



NO COMMUNITY MEETING

► March Meeting Cancelled ◀

VEP's March Community Meeting Cancelled: Or, "An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure" *By Rachel Witmeyer*

VEPCA's March 31st community meeting has been cancelled out of an abundance of caution for the health of our members, neighbors, and guest speakers.

The spread of COVID-19 (The "Coronavirus") has prompted local counties and health departments to place "bans" on gatherings of 35 people or more, among other cautions. Moreover, there are serious risks to the older members of our community, which we do not take lightly.

VEPCA is very committed to providing reliable information and communications with our community. We have tentatively rescheduled a visit from District 10 Councilmember-Elect Matt Mahan for our April 28th meeting. We appreciate your understanding.

VEP's February Meeting Summary

By Lisa Sanchez and Greg West

Here are the highlights, for those who missed the February VEP Community Meeting. We had some great speakers!

First of all, it was great to see our former VEP President, Marilyn Rodgers, in attendance. She gave a quick background on the Measure Q Expenditure Oversight Committee, which currently has an opening for any resident interested. Ms. Rodgers shared how this is an excellent way to be involved by overseeing the measures expenditures, reviewing audits and reports. The City's Measure Q oversight committee reviews city staff decisions around the Measure's finances and budgets. She also provided flyers for anyone interested. What a great way to ensure Measure Q conforms to the Expenditure Plan!

Next, our guest speaker Ky Le, Director of the Santa Clara County Office of Supportive Housing, presented a slideshow of various statistics and a very detailed account of the County's history and current relation with homelessness. Included were statistics on homelessness expansion and population growth over the years. He also gave the current status of projects completed and proposed plans for the future. This is aside from building a way to work in unison on with entities such as the State, City, VTA, Railroad and more. It was interesting to have a visual on the growth and expansion as it relates to the whole Silicon Valley. Of course, many factors contribute to homelessness, but the County's focus is in providing housing. Housing is key to personal wellness and dignity. It provides a place to sleep, have meals, receive mail, have peace and a retreat, for family and basic necessities. Several housing units have just opened in the Cupertino and North San Jose areas. Mr. Le said the County is open to all innovative ideas and looks to think out of the box.

Below is the outline of his informative slideshow:

- State of Homelessness, Census and Population in the County
- How people experiencing homelessness get housed in the County
- Root causes and what efforts are being made by County and its partners
- Measure A: 2016 Affordable Housing Bond
- Cost Study of Homelessness in Silicon Valley
- 2020 Community Plan to End Homelessness through: Prevention, Abatement, Health Support, Permanent Housing, Safe Parking Programs, and Temporary Shelter
- The County is open to innovative ideas that can be forwarded to Mr. Le's office. (Phone: (408) 278-6400)

Website: <https://www.sccgov.org/sites/osh/Pages/home.aspx>

Neighbors in attendance suggested looking at existing successful city programs, partnering with existing homeowners with extra rooms or ADU's to rent, and using open spaces or VTA parking lots for safe parking beyond the limited 10pm to 7am times.

Mr. Le acknowledged that the county needs to refine the ability to work in unison with and in a timely manner with other agencies for abatement such as the city, state, and transportation department. He also stated that affordable housing and higher paying wages are needed to support working class families in this area.

Next, we were introduced to Enrique Navarro from Councilmember Khamis' office, who announced that the Great American Litter Pick Up is April 25th (VEP is hosting a Spring neighborhood cleanup event in conjunction with GALPU). He also provided flyers for emergency preparedness (gather 15 or more nei-

~ CALENDAR CORNER ~

(All Dates are Tentative, Pending the Status of the COVID-19 Situation. Please watch for updates!)

- 4/17 Application Deadline for VEP's 2020 "Community Service Awards" for Graduating High School Seniors
→ See Page 3 for Details!
- 4/18 4th Annual Spring Celebration at Martial Cottle County Park
→ See Page 5 for Details!
- 4/25 Neighborhood Clean-Up/Beautification & "Great American Litter Pick-Up"
→ See Pages 3 & 9 for Details!
- 4/28 VEP's April Community Meeting
- 5/2 VEP's Community-Wide Garage Sale
→ See Page 8 for Details!
- 5/26 VEP's May Community Meeting

June - August: VEPCA on "Summer Break"
No Monthly Community Meetings

★ 2020 is VEPCA's 51st Year! ★

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."

