



VEP Community Association • Since 1969

Representing More Than 2,800 Families in the Blossom Valley Area of South San Jos

ISSUE: JANUARY 2021

<u>Web</u>: www.vepca.net ~ <u>Email</u>: vepca@vepca.net ~ Join VEPCA on Facebook!



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► Tuesday, January 26th, 2021 ◄

Meeting @7:30pm ~ Late Arrivals Okay!

Via ZOOM

(see VEP Web site: <u>www.vepca.net</u> for the link to the ZOOM meeting)

Everyone is welcome. Invite a neighbor, or two!

NOTICE: Since the "Shelter in Place" order has been extended, the January Meeting will be an online Virtual discussion about ongoing leadership in the VEP. Please watch your Email for VEPCA Updates!

Agenda Introductions

General Updates

Discussion of VEP's Future

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

VEP Business Meeting

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

Join Zoom Meeting Look for the Zoom Link on the VEP Web site www.vepca.net Pass code: vep

January VEP Community Meeting By VEP News Staff

The January meeting is going to be a discussion amongst members about the near future of VEPCA. The current president, Matthew Quevedo, is taking on a significant role in the City of San Jose as Chief-of-Staff for incoming District 10 Council member, Matt Mahan, and sees a conflict of interest in maintaining his role as VEPCA president. As a result, he is stepping down. In addition, VEP Newsletter Editor, Greg West, and his wife, Robin, have purchased a home in New Mexico, much closer to family, and will be moving in the middle of February, and thus, Greg will be stepping down (see related article) after publication of this issue of the News.

VEPCA has played an important role in our community, acting as communication channel with local elected officials, and in serving to coordinate many community projects for the good of all VEP members, residents and neighbors. Those projects include neighborhood clean-up days and dumpster days coordinated with the City and councilmember's office; neighborhood improvements, including the reconditioning of the Vista Park playground and building of the Community Center; the reconditioning of the Parkview Parks (I, II, and III), and, of course, lobbying for the protection and opening of Martial Cottle Park per Walter Lester's vision. Elected officials at the local, state, and federal level know who we are, and know that we are a positive force for our community.

VEP was consulted by the City and the developers on the development of the homes built in the old walnut grove (anybody remember the old walnut grove?) at Branham Lane and Vista Park Drive; the construction of the assisted living care facility across the street from the new homes; and on the construction of the apartments in the light rail parking lot at Chynoweth and Pearl. Representatives from the builders of those projects and the City planning department asked to attend and present their plans at VEP meetings and solicit



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."

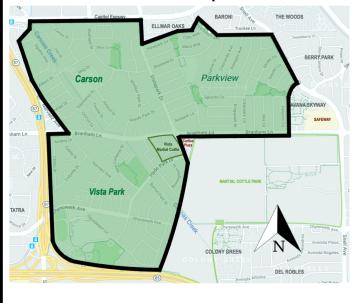
VEP Community Association ~ Executive Board of Directors

President: Matthew Quevedo - MATTHEWGQUEVEDO@GMAIL.COM Vice President: - Cindy Bosworth - B02555@MSN.COM Secretary: Roberto Ruiz - RRUI20331@AOL.COM Treasurer: Lisa Sanchez – LISAS.VEP@GMAIL.COM Director: Brian Ferry - BRIFER22@GMAIL.COM Director & VEP News Editor: Greg West - VEPEDITOR@GMAIL.COM Director & Web Guru: Adina Pierce - ADINAP@GMAIL.COM

WEB: WWW.VEPCA.NET

EMAIL: VEPCA@VEPCA.NET

- Join VEP Community Association's Facebook Group! -



VEP Membership Area

the community's input which was taken to heart, and, in many cases, acted upon. In addition, the County Parks and Recreation Department along with planners and our county supervisor, solicited VEP's input on the development of Martial Cottle Park through presentations of the plans at VEP meetings. Again, much of the community input was acted on, including buffering the park perimeter trail from adjacent properties on the west side of the park and suggestions for trail access points. There was a very brief plan by the City to extend Chynoweth through the Lester property and to build homes between the extension and the freeway, but, VEP lobbied against that plan, again, citing Walter Lester's vision.

Most years aren't anywhere near as exciting as what I've described above, but, as a VEP neighbor, member or not, you have benefitted for the work that VEP has done. So, maybe, it's time to give back to the community and take on a leadership role within VEP. No experience is necessary, but a the ability to work with people to get things done is a desirable.

