



VEP's COMMUNITY MEETING

► **Tuesday, Feb. 25th, 2020** ◀

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



County of Santa Clara

Office of Supportive Housing

★ **Homelessness and "The County"** ★

with **Ky Le**

Director of The County Office of Supportive Housing

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

★ **VEP Business Meeting** ★

Announcements & Updates

Upcoming "Save the Dates"

★ **Your Concerns and Ideas** ★

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

~ CALENDAR CORNER ~

FEB. Early & Absentee Ballot Voting Begins

3/3 ELECTION DAY! Get Out & Vote!

4/18 4th Annual Spring Celebration
at Martial Cottle County Park
→ See Pages 4 & 5 for Details!

4/25 Neighborhood Clean-Up/Beautification
→ See Pages 2 & 7 for Details!

5/2 VEP's Community-Wide Garage Sale

VEP's February Community Meeting Preview

By Robert Supencheck

Are you concerned about homelessness in our area? Our next meeting, on Tuesday, February 25, will feature guest speaker Ky Le, the Director of Santa Clara County's County Office of Supportive Housing. Ky will talk about homelessness in Santa Clara County and what the county is doing to address the crisis of homelessness. Please bring your questions for Ky to answer after his talk.

VEP's January Meeting Summary: San Jose City Council D10 Candidate Forum

Article by Laura McGeever, Greg West and Rachel Witmeyer
Photograph by Lisa Sanchez

At VEP's January meeting, we hosted a Candidates' Forum for the three District 10 candidates. Each candidate was given the opportunity to make both opening and closing remarks, as well as answer each of the questions from the community.



From Left to Right: District 10 City Council Candidates:
Helen Wang, Matt Mahan and Jenny Higgins Bradanini

Below, we have listed the questions that were asked of the candidates at the Forum. If you would like to read the full text of the meeting notes, including the candidates' answers, we will be posting the document online, at www.vepca.net, as well as on the VEPCA Facebook Group Page.

These are the questions that were asked by community members:

1. What will you do about crime?
2. Why did people vote for Prop 47?
3. Why are neighbors charged (by the city) to fix the sidewalks in front of their houses?
4. How will the city get more businesses into the city when there are so many taxes on small businesses?
5. What services do you *not* support that San Jose is currently doing?
6. What will you do for those recovering from addiction/drug abuse?
7. How do we improve infrastructure to reduce crime?
8. Why do the neighbors have to accommodate the high crime rate?
9. How do you increase housing supply and keep Open Space in San Jose? Those seem like contradictory goals.
10. How is the city going to work with county Social Services?
11. City meetings are very long. How can the public participate and be informed?
12. How will you get things done at City Hall?
13. Homelessness is divided responsibilities amongst different entities. How do we address the issue?
14. How will you be accessible to the public?
15. How do you bring minorities into the political process?
16. How do you fight those who don't want the homeless to be placed in "government" encampments?
17. Are you opposed to San Jose being a sanctuary city?
18. How would you address homelessness?

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

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

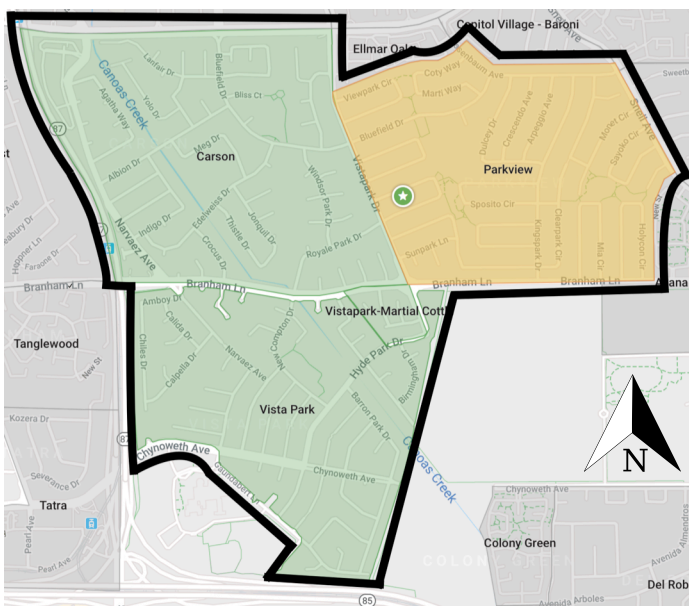
Director & VEP News Editor: Rachel Witmeyer - VEPEDITOR@GMAIL.COM