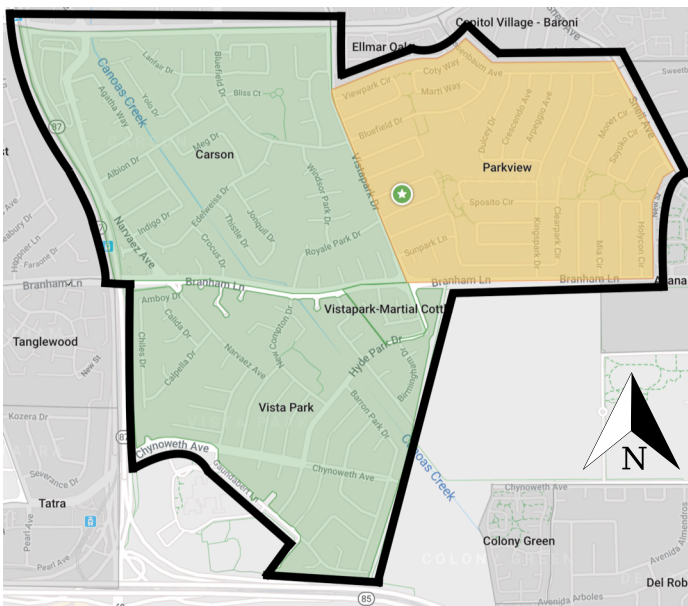
VEP Community Association ~ Executive Board of Directors

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Director: POSITION VACANT

WEB: WWW.VEPCA.NET

EMAIL: VEPCA@VEPCA.NET

- Join VEP Community Association's Facebook Group! -



VEP Membership Area

Article Continued from Page 1

-ighbors and host a meeting), as well as a sign-up sheet for the D10 Newsletter (or, visit the following link to read or subscribe: <https://www.sjd10.com/newsletter-archives.html>).

VEP neighbors brought up a few concerns with Mr. Navarro:

What can we do about speeding on Branham? Specifically the 25MPH zone in front of the Carlton Plaza. Mr. Navarro suggested to email him, in order to obtain a contact for a traffic study through a "Traffic Tool Kit." He also provided a link where VEP can apply for a "Traffic Trailer," with the flashing 25MPH signage. Following the meeting, VEP immediately emailed Enrique and applied for both!

When will our streets be paved? Mr. Navarro stated it is an 8 year plan. He then followed up and provided a link that shows the first phase locations thru 2022. Good news first: Vista Park gets paved in 2020. Now the bad news: Carson & Parkview are not on this phase until 2022. The link will be posted on our VEP Facebook Group Page and it will be updated as projects are completed.

San Jose is in desperate need of more SJPD presence! Yes, 46 cadets have just graduated and will join our more seasoned officers. As their presence grows, more cadets are in training.

To end the evening, VEP President Greg West gave a status on VEPCA's membership drive, saying that membership is growing as a result of the drive. He also shared that VEP will prorate those members that paid dues later in 2019 through the end of 2020. Then all members will be on a beginning-of-calendar-year renewal cycle.

Don't forget to join our VEP Facebook Group Page to stay updated on all the latest news and events from VEP Community Association!

President's Corner: Consider Helping Out VEP in an Organization Leadership Role

By Greg West

I'm coming to the end of my second and final year in my current stint as VEP president. Next year I'll be taking over as VEP Editor from Rachel Witmeyer who has done an outstanding job as editor since 2013. I was also president of VEP from 1998 to 2001. My focus over the last couple of years with our leadership team has been to build the VEP membership by ensuring that we continue offering the neighborhood a quality product in the VEP News and in meeting subjects and guests. As a result, roughly 25% of our current membership has either joined as a new member, or has rejoined after a several year gap in membership. I also know from experience, that an organization can get stale without an occasional change in leadership to bring in new energy and new ideas. This is part of the reason that I've decided to step down as president and take on a new role as News Editor.

