



### NOVEMBER/DECEMBER COMMUNITY MEETING (VIA ZOOM)

**December, 1st at 7:30 PM  
(see below for meeting link)**

#### Agenda:

1. Introductions
2. General Updates
3. Approve \$119 expense for a VEPCA ZOOM account for a year (taking advantage of a 20% discount, normally \$149/yr).
4. Captain Elle Washburn, Southern Division Commander San Jose Police Department
5. Update from District 10 Office
6. Update from Councilmember-Elect Matt Mahan
7. Adjourn

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82729025842>

Meeting ID: 827 2902 5842

Pass code: vep

One tap mobile

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Dial by your location

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**November/December Meeting Speaker –  
Captain Elle Washburn,  
Southern Division Commander,  
San Jose Police Department**

**Captain Elle Washburn** has dedicated the last thirty years to public service. She is a twenty six-year veteran with the San Jose Police Department. Her assignments have varied from working Special

Operations Metro Unit to Narcotic Covert Investigations. Currently, Captain Washburn is commander of the Southern Division of San Jose PD. Captain Washburn has also successfully led the department's Body-Worn Camera Program from its inception in 2013. The program reached a milestone in January 2017 when her team completed deployment to every sworn member of the Department.

Captain Washburn's passion is the study of Leadership and developing future leaders who will work to elevate the profession of law enforcement by build community partnerships and trust. She studied Leadership and Organizational Studies as a senior at Saint Mary's College of California and graduated in August, 2018.

Captain Washburn is also an avid athlete who enjoys open water swimming and trail running. She completed Ironman Arizona, a 140.6-mile race, in 2012. In June of 2017, she made her fourth Alcatraz Crossing by swimming across the Bay after jumping off a ferry in rough water next to the infamous rock.

### WARM HOLIDAY WISHES FROM FRIENDS OF MARTIAL COTTLE PARK!

The year 2020 has certainly got us all counting our blessings, and one we share is our neighboring Martial Cottle Park. With so many working from home and sheltering in place, the Park trails have remained open and heavily used this year. The FOMCP Board has continued to work toward our goals as possible this year. We are grateful for the continued support of our members and donors, and encourage everyone to view our website at <https://fomcp.org/>.

Two upcoming things we would like you to watch for are:

\* Friends of Martial Cottle Park will have a tree on display at San Jose's "Christmas in the Park" this year.

\* Planting of the new hedgerow project will start in early to mid-December along the trail off Chynoweth. Come by and take a look.

We wish you safe holidays and a healthy 2021!

# 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, Greg West. 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: Matthew Quevedo - [MATTHEWGQUEVEDO@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MATTHEWGQUEVEDO@GMAIL.COM)

Vice President: - Cindy Bosworth - [BOZ555@MSN.COM](mailto:BOZ555@MSN.COM)

Secretary: Roberto Ruiz - [RRUIZ0331@AOL.COM](mailto:RRUIZ0331@AOL.COM)

Treasurer: Lisa Sanchez - [LISAS.VEP@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LISAS.VEP@GMAIL.COM)

Director: Brian Ferry - [BRIFER22@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BRIFER22@GMAIL.COM)

Director & VEP News Editor: Greg West - [VEPEditor@GMAIL.COM](mailto:VEPEditor@GMAIL.COM)

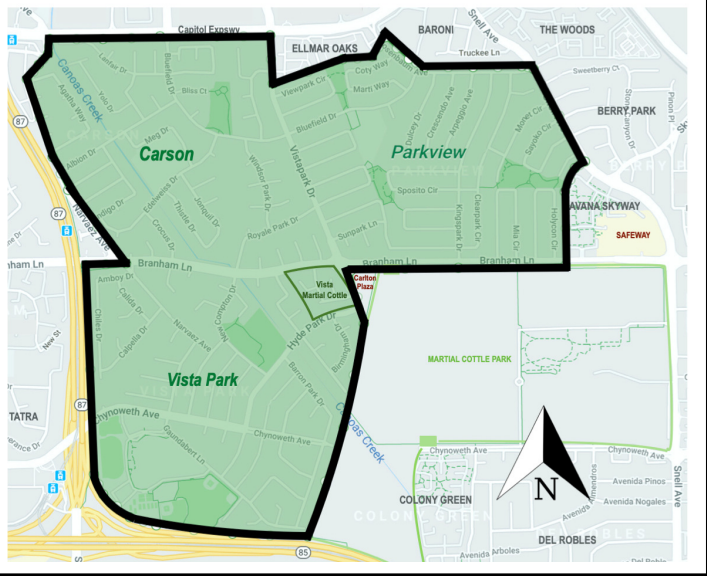
Director & Web Guru: Adina Pierce - [ADINAP@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ADINAP@GMAIL.COM)

