighborhood voice, I will:

- 1) Fight to restore common sense to city government – starting with mandatory audits of spending so our taxes are spent wisely;
- 2) Transition homeless individuals out of neighborhood parks and streets into supportive housing, with a focus on mental healthcare and addiction recovery;
- 3) Continue rebuilding our police department;
- 4) Link new housing to transit and road improvements so we make our city more affordable without worsening traffic.

I have served as a public-school teacher, CEO of a nonpartisan technology company dedicated to empowering citizens, with my neighborhood community association, on Rotary and with the City's Clean Energy Commission.

My wife and I are raising our family here because our neighborhoods are a family friendly example of what a great city San Jose can be. I would be honored to serve as your neighborhood voice.

Please reach out anytime:

matt@mahanforsan jose.com or www.MahanforSanJose.com



**Helen
Wang**

Helen Wang is a businesswoman, nurse, and community leader. She is married to John D. Longwell, MD, LTC USAR (Ret.), a physician certified in both Internal Medicine and Emergency Medicine. He had co-founded one of the first urgent care clinics in San Jose and was a decorated (two Bronze Stars) Vietnam War surgeon.

Helen's experience includes running an urgent care clinic for 30 years, providing consulting services to small businesses, leading the Silicon Valley Chinese Technology and Business Association as its volunteer president and producing several Smart City conferences.

Helen currently serves on the Small Business Advisor Task Force at City of San Jose. More recently she served on the Milpitas Tenant Protection Task Force representing Small Business Owners. She was appointed to the Small Business Development Commission from 2006 to 2012 by Mayor Chuck Reed. She also served on the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee for the West Valley-Mission Community College.

Some of Helen's other volunteer activities included providing medical treatment at homeless shelters in San Jose and Sunnyvale and representing the County of Santa Clara Sister Counties Commission in a delegation to Hsin-Chu County, Taiwan. She is also president of her homeowner's association.

For more information, visit: www.Helen4D10.com

VERONICA "RONI" CASTRO | Account Executive



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MATT MAHAN is running for San Jose City Council to improve our city by empowering our neighborhoods. He will fight to:

- Require mandatory audits of city spending
- Continue rebuilding our police department
- Transition homeless individuals out of parks and streets and into shelter

Learn more at www.MahanforSanJose.com
 [MattMahanforSJ](https://www.facebook.com/MattMahanforSJ)  [@MatthewMahan](https://twitter.com/MatthewMahan)

Matt Mahan
for SAN JOSE CITY COUNCIL
DISTRICT 10

PAID FOR BY NEIGHBORS FOR MATT MAHAN FOR SAN JOSE
CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 10 IN 2020 FPPC #1417738

NOTE: VEPCA does not support or endorse any candidate.



Thank You for over a Decade of Service!

Gary Johnson and Barbara Uyeda have served on the Gunderson High School Foundation Board for over ten years. Barbara retired from our board at the end of last school year and Gary announced his retirement as of this January. These two individuals have spent countless hours giving back to our community by holding positions of leadership on our board and raising money for our Foundation so that we could provide hundreds of dollars in teacher grants and thousands of dollars for post secondary scholarships. Gary and Barbara are selfless individuals who wanted to help their community by giving back to it. Their departure will be a great loss to our Foundation, but we are so grateful that they spent so many years supporting Gunderson High School.

THANK YOU GARY & BARBARA we will miss you both!

Marc McGeever
President, Gunderson High School Foundation

Support Gunderson High School: Join our Foundation

Since 2001 Gunderson High School has had a Foundation, and our goal is very simple, we strive to support the Gunderson students and staff by:

- Funding Teacher & Department Grants to support student achievement
- Providing Scholarships for Graduating Seniors
- Supporting School-Wide Projects which enhance the learning environment

Over the last five years, the Foundation has given over \$50,000 in scholarships and this is only possible through community support.

This year we are in the process of starting a mentorship programs which will need community involvement, so if you would like to donate some time and be a mentor for an incoming freshmen or current sophomore at Gunderson High School, please send us your contact information at gundersonhighfoundation@gmail.com. We hope to have a small pilot program started before the end of this school year and full pilot program when the 2020/21 school year begins.

This can only be successful if we get support from our community so please consider getting involved in the following ways:

- Join the Foundation (Free) - stay up to date on social and fundraising events - <https://tinyurl.com/ghsfmembership>
- Make a Donation to the Foundation - tax deductible and all donations go right back into the school or students - <https://tinyurl.com/ghsfdonate>
- Volunteer to be a Mentor - meet weekly (in-person or via video conferencing) for a short meeting with your student and provide support/guidance - send contact info to: gundersonhighfoundation@gmail.com.