The quality of the people that I've worked with on our executive board in both of my stints as president has been outstanding. Our current leadership team is active and engaged, but, again, for the good of the organization, we need to ensure that we bring in new energy. I won't tell you that the time commitment is insignificant, but, it certainly is manageable. And, as president, I've respected my leadership team's time, and have kept meetings outside of the monthly membership meeting as short as possible while still getting the work done. I think that I've done a good job of keeping membership meetings on schedule (typically scheduled for 90 minutes) respecting our members' time as well. I expect that our new president will have this same time management philosophy -- that's just good management practice, especially in a volunteer situation.

If you'd like to get involved in the VEP leadership team, come to any membership meeting and let any one of the current leadership team know that you are interested. In addition, our next leadership meeting will be on Tuesday April 7th in the Vista Park Community Room at 7PM (**Pending Shelter In Place Status**). You can always come to that meeting to get a feel for working with our team. In any case, we look forward to seeing you at any of VEP's meetings!



VEPCA Spring Beautification Day: April 25th!

By Robert Supencheck

Spring is here and what better way to honor the season, and our lovely neighborhoods, than by participating in VEP's Annual Spring Beautification Day, which, this year, will coincide with San Jose's Great American Litter Pick up, or "GALP." Registration will begin at 8:30am, on Saturday, April 25th, at the Vista Park Community Room. Projects will commence around 9:00am, and will include beautifying the intersection of Capitol Expressway and Bluefield Drive, and litter pickup along Branham Lane between Vistapark Drive and Snell Avenue. All volunteers are welcome! Bring family members and friends! Great opportunity for High School Seniors to earn Community Service Hours! The city of San Jose will supply the tools. (NOTE: Event date may change w/COVID-19 situation.)

VEPCA's 2020 Community Service Awards

By Laura McGeever

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

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

The winners will receive an award of \$1000 each, to be used for post-secondary education, based on their community service during high school regardless of their GPA. At-large award applications can be obtained by emailing the CSA committee chair at VEPCSA@gmail.com. The deadline for submission is April 17, 2020.

For this year's VEP Community Service Award, we are looking for volunteers to screen applications from eligible high school students. Again, this year, we have budgeted \$3000 for the awards, \$1000 each to a graduating, college bound senior from Andrew Hill, Gunderson, and from a VEP family for the "At Large" category. Please send an email to VEPCSA@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering as an application screener.

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VEPCA Earns "Beautify San Jose" 2020 Grant: Improvement Project(s) Coming Soon!

By Lisa Sanchez

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services has continuously strived to create cleaner, safer and more vibrant neighborhoods using grants provided through the "Beautify San Jose Program." The mission of the BSJ Program is to support residents' efforts at reclaiming public space and empowering neighborhoods by aesthetically demonstrating pride.

VEP began the application process and applied in August of 2019. Attending meetings, meeting with DOT for approval while submitting and resubmitting various forms. In October 2019, VEP was selected, as one of the 90+ neighborhoods, to be awarded a \$5,000. BSJ Grant. As of March 6, VEP has received the grant check!

This will be an exciting project, the sole purpose of this grant will be to enhance and beautify our neighborhood with trees and plants. VEP will work very closely with Our City Forest to make sure the plan is "water wise."

We will be sure to share information, keeping everyone involved... stay tuned as we share updates at the VEP Community Meetings and Newsletter.

Please see Lisa Sanchez if you have any questions or would like to volunteer with various stages of accomplishing the project.

NOTE: Special "Thanks" to VEP's Past President, Marilyn Rodgers, who continues to keep VEP in mind whenever she sees opportunities that will benefit our neighborhoods!

FRIENDS OF MARTIAL COTTLE PARK: HEDGEROW UPDATE!