WEB: [WWW.VEPCA.NET](http://WWW.VEPCA.NET)

EMAIL: [VEPCA@VEPCA.NET](mailto:VEPCA@VEPCA.NET)

- Join VEP Community Association's Facebook Group! -

### VEP Membership Area



## ~ CALENDAR CORNER ~

*(All Community Events are Cancelled until Further Notice. Meetings will be held via ZOOM. Please watch for updates!)*

- 12/1 VEP Community Meeting via ZOOM  
(Combined November/December Meeting)
- 12/6 1:00 - 3:00 PM Virtual Santa-in-the-Park  
<https://www.zoom.us/j/85222008063>
- 1/26 VEP Community Meeting via ZOOM

2020 is VEPCA's 51st Year!

VEP Community Association continues to meet via ZOOM due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We look forward to the day that we can begin meeting in person again.



Volunteers Needed!

**WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO KEEP VEPCA EFFECTIVE!**

**Help VEPCA Stay Strong and Effective!**

Contact VEP's President, Matthew Quevedo:  
[matthewgquevedo@gmail.com](mailto:matthewgquevedo@gmail.com)

## SANTA IS STILL COMING TO VEP

**VEP Community Association is hosting a Virtual Holiday Event on Dec 6, 2020 at 1pm – 3pm.**

The event will be over Zoom for the families to enjoy from their homes. There will be breakout rooms where Santa will be available for visiting, as well as Christmas stories with Mrs. Claus.

For those interested, there will also be an Elf showing how to draw and color Christmas pictures.

Click on this link on Dec 6, 2020 from 1pm – 3pm  
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://www.zoom.us/j/85222008063>

Passcode: santa

Meeting ID: 852 2200 8063

Passcode: santa

Also, at the Vista Park Community Center there will be an opportunity to donate various items for those in need, Toys for Tots, canned food and non-perishable food items drive and a gently used clean jacket drive. No glass, please.

Donation boxes will be set up at the Vista Park Community Center, 475 Hyde Park Drive. This event will be set-up as a drive through with socially distancing from the volunteers. December 6th from 12:30-3:30. Please wear a mask.



VERONICA "RONI" CASTRO | Account Executive



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## President's Corner

- Matthew Quevedo, VEPCA President

[matthewgquevedo@gmail.com](mailto:matthewgquevedo@gmail.com) 408-772-2171

Hello Neighbors,

For my second update, I would like to encourage you all to stay safe and socially distanced this holiday season. We are entering another spike in cases throughout Santa Clara County (and throughout the State of California and the country as a whole). We need to remain distanced, practice good hygiene and remember to wear our masks when we go out. I encourage everyone to remain diligent and continue following important information from Santa Clara County on COVID (<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/>). Together, we can bring this virus under control.

You will be pleased to hear that your VEP Neighborhood Association is meeting regularly, amidst the pandemic and via Zoom, to keep business moving forward. Thanks to our team (with a special shout out to Cindy Bosworth, Adina Pierce and Lisa Sanchez), Santa in the Park will be hosted virtually this year! Please bring your loved ones to this special event to help spread holiday cheer (Details below but the event will be hosted December 6th from 1 - 3PM).

Finally, some last updates. Our neighborhood association has decided to ask the membership for funds to purchase a Zoom account. We have been making it work by using donated Zoom accounts but determined it was time to get our own.

The Holiday decorating contest is happening again this year where we will be awarding the Best Decorated House (\$50 gift card), Best Theme (\$50 gift card), and Honorable Mention for Best Street. Judging will occur Dec 17-20, so keep your lights on until 10pm. Winners to be announced 12/21, via Facebook and Nextdoor. Awards will be given Christmas week.

San Jose Police Department Captain Elle Washburn will be joining us for our final meeting of the year on December 1st! Please come prepared with questions (or send them to me in advance at [matthewgquevedo@gmail.com](mailto:matthewgquevedo@gmail.com)) and we are preparing some neighborhood cleanups in the new year.

As always, please feel free to call me if you need anything from me or the neighborhood association.