Director: POSITION VACANT

WEB: WWW.VEPCA.NET

EMAIL: VEPCA@VEPCA.NET

- Join VEP Community Association's Facebook Group! -



VEP Membership Area

President's Corner

- It's Membership Renewal Time!

By Greg West

February is VEP membership renewal month. You should have received a pre-addressed remittance envelope in last month's printed issue of the **VEP News**. We have gotten a number of renewals in the last couple of weeks, but, there are still a few members that haven't yet renewed. I know that some people joined or renewed at different times of the year last year since we went on a membership campaign at the beginning of last year. We have kept track of when people joined or renewed. If you have any question about when you joined or renewed last year, please email me (greg.west@earthlink.net) and I can look it up and get back to you with the date we have recorded (note that most members sent their check in by the middle of March last year). However, we would like to get as many people as we can on the same membership renewal schedule. So, please, if you haven't yet, send in your \$20 check to VEPCA, PO Box 18037, San Jose, CA, 95158 (or use the remittance envelop in last month's VEP News, if you still have it). If you joined or renewed later in the year last year, you will continue to receive your issue of the VEP News through the month that you paid last year unless you renew.

Also, we are going to have our **Spring Neighborhood Beautification Day in conjunction with the Great American Litter Pick-up on April 25th and the City of San Jose**. VEP will have some cleanup projects defined, like picking up litter on Branham Lane along the Martial Cottle Park fence line. Thanks to VEP Treasurer Lisa Sanchez, VEP has qualified for a neighborhood beautification grant. We are seeking a project that we could work on that day, pending final approval from the city. And, if you have any neighborhood cleanup projects that you see needing to be done, please suggest them! But, more about GALP next month...

Finally, I have nothing but good things to say about the "**My San Jose**" phone app and the City's response to problems reported on it. I've used the app successfully several times to report graffiti in the neighborhood, and the City has either removed it or painted over it, typically within 48 hours of it being reported. I've used the app several times to report graffiti on Chynoweth under the freeway on the freeway overpass columns and on the sloped walls under the overpass. I just recently reported graffiti on a sound wall on Branham near New Compton Dr. Again, gone within a couple of days! We also had an abandoned RV with no plates parked on my block for a few weeks, and not belonging to any of the neighbors. In this case, several other people and I reported on the app. This took a little longer, but, the RV has now moved out of the neighborhood. I'm not sure if the owners were contacted to move it, if it was ticketed, or if it was towed, but, it's no longer an eyesore for me and my neighbors to look at every day.

The My San Jose app can be downloaded for free from the Google Play Store or from the Apple Apps Store.

VERONICA "RONI" CASTRO | Account Executive



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Reasonable Rates! Reach 1,000's of Families!

Contact VEP Treasurer, Lisa Sanchez!
(LisaS.VEP@gmail.com)

Friends Of Martial Cottle Park (FOMCP) Update

By Joyce Chesnos

We are happy to announce that our 2019 efforts to spread the word about our new non-profit and raise funds via our membership drive and several FOMCP-sponsored events paid off. In December, Friends of Martial Cottle Park (FOMCP) donated a first installment of \$5,000.00 to Santa Clara County Parks towards Phase I of the "Hedgerow Project", which is FOMCP's 2019 and 2020 fundraising focus.



A "hedgerow" is a narrow strip of mixed native plants placed adjacent to the agricultural fields in order to attract beneficial insects and pollinators, provide habitat for native wildlife, moderate wind/dust and add beauty among other benefits. Phase I of the hedgerow will be located along the Chynoweth Avenue side fence starting near the Master Gardeners plot, and the timeline is as follows:

- Native plant seedlings have been started and will continue to grow January – May, 2020
- Irrigation designed and installed for the site June – September
- Planting of the hedgerows October – November
- Mulching and completion December

FOMCP is grateful for the support of our members and donors, and it will be exciting for us all to see this project take shape. We are planning a planting party and will invite all of you!