By Joyce Chesnos, Membership Co-Chair

Since 2018, Friends of Martial Cottle Park (FOMCP) has been working to build awareness of our non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that supports projects and programs at Martial Cottle Park. Perhaps you saw us most recently at the Winter Walk and Senior Resource Fair at Oakridge Mall.

Friends of Martial Cottle Park raises funds through a combination of membership fees, donations and fundraising events. Last year we were able to donate \$5,000.00 towards Phase 1 of the Park "Hedgerow Project", which will plant native flowers and plants along the organic farm fields to attract beneficial insects and natural predators that will help pollinate and protect the crops. The seedlings for Phase 1 are currently being grown by Our City Forest, a Park Partner, and should be ready for planting this Fall (photos below).



Our fundraising plans for 2020 include another Life Estate Tour on Saturday, May 2nd and a barn dance later in the summer. For information regarding FOMCP membership, our focus projects, upcoming fundraising events, or our board/committee openings, please visit our website: <https://fomcp.org/>. Memberships/donations are deductible as allowable by law, so please pitch in by becoming a "Friend."

COMMUNITY-WIDE GARAGE SALE



VEP's Annual Community-Wide Garage Sale

By Rachel Witmeyer

We all know how hard it can be to deal with household clutter and make decisions about which family "heirlooms" can be gotten rid of, but if you get motivated now, you can be ready to take advantage of the VEP Community-Wide Garage Sale on Saturday, May 2nd! You can "find" new owners for all those unwanted and unneeded items in your home, and turn a little profit at the same time!

VEP Pays for the Advertising - You Make the Profit!

VEP pays to place print advertisements in the San Jose Mercury News, and the VEP Board of Directors will make posts on Craigslist and Nextdoor as well. This effort will bring lots of "Garage Sale Gurus" to our neighborhoods, increasing the "traffic" at everyone's sales. Many customers will literally drive from house to house, checking out all the treasures available. This makes it easy for VEP community members to have a successful sale.

How Can Neighbors Participate? Just Have a Garage Sale!

Neighbors often ask, "How do I sign-up?" or "What's the fee to participate?" The answers are quite simple: There is no fee, no registration and no sign-up required. Simply plan to have a sale, gather all your items, put up a few signs in the area to "point" shoppers to your sale, and start setting things up around 7am on Saturday, May 2nd. Yes, it is that easy!

What About "Leftover" Items I Don't Want?

The VEP Board of Directors is currently working to secure a donation truck from the Salvation Army. Specific details will be provided in the April edition of the VEP News, as well as via Email communications.

Gunderson High School Foundation



Spring Fundraiser Event

Let's Pack the Pub for this good cause!

Sunday, April 26, 2020 ~ 2-5PM ~ Britannia Arms
5027 Almaden Blvd. San Jose, CA.

Early Bird Tickets Cost \$35
till 4/15, through Eventbrite

tinyurl.com/GHSFoundationSpringFundraiser

Spend an afternoon with the Foundation enjoying:

- Gunderson Student Art Show
- Britannia Arms' Delicious Appetizers
- Bid on a variety of Silent Auction Items

Note: This is a No Host Bar Event

V.E.P. Needs YOU



★VEP Needs New Officers!★

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO STAY EFFECTIVE!

Positions Open after May of 2020:

- VEPCA President
- VEPCA Secretary
- Director on the VEPCA Board of Directors

Help VEPCA Stay Strong and Effective!

Please Contact VEP President Greg West:

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

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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



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5283 Snell Avenue
San Jose, 95136





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

Homelessness: If it's a crisis, lets act like it!

Despite my five-year effort to educate the public and lobby the County Board of Supervisors to implement Laura's law, with the support of my colleagues on the San José City Council, County leaders failed to move this law forward on January 28th. Laura's Law is a temporary, court-supervised, involuntary conservatorship law that would help some of the most vulnerable mentally ill people on our streets. While it will help a small number of the overall population of unhoused people, that handful are the most severely mentally ill, have had several interactions with law enforcement, and have the biggest effect on our community's quality of life. Laura's Law has been implemented in neighboring counties and is producing positive outcomes for both the homeless and for taxpayers, and Santa Clara County is missing an opportunity to help those who are unable to get help for themselves.