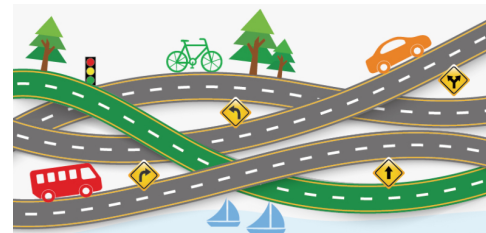
In addition to the options above we also are looking for a treasurer, due to Gary's retirement, so if you are good with numbers and would like to join our leadership team please reach out to us at: gundersonhighfoundation@gmail.com.

Stay Connected - The Gunderson Foundation
"Community Supporting Students"



Potential Diversion of Highway / Street Funds – and How I’m Fighting It

We have an important vote coming up at City Council, at our last meeting of this month, Tuesday, January 28, 2020, at 1:30 PM, when we will vote on a memo I



authored, along with my colleagues, Vice Mayor Jones and Councilmembers Davis and Foley. We are calling on VTA to keep their commitment to the voters who approved 2016’s Measure B by making it clear that they will not divert funds intended to reduce traffic congestion or repair local streets.

As you may recall, Measure B was approved in November 2016 with 71.74% of the vote. The ballot text explicitly committed a portion of the measure’s revenue to “repair[ing] streets, fix[ing] potholes [and]...reliev[ing] traffic on all 9 expressways and key highway interchanges”.

Unfortunately, with the New Year it appears that there is a new (and disastrous) idea gaining traction at the VTA Board of Directors that has the potential to repurpose the highway & streets funding that we were promised.

During public comment at the December 5th VTA Board of Directors meeting, activists were very vocal in seeking to divert desperately-needed highway funding in favor of the Measure’s other transit priorities. In reaction to this public comment, Supervisor Cortese, a member of the VTA Board, directed VTA staff to come back to the Board on January 9th with a declaration of a Climate Emergency. It has since been determined that the resolution will instead be presented to the Board at the February 6th meeting. If the talk of creating and passing this Climate Emergency resolution becomes a reality, a total of \$2 billion in highway improvements and street repairs could be diverted. Measure B already programs over \$1 billion for Caltrain improvements, and \$500 million for expanded and improved transit operations – namely bus and paratransit service to senior, disabled, transit-dependent, and other vulnerable populations.

Let me be clear: Mass transit options and carbon emissions reductions are important regional priorities. Therefore, we must commit to delivering transportation projects as described in the clear language of Measure B. A Climate Emergency declaration must not be used to change these voter-approved priorities. After all, public transit, especially busses, rely on quality streets and efficient highways to fulfill their function in getting cars off the street and reducing carbon emissions.

VTA isn’t just a transit agency – it’s also the county’s congestion management agency. VTA already struggles to adequately address congestion; diverting funds from our congested highways will only exacerbate the issue.

As an elected official, I have committed my tenure in office to promoting transparent and honest government. It is my hope that Supervisor Cortese and the entirety of the board share my convictions and see to it that the Measure B promises are kept. I call upon all county taxpayers to show their support for our highways and roads at VTA’s upcoming Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, February 6th. Without healthy roads and highways, you and I won’t be getting anywhere on time, by transit or by car.



COUNTY SUPERVISOR
MIKE WASSERMAN



2019 in Review

A few highlights of the past 12 months from Santa Clara County Supervisor Mike Wasserman (representing San Jose, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Morgan Hill, San Martin and Gilroy):

Sheltering Animals. Animal lovers gathered in November to witness a monumental construction milestone: The “topping off” of the new Santa Clara County Animal Services Center in San Martin. After years of planning, the new LEED Silver certified Animal Services Center is on track to open in 2021! Fundraising efforts for the Center are underway to complete critical infrastructure of this state-of-the-art facility. Please consider supporting local animals with a tax-deductible financial contribution.

Housing Homeless Veterans, Kids, People in Need. Residents understandably are asking, “What is being done to address homelessness?” The answer is that we are housing people. In fact, in the last five years the County has helped to house 12,400 people - including about 1,600 veterans and 3,800 kids! We are using voter-approved funds and other public investments to create affordable housing for residents in need. The County is now almost a third of the way toward our goal of financing 4,800 new affordable units through Measure A by 2027.

Modernizing 9-1-1 Services. 9-1-1 texting services will now be available throughout Santa Clara County in 2020. 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 an 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 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.”

Cordoba Moving Forward. The South Valley Islamic Center’s Cordoba mosque and cemetery in San Martin was approved in December. Many perspectives were expressed during the multi-year process and all sides were listened to and respected. Compromises were made and it was determined that the resulting use is appropriate and lawful. The project ensures that water quality will be monitored on an ongoing basis. The project will enable its members to move their services from a converted barn to a much more suitable – and beautiful – place of worship.