We welcome new members and donors throughout the year and encourage current members to continue their support by renewing their memberships annually. In 2020, Friends of Martial Cottle Park hopes to fill all our vacant board and committee positions. Please consider giving your time by serving on our board or a committee.

You can easily learn more about us and join/renew/donate online at our website: <https://fomcp.org/>. Thank you for pitching in. (A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.)

V.E.P. Needs YOU



☺ 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 Cottle 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



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Your Neighborhood Property Manager



Andrea Vernerova
(408) 621-4921
andrea@cmpmi.com



www.cmpmi.com

Ask about special rates for VEP neighbors!





Spring Celebration

Saturday, April 18 - 10am-2pm

Experience the County's agricultural past, present and future on land the Cottle family farmed for over 150 years

- Master Gardeners' Spring Garden Market
- Vendor and Exhibitor Fair
- Vintage Farm Equipment
- Spring Planting Activities
- Meet Farm Animals Up Close
- Kids Activities and Crafts
- Garden Talks and Tours
- Food, Music and more!

Event is Rain or Shine!
Free Admission!
(\$6 Parking)



SANTA CLARA COUNTY PARKS



Bike or Take Public Transit
5283 Snell Avenue
San Jose, 95136



Martial Cottle: 4th Annual Spring Celebration!

By Martial Cottle County Park Staff

There may be no better place to experience over 150-years of agricultural history than Santa Clara County's Martial Cottle Park. The rich history will be on display at the Martial Cottle Park Spring Celebration Saturday, April 18th from 10am to 2pm.

The event will feature a peek at the past with restored vintage farm equipment and gleaming automobiles dating back to the days of the "Valley of Heart's Delight." The celebration will showcase the future too. Local arts and plant vendors, kids' crafts, music and food will be on display to enjoy. There will be plant sales, gardening demonstrations, workshops and tours. Children are our future and they will learn and enjoy agriculture through hands on activities, crafts and the opportunity to meet farm animals up close.

Admission to the Martial Cottle Spring Celebration is free. The Vehicle parking fee is \$6.00, however public transit or biking to the event is highly encouraged. Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition will be on-site providing complimentary bike valet service for all cyclists. So, come celebrate with us! See ya April 18th!



A Visit to San Jose's Rosicrucian Museum

By Lynne & Stephen Kinsey

If you have not been to the Rosicrucian Museum at all or not recently, you owe yourself a visit. Most San Jose school children visit here on field trips in the sixth grade. Located on the grounds of the Rosicrucian Headquarters at 1660 Park Ave, directly across the street from Hoover Middle School. Also on these grounds you will find the Rosicrucian planetarium, Labyrinth, Rose and Peace Gardens. Originally built in 1939 the museum has been added-to and modernized over the years. In order to visit the various galleries and exhibits you need to go up and down several short flights of stairs. Ask at the visitor's desk at the entrance for a map, because they are not visibly available.

Your first stop should be to take a seat to watch a series of captioned videos that give a brief overview of Egyptian History. It gives you a sense of how old everything is and familiarizes you with some of the names of persons and places you will encounter in the exhibits. If you are lucky there will be a school tour while you are there and you can follow them around to learn about the things you will see, but everything is well labeled.

We did not go on an available tour of the burial chamber, because we had seen it before and there was a classroom of noisy 6th graders waiting to enter the small chambers. It is worth seeing, at least once, and to hear the guide. In the glass display cases we did see a mummified baby crocodile, bull's head, cat, gazelle, Ibis Bird, a falcon and a catfish. Additionally there were some mummified people. Often mummies were buried with personal belonging, like jewelry, pots, pottery, sculptures, and good luck pieces. Some of these are on display, too

There are models and diagrams showing what the pyramids looked like and where the caskets and other remains were located. There was also an audio tour headset available to rent. It was hard to believe that many of the items were in excess of 3,000 years old.