Despite this disappointment, it was satisfying to see that, after many years without significant, focused action, the County made some progress, such as approving the O'Connor and St. Louise hospitals as clinical service sites for homeless individuals that need medical treatment, and enhancement of mental health services at the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center. County-wide, voters approved Measure A, a \$950 million affordable housing tax, to fund 120 new housing developments in Santa Clara County, including 4,800 units for extremely low-income individuals and families at risk of homelessness.

Concern remains, however, that the County is not looking at quicker, more easily implemented, and less costly ways to house the unhoused. One strategy that San José has utilized is to refurbish older buildings, like the Plaza hotel, into transitional housing. Refurbishing existing spaces is quicker and cheaper than planning, designing, and building new transitional housing. The County previously passed up \$20 million in foundation funds to put with \$50 million in taxpayer funds to help convert the old City Hall Annex building into 150 units of homeless housing and they're now looking to spend twice the money for nearly half the number of beds. I encourage them not to make that mistake again, when it comes to the existing jail structure. Instead of demolishing the building, they should seriously consider remodeling it into up to 674 beds for the unhoused. Building 674 beds of new transitional housing elsewhere would cost upwards of \$404 million.

Additionally, the county ought to consider housing uses for the underutilized fairgrounds that have seen three revitalization efforts dating back to 1998 fizzle out (a fourth plan, released back in October, would see it become a "grand public space," but I'm not holding my breath). The county is encouraged to consider buying existing buildings, even new ones, to address the housing crisis more quickly.

Our residents, and our unhoused, deserve a more urgent response to the crisis of homelessness. I call on the County to revisit Laura's Law and to find ways to get people into transitional housing faster, and at a lower cost to taxpayers.

**Recycling the Once-Unrecyclable:
My push for a "Dirty Plastics" Recycling Facility**

Recently, San José took a large step toward environmental sustainability when my colleagues on the City Council voted to include my proposal for attracting a Polypropylene Plastic Purification & Recycling Plant (PRP) to San José on the list of approved City priorities for the coming six months. I am especially grateful to my colleagues Dev Davis and Pam Foley for co-sponsoring the memo to promote this endeavor. The only plant of its

kind is presently being built in Ohio and it's our goal to replicate this facility, which would be the first of its kind on the West Coast.

This new plant, if built in San José, will be a game changer in the way we process and dispose of plastics. Its cutting-edge technology has the potential to be a positive disruption in current plastics waste stream. Currently, only 1% of Polypropylene plastic waste – such as chip bags, pump dispensers, utensils, condiment bottle caps, and the like - can be recycled, since such plastics are contaminated with oil, food residue, dyes, gel, and other currently-non-convertible particles. What does get recycled is degraded into a dark, odorous substance suitable only for industrial uses like car parts and public benches.

Now, however, Proctor & Gamble has patented a new plastics purification technology that will enable us to recycle once-unrecyclable dirty plastics. Using a special chemical cleaning process, contaminants can now be removed from Polypropylene, converting it back into near-virgin-quality plastic suitable for reuse. The waste cycle is then transformed: dirty plastics can now be recycled into the same product over and over instead of piling up in our landfills.

The projected reduction in plastic waste is remarkable. The under-construction facility in Ohio, when in operation, will process and filter 119 million pounds of dirty plastic into 105 million pounds of near-virgin-quality plastic in its first year. That is an 88% reduction in plastic waste – enough pounds to equal the weight of a large ocean-going cargo ship! Furthermore, by reducing our dependence on virgin plastic production, we reduce our dependence on the oil and natural gas used in the creation of the plastic, making for cleaner air and oceans.