Santa in the Park By Cindy Bosworth

On December 6th VEP held its 13th Annual (and 1st virtual) Santa in the Park. Due to Covid-19 restrictions we could not meet in person as usual, so we did it virtually. There was a Santa room where visitors talked to Santa, a Christmas stories room with Mrs. Santa, and a drawing room where an Elf showed our young guests how to draw Rudolf, snowmen, and more. For security, it was also decided that each room would have a moderator to monitor and insure no Zoom bombs (unwelcomed visitors).

In addition to our VEP members, we also invited the students from our two elementary schools, Carson and Parkview. Principals Jeremiah Podczaszy and Susan Kind quickly agreed to participate and sent out flyers to their students.

I think it is safe to say that although we didn't have a huge turnout, those that participated had a great time. Children had plenty of time to visit with Santa, listen to stories with Mrs. Santa and draw Christmas pictures to their hearts content! I would like to thank the following individuals for organizing and participating in our virtual event: Matthew Quevedo, Lisa Sanchez, Adina Pierce, Laura McGeever, Brian Ferry, Caitlin Bosworth and Cindy Bosworth-we were successful because of your commitment to our community.

Food, Coats and Toy Drive

At the same time that Santa in the Park was happening, three dedicated VEP members were at the community center parking lot, standing in the cold, accepting donations for canned food, clean & gently used coats, and toys.

Thank you, Greg West, Robert Supencheck, and Robert Bosworth, for manning the drop off site. Also thank you Roberto Ruiz for organizing with the Marines for Toys for Tots.

Canned food donations went to Sacred Heart and coats went to Santa Maria Urban Ministries.



Officers Needed!

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO KEEP VEPCA EFFECTIVE!

Several Positions Open NOW:

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

Help VEPCA Stay Strong and Effective!

Contact VEP's President, Matthew Quenado: <u>MATTHEWGQUEVEDO@GMAIL.COM</u> or any other VEP Officer.

~ CALENDAR CORNER ~

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

- 1/26 VEP Community Meeting via ZOOM
- 2/3 VEP Officers' Meeting via ZOOM
- 2/27 VEP Community Meeting via ZOOM

★ 2021 is VEPCA's 52nd 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.

VEP BENCH at MARTIAL COTTLE PARK

By Lisa Sanchez

Have you seen it?

VEP welcomes you to take some time, have a seat and enjoy the breath taking view over Martial Cottle Park. VEP has a history of "Giving Back" to our community. Thanks to you, the many VEP Members, your Membership Dues has allowed VEP to purchase this bench. It's located on the trail, where Vista Park Dr dead ends. Not only does this bring some much needed rest for visitors, but it also serves to reflect VEP's ongoing relationship with Martial Cottle Park.

You are invited to "take a snapshot" sitting on the bench, then post your pictures on VEP's FaceBook page: <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/vepca</u>.

Thank you VEP Members for your support, this is your Membership Dues at work, enjoy!

Your Neighborhood Property Manager



www.cmpmi.com

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

Ask about special rates for VEP neighbors!



Office of Councilmember Matt Mahan District 10 - City of San Jose

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

Happy New Year! I hope you had a safe and happy holiday season. My term as your Councilmember began as we rang in the new year. I am excited to get to work representing our beautiful neighborhoods.

Since the election, I've been studying the key issues facing our neighborhoods that you raised during the campaign, publishing my policy reflections on these topics (you can read them here: <u>mattmahansj.medium.com</u>), and <u>recruiting an exceptional team</u> to ensure our new office represents you effectively in the years ahead.

BEAUTIFY SAN JOSE GRANT 2020

By Lisa Sanchez

Background - VEP applied for a grant, back in October of 2019. It's sole purpose: to "beautify" our community. VEP was approved and received one of 80 grants, given to SJ communities. Imagine how exciting it was to receive this news! Then, a life altering pandemic would hit our nation. Shelter-in-Place would change everything. Although many VEP events were canceled, we didn't want to lose this opportunity.

Initially, the plan was to have VEP neighbors volunteer, work together, prepare the land and plant a variety of herbs and water-wise shrubs. It's taken all year, in the midst of social distancing, layoffs and quarantine, to plan and execute this enormous task. Many emails, phone calls, creating a vision, applying for permits and meeting with various departments for approvals and permits. But finally, we had a plan that would honor and beautify our neighborhood.