The museum is open Wed-Fri 9am-5pm; Sat-Sun 10am-6pm. There are more details about the museum, and their available guided tours on their website, <https://egyptianmuseum.org>



COUNTY SUPERVISOR

MIKE WASSERMAN

February County Update

Your Vote. The March 3 Presidential Primary Election is right around the corner! The Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters (ROV) is modernizing and providing voters with greater flexibility and convenience. What's changing? Every registered voter will receive a Vote-By-Mail ballot starting now! Residents can cast their ballot at any of the 110 Vote Centers, which will be open for multiple days prior to the election (check www.rov.sccgov.org for your Center's election hours). Voters will now get to choose WHEN, WHERE and HOW to vote!

Important Dates for the Presidential Primary Election

2/3/20 - 3/2/20	Early voting period at the Registrar of Voters Office
2/22/20 - 3/2/20	Voting Centers open
2/25/20	Last day to request a Vote by Mail Ballot replacement by mail
3/3/20	Election Day! Multiple Vote Centers and ROV Office open from 7:00am - 8:00pm
4/2/20	ROV deadline to certify election results

Creating Safe Places. According to the 2019 homeless census count, more than 3,600 people live in cars and RVs on the streets throughout our County, even though many of them are employed and sending their kids to school. To help address this crisis, the Board of Supervisors last month approved a proposal from Supervisor Joe Simitian to expand the County's current investment in safe parking programs, providing people a safe and legal place to park at night. The primary goal of County and non-profit housing partners is creating affordable housing - something that is being accomplished in part through Measure A investments. While safe parking programs are not long-term solutions, they offer safety and stability at night for car and RV residents while they seek permanent housing. These safe parking initiatives are underway in numerous cities.

New Library Website. I am proud to announce that the Santa Clara County Library District launched a completely redesigned website to kick off 2020, including a new URL: www.sccld.org. In addition to the new design, the website offers features such as an online digital library card registration, which enables residents to immediately receive a library eCard account to access the entire online library! And the platform has been custom designed to allow all household members to be able to receive their own eCard accounts in a single registration transaction. To our knowledge, this is the first and only public library to offer this unique and convenient feature.

Silicon Valley Reads 2020 in Los Gatos. Join Friends of the Los Gatos Library for a special event on February 8th with "Silicon Valley Reads 2020" selected author Julian Guthrie, an award winning journalist who will speak on her bestselling book *Alpha Girls: The Women Upstarts Who Took On Silicon Valley's Male Culture and Made the Deals of a Lifetime*. Guthrie follows the careers and lives of four entrepreneurial women in the venture capital world who were instrumental to the rise of such companies as Sales Force, Tesla, Oracle, Imperva, Trulia and Facebook.

As always, you can reach my office at (408) 299-5010, or you can email me at district1@bos.sccgov.org.

Mike Wasserman

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, District 1

www.supervisorwasserman.org

Thinking About Change

Submitted By Jenny Higgins Bradanini
VoteJenny.org - votejenny@gmail.com

Change, we talk about change a lot in our campaigns. I have seen San José change a lot since I first became a homeowner here in 2002. Silicon Valley, formerly the Valley of Heart's Delight, has been an epicenter of change. More change is ahead of us - our transit systems and how we get around has to change, housing conditions are not matching demands and needs, crime and our safety is not at the level it should be, and with an unknown climate future, addressing emergency preparedness is critical.



When 2020 arrived, we made our first steps into a new decade. A new decade full of hopes that is counting on us to make very important decisions for the days ahead. Change is coming and we need responsible stewards making these decisions, especially as some of the changes happening now are not occurring in the best interests of the people and our families. The work and costs of the current changes are being shouldered by the residents, workers and families of San José. Yet, if we look at who is making all the money and benefits from these changes, it is not the people, it is not our families, it is not the workers.

Government should not always meddle but when certain situations grow out of control, like the homeless crisis, City Hall has to do something about it and get involved. Sadly, corporate profits and outside interests seem to be the only priority for too many on City Council, and when one-vote majorities continue to neglect the needs of the people - letting these issues go unresolved - the real change we need to address first is who represents us at City Hall.