The need for this technology, on a global scale, has increased exponentially in the past two years as China, India, and Southeast Asian countries have banned importation of all but the cleanest plastic waste. We cannot and should not export an enormous volume of waste overseas, especially if we burn fossil fuels doing so and can't guarantee it will be disposed of properly. In the meantime, plastic waste that we once expected would be exported is instead accumulating in warehouses and landfills. In contrast, the Ohio facility has already pre-sold 20 years' worth of processing capacity to Nestlé, so the demand exists and we have the potential to dramatically increase the scope of Polypropylene recycling to help offset our increasingly problematic plastic waste situation.

According to the San José Department of Environmental Services, 10% of the City's waste stream is plastics and we discard an estimated 1,000 tons of it, yearly. That is equivalent to the weight of eight blue whales! San José has always been a leader in environmental sustainability and we must continue to lead. Our local waste and recycling companies agree and stand ready to support this enterprise. California Waste Solutions, Zanker Recycling, GreenWaste Recovery, and Republic Services joined me for the press conference on Tuesday and shared their commitment to the application of innovative technological solutions to our pressing environmental challenges.

The need is here, the solution is here, the time to act is now!

Contact the Office of D10 Councilmember Khamis

Office Phone : 408-535-4910 Website: sjd10.com

Email : district10@sanjoseca.gov

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COUNTY SUPERVISOR
MIKE WASSERMAN

March 2020 County Update

Census Day is April 1, 2020 and you may see volunteers in your neighborhood asking you to participate in the survey and be counted as a resident! The data – which is kept private – will then be used to calculate how much of the more than \$675 billion in annual federal funding will be earmarked for California services. There are four ways residents can respond to the survey: online, paper, telephone and in-person enumerator visit. You will receive a mail notification in mid-March from the US Census Bureau to complete the census online. I urge each of you to make every effort to be counted! Census data also assists in the drawing of voting precincts, congressional and state legislative districts, and school districts. If there is an undercount in California, the state could lose a seat in Congress and receive less federal funding for things like housing schools, and healthcare.

Anderson Reservoir update. When there is a looming hazard in our community – it must be addressed. After reading about the Federal Government’s recent directive to the Santa Clara Valley Water District to drain Anderson Reservoir, I reached out directly to Water District leadership. I made sure that they understood my constituent’s concerns about dam failure, water supply and environmental impacts. The Water District stated that they are working on a plan to expedite rebuilding the dam, while maintaining water supply and minimizing environmental impacts. The plan includes advocating for the passage of AB 3005, which is a bill from Assemblyman Robert Rivas to help expedite environmental review, permitting, and public contracting relating to Anderson Reservoir. I will continue to monitor the dam situation and will look for opportunities to advocate for rebuilding Anderson Dam and protecting the community.

Coronavirus update. We all want to protect ourselves and our loved ones against illness, including the coronavirus (COVID-19). It is disturbing to hear that discrimination is happening against people of Asian descent amid virus fears. Although the virus started in mainland China, there is no racial, ethnic or cultural basis for COVID-19. Because Santa Clara County is one of the largest Counties in the U.S., it is not surprising that several cases of COVID-19 has been reported here. Some very good news is that eight public health labs in California now have the ability to test for coronavirus – and Santa Clara County is one of them! Previously, tests could only be analyzed in a center in Atlanta, creating a time lag that had caused deep concerns. Now, doctors receive results in hours, rather than days, so any confirmed cases can be addressed much sooner which greatly reduces the chances of infecting others.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends everyday common-sense actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, including:

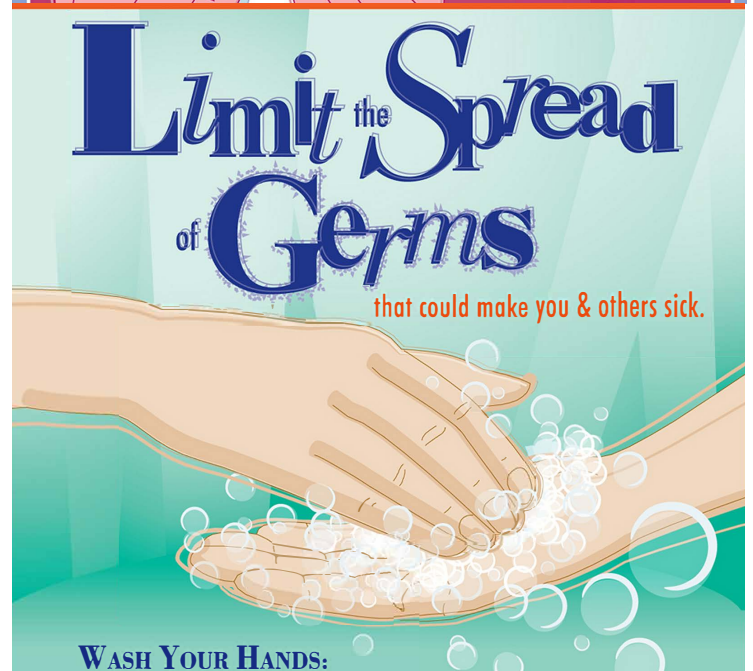
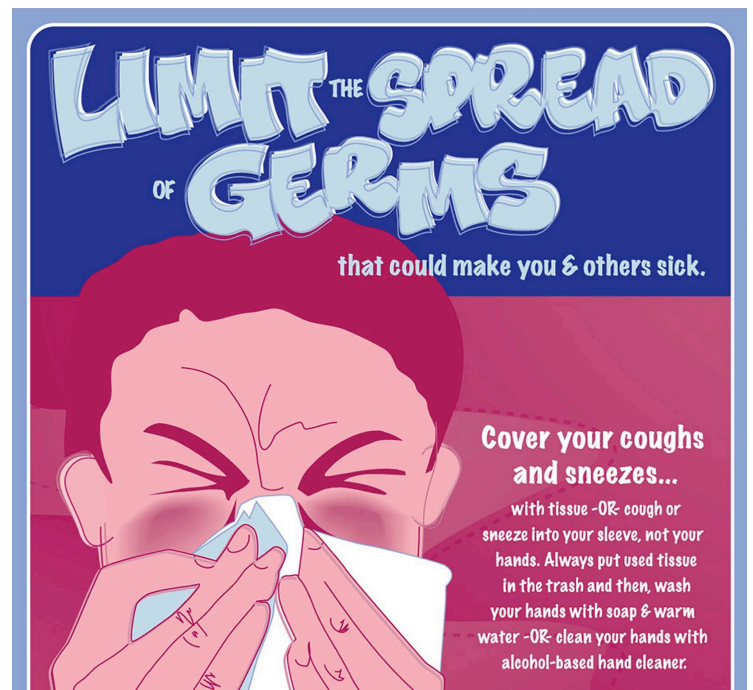
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.
- Face-masks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for health workers and people who are taking care of someone in close settings (at home or in a health care facility).

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water.

Sadly, misinformation about this respiratory virus is rampant. Stay informed by getting your information from reliable sources. The County of Santa Clara Public Health Department is working closely with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the State of California Department of Public Health, and other partners as the COVID-19 situation continues to change. Any new information will be updated on the County’s website as it becomes available: www.sccgov.org

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



VEPCA Wants to Know:

What do you want to know?

What would you like to learn about?

Which local leaders would you like to meet?

Please send your ideas to VEPCA President West!

Your input will be used to help plan future community meetings for you and your neighbors!

Call or Email President West Today!

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

❁ **Easter is Coming: Eggs Made Easy!** ❁

Shared by Rachel Witmeyer

I really, really love eggs and the Easter season has always given me the perfect excuse to make tons of those tiny, delicious, protein-packed wonders! They make such great snacks, are a great addition to salads, and who can say no to a delicious egg-salad sandwich? I sure can't!

But if, like me, you have struggled over the years to find an easier way to get the perfect hard-boiled egg that will peel easily and completely every time, let me share my favorite method!

I originally found this several years ago via Pinterest, but I have provided the direct link for you, below. Enjoy the ease!