PS - I will be starting my duties as the Chief of Staff to incoming Councilmember Matt Mahan on January 3rd. We are actively recruiting new board members to help fill in new positions and eventually replace me for the Presidency (as I am in an interim role). Please reach out if you are interested in joining.

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

## ELECTION UPDATE

- Matthew Quevedo

Well, Election Day has come and gone. While attention has largely stayed at the Federal Level, many local decisions were made that will impact us here in our neighborhoods. I encourage you all to visit our local Registrar of Voters to learn about local races ([sccvote.org](http://sccvote.org)).

Here are some local races that we want to make sure you are aware of:

- California State Senate - Ann Ravel v Dave Cortese - Dave Cortese has won
- Santa Clara County Supervisor District 3 - Otto Lee v Kansen Chu - Otto Lee has won
- San Jose District 4 (Berryessa) - David Cohen defeated incumbent Lan Diep
- San Jose District 6 (Willow Glen) - Councilmember Dev Davis has won re-election
- Measure S - Santa Clara Valley Water District Parcel Tax - Passed
- Measure T - Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority Parcel Tax - Passed
- Measure RR - Caltrain Joint Powers Board Sales Tax - Passed

As you all know, we invited former FEC Commissioner Ann Ravel and Supervisor Cortese to join us for a forum a couple months back. Supervisor Cortese is our new State Senator replacing Senator Jim Beall in January. We welcome Supervisor Cortese and congratulate him on his victory. As an association, we will want to work with his incoming office on blight around the

SR 87 and 85 ramp and beneath the ramps at Chynoweth (and along Branham).

It is important to note that the City Council has changed slightly. Outside of our incoming Councilmember Matt Mahan, Councilmember-Elect David Cohen will be another new face on the San Jose City Council in 2021 replacing Councilmember Lan Diep. These races are important because each Councilmember (including the Mayor) has one vote on Council decisions. It's important to build relationships with our Councilmember but also to pay attention to how other Council members make their decisions as they will impact our parks, libraries and local infrastructure.

Finally, we invited Valley Water to present on the renewal of their parcel tax via Measure S. That Measure has passed the 2/3s threshold needed to win and will be moving forward. The VEP Neighborhood Association will continue to explore new opportunities to partner with the SCVWD on how we can secure grant funding to protect our creeks and other areas that are controlled by the Water District.

## Gunderson High School Foundation

### OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP GUNDERSON FOUNDATION!

Marc McGeever, Board President, Gunderson High School Foundation

First, I would like to say, **THANK YOU**, to everyone who participated in our Holiday Poinsettia Sale. We sold over 200 plants, and we will make sure to have a larger inventory next year in case you didn't get a chance to place an order.

December, we have two fundraising events that will give you an opportunity to help the students at Gunderson High School. **Giving Tuesday** is December 1<sup>st</sup>, and you can make a donation to the Gunderson Foundation by going to our website: <https://www.gundersonhighfoundation.org> and clicking our Giving Tuesday Donation Link. All contributions will go to programs focused on assisting students that have had challenges during distance learning!

## VEP Board Proposes Having a VEP ZOOM Account

- Adina Peirce

At our last executive board meeting, we discussed that VEP should own our own Zoom account.

I did research, and the price is \$119 per year (they are having a sale right now for 20% off, normally it is \$149/yr) and includes the following:

- Host up to 100 participants
- Unlimited group meetings
- Social Media Streaming
- 1 GB Cloud Recording (per license)

Given our inability to meet in person during the COVID-19 crisis, this seems like a reasonable off budget expense to ask our membership to approve for membership and executive board meetings.

## Lines from Lynne

*Lynne Kinsey*

### PERSONAL POSSESSIONS AND THE FUTURE

At the beginning of the "sheltering at home" I was increasingly looking for things to watch and listen to on my computer. It vicariously took me out of the house to interesting, enjoyable and educational places and activities. Sometimes during these adventures I came to feel I was sitting in front of the small screen for too much time. Yet I continued and still continue to do it. I have added to my repertoire by looking for recipes to match ingredients we have on hand, to find more detailed information on current news items, to find places to visit when this pandemic & the restrictions end, to locate people with whom I went to school, worked with, or knew in the past, to send birthday & anniversary messages to people I know and to send get well and encouraging messages to people I may not even know. I have reconnected through Facebook with cousins that I have not seen for years and we email back & forth quite regularly now. Prior to the pandemic our busy meeting and appointment schedules prevented us from corresponding. Will these actions continue for very long? I do not know, but I know I am enjoying them for now.