I have never been or sought to be a career politician. I am not from the political class. I am your neighbor. This election cycle we are seeing money pouring in across the city from the corporate interests that keep getting their way at City Hall, while many of us struggle because our paychecks cannot stretch far enough. The conversations about the upcoming Presidential election are much different from our local elections, but some ring true - the influence of money in politics.

Change is not supposed to wash away our families from being able to stay here. Change is not supposed to sweep away our most vulnerable because they cannot keep up. Change, like innovation, only has worth if it lifts us ALL up. Only our voices and our votes can be stronger than the monied interests that have infiltrated our politics. I hope you will join me and thousands of other voters in San José on March 3 & November 3 and make the best choices for our families and the people.

As your neighbor for twenty years, I know the taxes we pay and the services we get. As the only candidate with experience at City Hall, I know how our services are delivered. The only way we can ensure positive change is by listening to and serving the people, rather than capitulating to corporate greed. I truly hope you will trust me with your vote. Thank you.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The VEPCA does not support or endorse any political candidate. All three candidates for San Jose City Council District 10 were invited to submit an "Op-Ed" this month, in advance of the February election. Ms. Jenny Higgins Bradanini was the only candidate who submitted an article by the print deadline. Mr. Matt Mahan's campaign paid to place their advertisement in the VEP News for the months of January and February 2020.



Thick and Hearty Minestrone Soup

Recipe Shared by Laura McGeever

INGREDIENTS

- 2 Tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 1 cup chopped yellow onion (1/2 of a large onion)
- 1 cup sliced or diced carrots
(1-2 large carrots or a handful of baby carrots)
- 1 cup sliced or diced celery (2-3 stalks)
- 1 cup sliced or diced zucchini (about 1 small)
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 Tablespoon of Italian seasoning
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon fresh ground pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
- 5-6 cups vegetable or chicken broth
- 2 cups water
- 2-3 teaspoons red wine vinegar
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 (14 ounce) can kidney beans, drained and rinsed*
- 1 (14 ounce) can butter beans, drained and rinsed*
- 1 (14 ounce) can green beans, drained and rinsed*
- 1 (14 ounce) can diced tomatoes (do not drain)
- 1 (8 ounce) can tomato paste
- 1 1/3 cups uncooked rice or pasta*
- 3 cups fresh spinach, chopped
- Parmesan cheese, for serving

DIRECTIONS

1. Heat the olive oil over medium heat in a 4 quart (or larger) pot or Dutch oven.
2. Add the onion, carrots, celery, zucchini, garlic, Italian seasoning, salt, pepper, and thyme.
3. Stir and cook for 6-7 minutes as the vegetables soften up and let out some juices.
4. Add broth, water, red wine vinegar, bay leaf, all the beans, diced tomatoes, and tomato paste.
5. Bring to a boil, then add uncooked rice or pasta.
6. Cover and simmer for 35 minutes.
7. Stir in the chopped spinach and simmer for 5 more minutes.
8. Remove bay leaf.



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

[f MattMahanforSJ](https://www.facebook.com/MattMahanforSJ) [@MatthewMahan](https://twitter.com/MatthewMahan)

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CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 10 IN 2020 FPPC #1417738

2020 Great American Litter Pick Up

Save The Date



COUNCILMEMBER

JOHNNY KHAMIS

CITY OF SAN JOSE



April

Earth Day

25

Saturday

2 ways to get involved:



Partner with District 10 to create your own **Neighborhood Beautification** community service project throughout March and April.

We will provide the gloves, vests, garbage bags, brushes, paint, and other supplies.

OR

Sign up to **volunteer** for the **Great American Litter Pick Up** on April 25, 2020. Great opportunity for high school students or youth groups to get service hours & develop leadership skills.

Contact us at district10@sanjoseca.gov or call (408) 535-4910

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“SAVE THE DATE”

APRIL 18th

**4th Annual Spring Celebration
at Martial Cottle Park (see p. 4 & 5)**

APRIL 25th

**VEP Neighborhood Beautification
& “Great American Litter Pick-Up”
(see p. 2 & 7)**

MAY 2nd

VEP’s Community-Wide Garage Sale