Preventing Wildfires. Throughout my time in office, I have been working on improving wildfire safety and I am proud that in 2019, Santa Clara County was the first county in California to receive \$4 million from Sacramento for wildfire preparedness funding. Communications are critical for emergency notifications and coordination of resources. The money is to purchase Mobile Operations Satellite Emergency Systems (MOSES), designed to ensure that firefighters and residents can maintain communication with one another if internet service providers’ systems break down.

Turning Lives Around. The County celebrated the grand opening of a 31,000-square-foot expansion of the William F. James Boys Ranch near Morgan Hill, a County youth detention facility that helps 15 to 18-year-olds turn their lives around while in custody. The expansion allows the County to provide additional services, including rehabilitation, substance abuse counseling, gang intervention, and education in trades and skills. I’m very proud of the work being done at the James Ranch by both the staff and the young people who are committed to improving their lives.

Working with PG&E. The handling of power shutoffs in our County by PG&E has frustrated many of us. PG&E’s decision to execute power shutoffs are very costly, both to local governments and to our residents, who understandably feel ignored, scared and angry. While the County can’t control what PG&E does, we are making it clear to

Sacramento leaders who regulate PG&E that their actions have consequences for our residents. As County Supervisor and Chair of the Housing, Land Use, Environment and Transportation Committee, I’ve requested PG&E representatives to appear before our Committee. We need real solutions and those usually happen by working together.

Voting Improvements. Big changes are coming to Election Day with the County’s implementation of the Voter’s Choice Act. Beginning with the March 3, 2020 Presidential Primary Election voters will be able to cast their ballots at Vote Centers or use Vote by Mail Ballots. The new system will make it more convenient for our 900,000 registered voters to cast a ballot and is anticipated to increase voter participation. In addition, Voters will benefit from a new, modern and secure voting system that includes new ballot scanners, tabulators and ADA-compliant ballot-marking devices at Vote Centers. The new system will enable a decentralized count which is expected to expedite election night results considerably.

Counting America - Census 2020. Since the very first Census in 1790, the Federal government has undertaken the constitutional requirement to count everyone living in the United States every 10 years. Accuracy matters: Congressional representation is based on the Census, as are significant amounts of funding; nearly \$2,000 per person per year in federal money comes into California based on census-derived data. To ensure that every household is on the Census Bureau’s address list to be officially counted, the County funded an unprecedented \$1 million to launch a Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) effort.

Keeping Gilroy Strong. The shooting at the Gilroy Garlic Festival in July was a senseless tragedy that has rocked our community and shocked the world. Six-year-old Stephen Romero, 13-year-old Keyla Salazar and 25-year-old Trevor Irby were killed and 15 others were injured. My heart goes out to the families affected and as a community, we are deeply grateful to the thousands of local firefighters and law enforcement, EMS, physicians, nurses, medical personnel, emergency management staff, volunteers and community members who sprang into action during this crisis.

Balancing \$8.1 Billion. The needs of our County’s 2 million residents far outpace revenues, which made this year’s budget a herculean balancing act. The County’s 2020 \$8.1 billion budget funds vital services that hold the fabric of our society together but are often invisible to residents. At the county level of government, we don’t control the decisions made in Washington and Sacramento or what happens with the economy. Much of the County’s budget is comprised of “pass through” State and Federal funds that pay for mandated services, which is why we are constantly adjusting to change and challenges in these uncertain times.

Improving Nail Salon Worker Health. Supervisor Cindy Chavez and I launched the Healthy Nail Salon Program, a free and voluntary program for the 850 nail salons in Santa Clara County that employ more than 5,000 nail technicians. In a joint effort with the California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative, Santa Clara County implemented the Healthy Nail Salon Recognition Program to protect the health of nail salon workers and customers. A recognized Healthy Nail Salon offers safer products, safer practices, and proper ventilation to reduce exposure to more toxic products.

Combating Wage Theft. The pervasive problem of wage theft disproportionately affects immigrants and low-wage workers. The County’s new Office of Labor Standards Enforcement and the Department of Environmental Health 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.

I look forward to facing challenges in 2020 head on with my colleagues on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and working with all of you to create a better community. I wish you all a happy and healthy New Year!

Mike Wasserman
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Don't Forget!!!

VEPCA CANDIDATES' FORUM

March Primary Election: San Jose City Council District 10

Tuesday, January 28th - 7pm to 9pm

Gunderson High School Forum - 622 Gaundabert Lane

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