I already wrote about some of the things I have been able to do while I am home. I rediscovered

photos of our daughter's growing up years and photos we acquired that belonged to both sets of families. There are too many people in the photos that I cannot identify. I vow not to have that happen to pictures that my daughter gets from us. I am trying to better identify family pictures and eliminate some of the unimportant travel pictures. We have many household items that were received from or made by family members. I am trying to label such items, so our daughter can later decide if they have the same sentimental value that I place on them. Otherwise they are just another item. I am trying to eliminate excess paper clutter. I think I have more than normal. My parents and other relatives saved everything and I therefore easily adopted that trait. Instead of keeping everything, I am taking photos of some of the important items, making lists of items received, places I want to go, things to do, books I have read and want to read, etc. The lists and photos are on my computer. They could be better organized, but I am working on that, too.

My laptop computer and my iPad have become important friends of mine. They contain much of the important information that used to surround me at home. There is still much more for me to tackle, but I am making progress. I had a recent experience where my computer crashed and I thought I lost all my folders and files. The apple geniuses were of little help, but a guru-friend was able to locate and restore most of my information. Losing everything on my computer seemed equivalent to having had someone steal the original items from my home or having had a house fire. I am sure I was not fun to be around for several days.

I frequently see articles that ask, "If you had to evacuate your home in an emergency and you did not know when or if you could return, what would you grab to take with you?" This is a tvery difficult question for me, because it is not physically possible to take all the things hat are important to

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me. I need to learn how and then digitize more things in our home. I suggest you consider this question and try to better organize and pare down what you have. I am working on it, but it doesn't happen overnight. Maybe this would be a good subject for a VEP meeting or zoom session.

Mark your calendars, because on the weekend of December 11<sup>th</sup>, the Gunderson High Foundation will be hosting our first online auction. The community and staff have donated a variety of auction items for you to bid/purchase, and all the proceeds go right back to the students at Gunderson High School. We have autographed memorabilia donated by the Giants, Sharks and Warriors, and Fine Art donated from staff and alumni. We will also have some special activities donated by Gunderson Teachers & Administrators, such as a private photo shoot with our digital photography teacher, or a private lunch and behind the scenes tour with Principal Wan. Full list of items will be available to review on our website by December 2<sup>nd</sup>, as well as the information on how to sign up to participate in our "Community Supports Students" online auction.

During these challenging times, we hope you will help the Foundation raise money to support the students and staff at Gunderson High School. Happy Holidays and best wishes to you and your families!

### COVID-19 "Data Dashboards" Now Available Online from the Public Health Department

The Santa Clara County has recently published four interactive data dashboards that track new COVID-19 cases, hospital capacity, testing, and long-term care facilities. The informative charts will reveal even more details when users "hover" or "click" on certain portions of the graphs, charts, and/or graphics.

Access all the dashboards directly at: [www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/Pages/dashboard.aspx](http://www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/Pages/dashboard.aspx)

Santa Clara County COVID-19 Snapshot					
COVID-19 Cases		COVID-19 Deaths ***		COVID-19 Hospitalizations	
Cumulative	New	Cumulative	New	Current	New
28686	388	445	1	145	33

Microsoft Power BI

**Data may be incomplete:** In early August, it was discovered that there was a reporting issue with the State's system that affected all counties. While the State believes this issue was resolved, we continue to validate our data.

### 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 Quevedo!

Your input will be used to help plan future community meetings for you and your neighbors!  
 Email President Quevedo Today!  
[MATTHEWGQUEVEDO@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MATTHEWGQUEVEDO@GMAIL.COM)



Clean Water • Healthy Environment • Flood Protection

### Santa Clara County Voters Overwhelmingly Approve Renewal Measure of Safe, Clean Water Program

- Linda J. LeZotte, Director, District 4 Valley Water Board of Directors

A record number of voters in Santa Clara County cast ballots for the election on Nov. 3. And those voters overwhelmingly approved Measure S, the renewal of Valley Water's Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program (Safe, Clean Water Program).

Measure S needed 66.67% to pass and received 74.97% of votes cast as of Nov. 13. The Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters is still counting ballots and is expected to certify the election results in early December.

The program was first passed by voters in 2000 as the Clean, Safe Creeks and Natural Flood Protection Program, then again in 2012 as the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program. The renewal of the Safe, Clean Water Program will continue to provide approximately \$45.5 million annually for local projects that deliver safe, clean water, natural flood protection, and environmental stewardship to all the communities we serve in Santa Clara County.