Location - The corner of Branham Lane & Vista Park Dr, to the right of The Carlton Plaza. It's where our three VEP neighborhoods intersect: Carson, Parkview & Vista Park.

Vision - Create a focal point between the three VEP neighborhoods, to inspire a natural beauty that's purposed, useful and brings pride to our neighborhood.

This natural habitat has been "seeded" with young plants & saplings. Flowers to encourage local pollinators and feeders, like bees & hummingbirds. It doesn't look like much now, but once mature, the herb garden will allow neighbors to have clippings for cooking. In time, the five Red Oak saplings, will provide a much needed wind break, noise reduction & privacy screen for folks behind the sound wall.

It has taken many hands to make all this come to be and it is with a great heartfelt "*Thank You*" that we would like to mention key players, as it literally took a village!

Ken Podgorsek - BSJ Grant Executive Director

Miguel Hernandez - Associate Constructor Inspector / Location & Plan Approval

OUR CITY FOREST (*Planting, Lawn Busters, Nursery & ADR Volunteers*): *Gabby, Tram-Anh, Ethan, Jocelyn, Esther, Ashley, Briana, Dani, Carlee, Eddy, Gabriel, Kat, Kiara, Matt, Nancy & Sam*

Give it time, come spring, we will see new growth! We have included the "Landscape Design Plan" which shows a rendition of the overall vision.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for CARE & MAINTENANCE

Contact VEP Beautification Director, Brian Ferry, to volunteer a few times out of the year, on rotation.



Reasonable Rates Contact VEP at vepeditor@gmail.com

VEPCA Wants to Know:

- What do you want to know?
- What are your current concerns?
- What would you like to learn about?
- Which local leaders would you like to meet?
- How can VEPCA help YOUR neighborhood?

Send your ideas to VEPCA President Quevedo!

As we head into 2021, our city faces many longrunning challenges that have been exacerbated by COVID-19, including rising homelessness, economic insecurity for far too many, persistent property crime and a city budget that struggles to deliver services at the level you expect and deserve. While I can't change the broader public health and economic context in which we operate, I will be a strong voice for doing more with less at City Hall by adopting technology, measuring results, and holding our staff to the highest standards.

To help our team be as responsive as possible, we've created a District 10 survey for you to identify your top priorities for the city and, most importantly, the specific issues you're experiencing in your neighborhood. It's very important to me that we hear from every neighborhood and hold ourselves accountable for serving residents in every corner of District 10. You can help us do this by filling out the short and confidential survey here:

https://bit.ly/d10survey

Finally, if you need anything, please reach out to our office at district10@sanjoseca.gov. You can also keep in touch with us on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, and <u>Instagram</u>, where my team will be posting regular updates on what's happening at City Hall and in our District 10 community.



www.supervisorwasserman.org

2020 Year in Review

2020 has been a year unlike any other. Below are a few highlights of the past 12 months from Supervisor Mike Wasserman, President of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.

COVID-19. On January 31, 2020 the first case of COVID-19 in Santa Clara County was announced. Since then there have been approximately 44,000 cases reported in our County. The crippling effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic include lost loved ones, lost jobs, lost businesses, lost learning and future impacts yet unknown. Communities pulled together in inspiring ways: restaurants, faith organizations, businesses and non-profits donating meals, supplies, childcare and other support to those in need. Board President. On December 8th, my colleagues elected me to serve as President of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors for 2021 and my colleague, Supervisor Susan Ellenberg, to serve as Vice-President. I am honored by the trust placed in me for what we know will be a challenging year full of tough choices and new obstacles. I have learned in my 10 years as a County Supervisor that by working together as a Board and with our community, we can deliver vital services to our 2 million residents.

New Supervisor. On November 3rd, voters elected Otto Lee to replace Supervisor Dave Cortese, who will now be representing Santa Clara County in the State Senate. Supervisor Lee previously served as Mayor and Councilman in Sunnyvale. He is a retired U.S. Navy Commander, who served in both reserves and active duty for 28 years, and currently works as an intellectual property attorney.

Animal Center. Construction was completed in November on the County's new state-of-the-art, 37,000 square foot Animal Services Center. Set on 4.5 acres in San Martin, the facility will allow for enhanced animal care as County pet populations continue to grow. The Center will also be a hub for South County activities, providing a much-needed community public meeting space for up to 300 attendees.