How to Make “Easy Peel” Hard-Boiled Eggs **From Getty Stewart: April 18, 2014**

Source Link, with Photos and Video:

gettystewart.com/how-to-make-boiled-eggs-that-are-easy-to-peel/

- First, choose eggs that are at least 7-10 days old – the fresher the egg, the harder to peel. Fresh eggs are perfect for poaching or frying sunny side up.
- Place eggs in a single layer in a pot.
- Cover with water so there's about 1/2 to 1 inch of water above the eggs. (While some people recommend adding salt or baking soda to the water, I've never found this to make a difference.)
- Bring to a full rolling boil. Once boiling, turn off the heat.
- Put a lid on the pot and let rest for 14 minutes (the perfect time for solid but not over cooked yolks of large eggs). Set a timer!
- Immediately after the 14 minutes are up, run cold water over eggs and let sit in an ice/snow bath for 2-3 minutes.
- After the eggs have cooled in ice water for a minute, gently crack the shell of each egg. Just enough to let a little water seep in.
- Put the eggs back in the ice water for another 1 to 3 minutes so that the water can penetrate in between the shell and egg white.
- Take out an egg and gently crack the shell all around it – you don't want to crack it so hard that the shell tears into the egg white.
- Gently but firmly roll the egg on a counter using the palm of your hand. Don't press super hard – you don't want to squish the egg, you just want to make a thousand tiny cracks all around the egg. You should begin to feel the shell separating from the egg white. I find this step really, really helps. Don't skip it!
- Peel the egg starting at the wide end where the air sac is. Use the thin membrane to peel back the tiny pieces of shell.
- If more help is needed, peel the egg under running water so that the water runs between the shell membrane and the egg white.



A Visit to the Winchester Mystery House

By Lynne Kinsey

Architecturally, the Winchester Mystery House is a wonder to see. There are staircases and doors that go nowhere, low-rise staircases for those with mobility difficulty, and more rooms than it is humanly possible for one person to use. Signaling devices were used to communicate with the kitchen and other staff.

The house is located at 525 S Winchester Blvd, San Jose, CA 95128

Admission cost for house tours is:

Adult Tour-\$39

Senior or Military Tour-\$32

Child (6-12 years old)-\$20

Contact: 408) 247-2000

If you have never been on a tour, it is very interesting and probably worth doing at least once.

But we recently found ourselves near the WMH between appointments and having 2 hours to fill with activity. We learned that it is possible to visit the lovely gardens & the small Winchester Products Museum without paying for a tour.

Both of these locations are accessed from the Gift Shop where you can pick up a map of the facility that shows stopping points in the garden. The garden is set up to show you how Mrs. Winchester and her staff lived and utilized the grounds. It is not elaborate, but it is informative, contains some beautiful flowers, and wonderful views of the intricacies of the architecture of the building. It had been a long time since we had been on a tour of the WMH and we plan to go back, because we were told that there are parts of the house not previously open to tours are now open to see. The staff members were amazingly friendly and helpful. The variety of Winchester items on display in the Product Museum was a little surprising. In addition to guns and munitions the Winchester Company made kitchen cutlery, axes and other useful items, like roller skates and ice skates.

Seasonally there will be more colorful flowers in bloom. The plants that are there are very well groomed and it was pleasurable to stroll around and look at the intricacies of the building and the garden. For a fee you can try to throw an axe aiming at a Bull's Eye. There are some very skilled axe-throwers.

Plan a short visit if you will be in the area or go for a longer time and take one of their tours.



2020 Great American Litter Pick Up

Save The Date



CITY OF SAN JOSE

Join VEP For Spring Beautification!

Meet at the Vista Park Community Room, beginning at 8:30am.
→ 475 Hyde Park Drive

(More Details on Page 3 of this newsletter!)



April

25

Earth Day

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**

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

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“SAVE THE DATE”

APRIL 18th
4th Annual Spring Celebration
at Martial Cottle Park (see p. 5)

APRIL 25th
VEP Neighborhood Beautification
& “Great American Litter Pick-Up”
(see p. 3 & 9)

MAY 2nd
VEP’s Community-Wide Garage Sale
(see p. 8)

NOTE: All dates are subject to change as the current health situation continues to evolve.