While evaluating ways to improve the 2012 program, Valley Water gathered feedback from more than 21,000 community members. That helped Valley Water create the six priorities for the renewed Safe, Clean Water Program, which are:

- Ensure a Safe, Reliable Water Supply
- Reduce Toxins, Hazards and Contaminants in our Waterways
- Protect Our Water Supply and Dams from Earthquakes and Other Natural Disasters
- Restore Wildlife Habitat and Provide Open Space
- Provide Flood Protection to Homes, Businesses, Schools, Streets and Highways
- Support Public Health and Public Safety for Our Community

The Safe, Clean Water Program renewal will serve as Valley Water's roadmap to providing safe, clean water, natural flood protection and environmental stewardship to Santa Clara County for years to come.

Here's a look at some of the many projects that will receive funding from the program:

- The ongoing coordination with local cities, such as San José, and agencies to clean up creek side encampments that contaminate waterways and damage Valley Water facilities. This cooperative effort includes supporting local agencies, social services, and nonprofit advocacy groups that will help provide housing alternatives to the unhoused population.
- The seismic retrofit of Anderson Dam so it can safely withstand a large earthquake. Strengthening the dam will allow Valley Water to fill the reservoir to its full capacity.
- The Upper Guadalupe Flood Protection Project in San José, which continues in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to plan, design and construct improvements along 5.5 miles of the channel extending from Interstate 280 to Blossom Hill Road.
- An expanded grants and partnerships program to provide funding to agencies, organizations and individuals for projects related to safe, clean water, flood protection and environmental stewardship.

You can find out more about the voter-approved program renewal at [safecleanwater.org](http://safecleanwater.org).

I appreciate the trust Santa Clara County voters have placed in Valley Water. We will continue to do

our best to serve you and make progress on the projects vital to our communities. For everyone's safety, please wear a mask and social distance.



## Covid-19 Testing

Do you know which COVID testing site works best for you?

*\* I don't have symptoms, I don't want to make an appointment, but I may not have insurance*

- Go to a Pop-up testing site

*\* I want to schedule ahead of time and skip the wait, but I may not have insurance*

- Go to a Community testing site

*\* I have insurance!*

- You can contact your provider to set up an appointment with them, or, go to a Community testing site and provide your insurance information.

[SCCfreetest.org](http://SCCfreetest.org) has many great COVID-19 testing options! (Don't forget you can now make appointments up-to 7 days in advance).

### Your Neighborhood Property Manager



**Andrea Vernerova**  
(408) 621-4921  
[andrea@cmpmi.com](mailto:andrea@cmpmi.com)



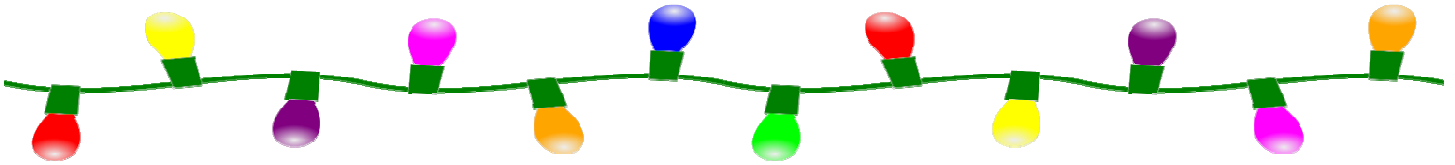
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## **\*Santa is Coming!\***

to a Virtual Visit on Sunday, December 6, 2020

**Santa Hours: 1:00pm to 3:00pm**

Join your neighbors for this VEP neighborhood tradition

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://www.zoom.us/j/85222008063>

Passcode: santa

Meeting ID: 852 2200 8063

Passcode: santa

Fun for the whole family!

\*Santa Visit \* Christmas stories with Mrs. Claus \* Draw and color with an Elf\*

*Toys, Food & Jacket Drive Drop off*

*Vista Park Parking Lot (Drive Through)*

*475 Hyde Park Drive*

*from 12:30 to 3:30pm*

**We are Collecting Canned Food, Non-Perishable Food Items, as well as  
New or Gently-Used Jackets (clean and no rips, please)**

**Toys must have sales tags attached and be unwrapped.**

**~ No Glass Please**

**- Thank You! -**