Budget Cuts. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the County was forced to begin making budget cuts. In August, the Board of Supervisors adopted a \$8.3 billion Fiscal Year 20-21 General Fund budget. While the budget was balanced, \$94.7 million in one-time funds were used to pay for ongoing General Fund costs in FY 20-21. With annual deficits expected to range from \$200 million to \$400 million, more cuts are expected at the February 2021 budget session.

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

Voting Turnout. Like much of the nation, voter registration and turnout for the November 3rd Presidential Election in Santa Clara County was record high. With nearly 85% of our more than 1 million registered voters casting their ballots, the County Registrar of Voters office performed extremely well. The election was certified on December 3rd with final Voter Turnout at 84.76% and 863,964 ballots cast out of the 1,019,309 registered voters.

Census 2020. In September, the Board of Supervisors approved \$1 million in additional funding for 2020 Census canvassing and phone banking efforts that focused on hard-to-count, lowresponding neighborhoods. The investment in the 2020 Census paid off: The response rate exceeded the 2010 rate and surpassed state and national averages. 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.

SVRIA Launch. In May, construction was completed on a fully interoperable emergency communications system, the project of the Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Authority (SVRIA), which I chair, with final agencies coming on board in August 2020. The project cost \$50 million, required 31 different sites, involved 22 public agencies and took 10 years to build. The system enables all 22 public safety agencies to communicate seamlessly with each other — a critical component of our public safety infrastructure.

Homeless housing successes. A groundbreaking study by UCSF detailing the success of the Santa Clara County homeless housing program was released in September 2020. The study looked at Project

Welcome Home, which was launched in 2015 to help homeless individuals who are the most frequent users of the County's emergency services, mental health facilities and jails. The study found that 86% of participants stayed housed, providing evidence that permanent supportive housing with supportive services is helping the county's most difficult cases and further debunks the myth that chronically homeless people are beyond help.

Wildfires. Santa Clara County was not spared the devastation of California's 2020 wildfires: The SCU Lightning Complex Fire east of San Jose and Morgan Hill, and the CZU Lightning Complex Fire in the Santa Cruz Mountains each involved more than 1,600 fire personnel from around the State – more than 3,000 people total. Lives and homes were tragically lost, many were displaced and nearly

everyone lost places of meaning and history. Thank you to all who helped.

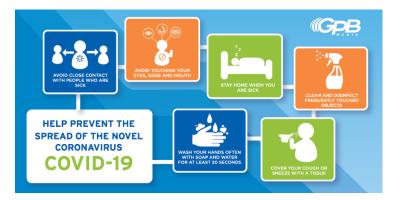
PG&E Outages. PG&E's rotating power outages provided an extra challenge to communities already dealing with heatwaves, fires and the pandemic. To protect vulnerable residents from the results of extreme hot weather — including heatstroke — the County set up cooling centers at multiple locations throughout the County.

Parks, Trails and Open Space. The County partnered with multiple agencies to increase public access to trails and preserve open space. In August 2020, the newest segment of the San Francisco Bay Trail opened at the Ravenswood Open Space Preserve, connecting Menlo Park to Sunnyvale. In October, 1,861 acres of Tilton Ranch in Coyote Valley became permanently protected land with public access planned. The Saratoga to the Sea Trail was also completed in October extending to Waddell State Park in Santa Cruz. The Rusty Areias Community Garden at Martial Cottle Park was constructed, as well as an All-Inclusive Playground in Morgan Hill.

Like all of you, I am looking forward to a healthier, more prosperous and calmer 2021 for everyone.

Stay strong,

Mike Wasserman, Vice President Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors





Neighborhood Beautification Volunteer Opportunity

By Brian Ferry, VEP Beautification Guy, brifer22@gmail.com

Would you like to help VEP and your neighborhood in a very visible, meaningful and satisfying way? We have two volunteer opportunities available to help beautify the neighborhood, both on the "western frontier" of the VEP area. Both of these areas have been lovingly maintained by VEP members for years, and it's now time to seek some fresh volunteers.

The first is the lot at the north-east corner of Branham Ln & Narvaez Av. Several years ago, VEP and Our City Forest worked together to plant several trees in what had been an unsightly empty lot. Now, the trees are mature and need some occasional light pruning, and the grounds need an occasional once-over for garbage.

The second opportunity is right across the street, at the triangular lot at the south-east corner of Branham Ln & Narvaez Av. This lot is smaller, with some established bushes and a few good-sized trees. It also has several trailing rose bushes which would benefit from a little care.

If you're interested in taking care of either of these lots as either a one-time event or on an on-going basis, as an individual or as part of a group, please contact me.

Additionally, if you have any suggestions for beautification projects in the VEP area, feel free to contact me.

Valley Water Progresses on Work to Strengthen Anderson Dam

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

Valley Water recently lowered water levels in Anderson Reservoir to 3% of its capacity as part of our effort to strengthen the existing dam to safely withstand a large earthquake. This project will help keep the public safe and eventually allow Valley Water to store more water in Anderson Reservoir.

Valley Water lowered the water levels in Anderson Reservoir in response to an order by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to reduce the risk to the public should Anderson Dam fail during a major earthquake. We will strive to maintain this 3% level moving forward as we work on projects designed to strengthen Anderson Dam.

While Valley Water does this critical work, we won't be able to use Anderson Reservoir to store water until the project is completed. But we have a plan to make sure we continue to provide safe, clean water to Santa Clara County.

About 55% of Santa Clara County's water supply comes from hundreds of miles away - first as snow or rain in the Sierra Nevada range of northern and eastern California, then as water in rivers that flow into Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta or directly into aqueducts. Often called "imported water," it is brought into Santa Clara County through the complex infrastructure of the State Water Project, the federal Central Valley Project and San Francisco's Hetch Hetchy system. Valley Water will rely more on these imported water supplies during the next decade.

Also, our local underground basins can hold more water than all 10 of Valley Water's surface acre-feet in groundwater storage. On average, one reservoirs, and currently have healthy storage levels. And in Kern County, we have about 339,000 acre-feet in groundwater storage. On average, one acre-foot of water supplies two households for one year.

Our next step at Anderson Dam is to build a larger outlet tunnel, which will increase the amount of water that can be released from Anderson by five times when used in conjunction with the existing outlet. This will allow Valley Water to better maintain water levels in the reservoir. Work on the outlet tunnel is expected to begin this year, and we estimate it will take two to three years to complete.



Valley Water will begin work on retrofitting the dam embankment and spillway once the tunnel is complete. That effort, known as the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project, is estimated to start in 2024 and will last about seven years.

For more information, please visit the project web page at <u>http://Delivr.com/2uanu.</u>

Friends of Martial Cottle Park – 2021 Update By Joyce Chesnos

We are happy to report progress on our focus "Hedgerow Project". In December we completed 3 planting days working along the Chynoweth side of the Martial Cottle Park trail. Following Santa Clara County Parks safety protocols, FOMCP Board and Committee members donned masks, garden gloves and shovels. We worked with Martial Cottle Park Maintenance Staff and the Park "Land Steward" Volunteers to complete 300 feet of the 900 foot hedgerow area.

First drip irrigation and corrugated cardboard mulch were installed by Maintenance Staff. Then a variety of California native plants grown by Our City Forest were planted by the FOMCP and Land Steward Team members. Finally, the Maintenance Staff and the Land Stewards spread wood chip mulch over the area. It was hard, but rewarding work to see this project coming to fruition. Some of the plants are small, but they will grow. We've received positive comments, encouragement, and even a donation of snacks for our hard working crew. Please come by Martial Cottle Park to see our progress.

In December FOMCP was able to make a second annual donation to this project in spite of the Pandemic. There is more planting to take place in the next month or two, so watch as our hedgerow grows. Please visit our website (<u>https://fomcp.org</u>) for project updates and how you can get involved. We sincerely appreciate the support of VEP Members. Happy New Year from the Board of Friends of Martial Cottle Park.



Friends of Martial Cottle Park Volunteers work on Hedgerow Project at the Park

VERONICA "RONI" CASTRO | Account Executive



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VEP HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST WINNERS

Best Decorated House: 615 Biggs Weeping Willow Extravaganza (\$50 gift card)



 Best Themed House: 437 Hyde Park Drive Santas (\$50 gift card)



- Best Decorated Street: Savendish Ct (Bragging Rights)
- Our Private Facebook group will soon be for members only, so we can post newsletters and members-only news:
- <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/vepca</u>

SOUNDS OF PANDEMIC - A PARODY

By Lynne Kinsey

When I woke up on January 1st my first thoughts were that it was 2021 and maybe the world would take a turn for the better and that the pandemic would be ending. Then I heard the song," The Sound of Silence" on the radio. As a result I wrote a parody of the song and titled it the "Sound of Pandemic". I share my words with you here today. I do not pretend that this is all my own, because it is heavily based on the original words. It merely reflects my feelings on that morning. I wish you all a happy and improved 2021.

(Editor's note: I have a copy of the "Sounds of Silence" 45 RPM record -- remember those -- by Simon and Garfunkel cut by Columbia Records stashed away. Of course, I've nothing to play it on).

Hello 2021 my new friend

Time with you I hope to now spend. Isolation in 2020 I hope to not be keeping Eventual return to normalcy I will be seeking And yet the visions of this time that was implanted in my brain Still remains Within the sound of pandemic.

In restless dreams I walked alone For a duration yet unknown Sometimes feeling trapped like in a prison camp Wishing for the joys of a crowded summer camp When my eyes beheld the glorious morning light Lasting until it dimmed at night Within the sound of pandemic.

And in the naked light I saw Ten thousand people, maybe more Isolated people talking without speaking Isolated people hearing without listening People writing songs that voices never shared No one dared Disturb the sound of pandemic

"Fools" said I, "You do not know Pandemic like a cancer grows Hear my words that I might teach you But my arms are not allowed to reach you" And my words like silent raindrops fell And echoed in the lives of pandemic

And the people bowed and prayed Yet inside they were all afraid We heard and read the continual warning The gloomy statistics that were forming. And the sign keep saying how many people have been lost And predicting the unplanned huge cost

And everywhere places were closed And it continues as the world of pandemic.

From the Web Guru

By Adina Peirce

- Check our website https://www.vepca.net for • link to join.
- "Like" our new Facebook Page
- Visit https://www.facebook.com/vepca95136, our new Facebook page. You don't need to be member so join, just someone interested in neighborhood events and news.
- Share the page with your friends and neighbors!

VEP Newsletter Editor and Past President Moving to New Mexico

- Greg West

It is with great excitement and a little bit of sadness that I'm announcing that my wife, Robin and I, are moving to Rio Rancho, New Mexico in the next few weeks. We just put escrow money on a newly constructed home (our first new house, ever) in Rio Rancho, a town much closer to our kids and grandkids than San Jose is. Robin and I have lived in and raised our family here in San Jose's District 10 over the last, roughly, 40 years, about 30 of those years in the VEP neighborhood. We don't have a specific move date, yet, but, again, it will be within the next few weeks.

I can't tell you how much I've enjoyed working with with our VEP neighbors and city and county officials (elected and otherwise) to maintain and improve the neighborhood over the years, from keeping folks informed through VEP meetings and newsletters, to working with other county residents on the County Parks and Recreation Commision preserving and protecting county parks and open space for the enjoyment of all, to working with the San Jose Unified School District Board of Trustees and staff to ensure the wise and efficient and proper use of SJUSD Bond Measure F funds for the good of all students and residents.

We will be leaving many great friends and neighbors behind, but will take many great memories with us. Again, it has truly been an honor to work with the people that I have over the years to accomplish the things that we've accomplished together.

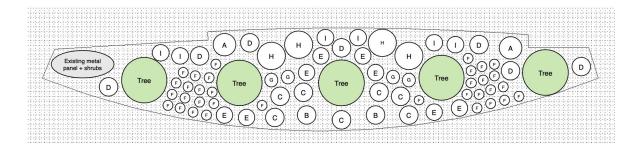






Area: 1977 square feet

 $\begin{array}{l} \mathsf{A} = \mathsf{Mexican sage brush} \\ \mathsf{B} = \mathsf{English lavender} \\ \mathsf{C} = \mathsf{sticky monkey} \\ \mathsf{D} = \mathsf{beard tongue} \\ \mathsf{E} = \mathsf{baby sage} \\ \mathsf{F} = \mathsf{blue eyed grass} \\ \mathsf{G} = \mathsf{culinary sage} \\ \mathsf{H} = \mathsf{creeping rosemary} \\ \mathsf{I} = \mathsf{French lavender} \end{array}$





Bench Donation and Beautify San Jose Grant 2020 (see related articles pgs 3 & 4)