

Representing More Than 2,800 Families in the Blossom Valley Area of South San Jose - ISSUE: OCTOBER 2022

On Page 4: Dave Fadness Beautification Day 2022!



VEP Community Meeting

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30th @7:00 PM
Vista Park Community Room
475 Hyde Park Drive

~ Everyone is Welcome! Invite Your Neighbors! ~

NOVEMBER MEETING AGENDA

- Information & Updates: City of San Jose -
From the Office of District 2 Councilmember Sergio Jimenez

- Midpen Housing -

Plans & Progress: Capitol Light Rail Transit-Oriented Development

- VEP Business Meeting -

Treasurer's Report

Recap of Dave Fadness Memorial Beautification at Vista Park

District 2 Task Force opportunities

Upcoming Events

- Open Forum / Member Q&A -

A chance to voice opinions and/or seek VEP's help.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

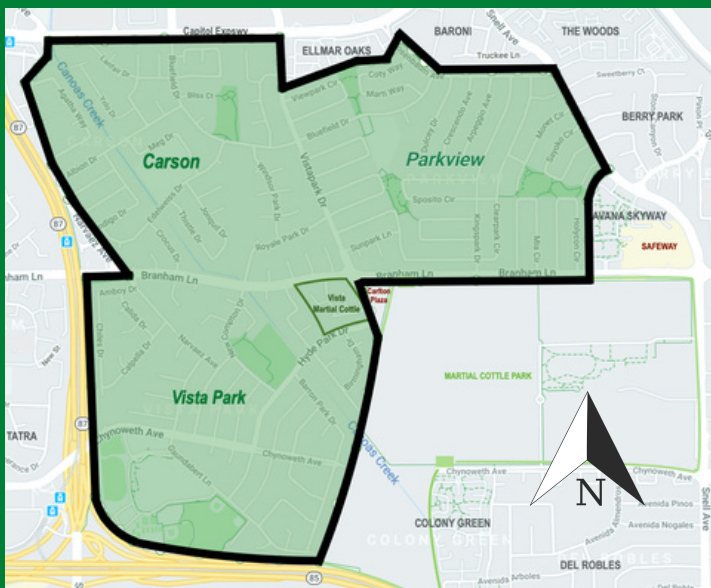
By Alain Mowad

The week of September 26th was a busy week for the VEP with not one but two amazing in-person events!

On Wednesday, September 28th we held our first in person Association meeting in close to 3 years! We had over 30 neighbors attend. Our very special guests were District 2 Councilmember Sergio Jimenez and SJPD Police Captain Brian Matchett. Councilmember Jimenez provided an update on activities and initiatives in District 2 and fielded multiple questions and concerns from our VEP neighbors. Captain Matchett provided an update on crime mitigation and other SJPD initiatives in the VEP neighborhood and across the SJPD Southern Division. Lots of engagement from our neighbors and an all around productive meeting. It was absolutely wonderful to connect (and in many cases reconnect) with all of our neighbors in person again!

On Saturday, October 1st, we were delighted to host a VEP table at the Martial Cottle Park Fall Festival. What a turnout! By all measures, there was record attendance across the board from community groups to vendors to attendees. We were excited to connect with a lot of our neighbors as well as informing a number of newer neighbors about the VEP.

VEPCA Membership Area



VEPCA Community Association is a not-for-profit organization, supported by a board of volunteers. First established in 1969, it is one of San Jose's oldest community associations. VEPCA serves and represents homeowners in the Blossom Valley area of southern San Jose and has grown to encompass more than 2,800 homes. Its primary focus is on neighborhood beautification, safety and local civic affairs. This newsletter is emailed to all current VEPCA members, but is also available on line for all to view.

VEP News is typically published monthly, with the exception of the "Summer Break," June through August. VEP attempts to publish any and all articles that will be of general interest to our membership community. Articles or information may be submitted to the VEP News Editor. Business entities interested in advertising are welcome to contact the editor as well, for rates.

VEP News Editor: Rachel Witmeyer - newsletter@vepca.net

VEPCA EXECUTIVE BOARD of DIRECTORS

President: Alain Mowad - president@vepca.net
Vice President: Heidi Racherla - vp@vepca.net
Treasurer: Marc McGeever - treasurer@vepca.net
Secretary: Lisa Sanchez - secretary@vepca.net
Beautification: Brian Ferry - beautification@vepca.net
Web & Social Media: Adina Pierce - socialmedia@vepca.net
Membership - membership@vepca.net

Visit VEP's website for information regarding your volunteer run association - <http://www.vepca.net>

VEP SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS (CLICK!)

IG <https://www.instagram.com/vepca95136/>
FB <https://www.facebook.com/vepca95136>
FBG <https://www.facebook.com/groups/vepca>

September VEP Community Meeting Summary

By Lisa Sanchez

VEP had a full agenda, as this was the first in-person meeting in quite some time. The meeting opened with two guest speakers, and then moved on to VEP Business. The Board of Directors were introduced, shared the 2023 Mission and Vision, and proposed the new 2023 Budget, which was approved. This was followed by volunteer opportunities, upcoming VEP Events, and closed with an open forum.

The first speaker was District 2 Councilmember Sergio Jimenez. As many of you know, VEP stayed intact, but was moved from D10 to D2 with the redistricting. Our Councilmember shared some of his background, previous involvement, and current projects within San Jose. We had the opportunity to have a Q&A session and share our concerns for our neighborhood.

The second speaker was SJPD Captain Brian Matchett, who has over 27 years of experience. He is responsible for 1 of 4 Divisions, Southern, which is the biggest (Districts 2, 6, 7, 9 & 10). He shared various "hot spots" they monitor for various crimes such as sidseshows, speeding, and theft. Catalytic converter thefts are a hot item, and he recommends investing in a birdcage cover or parking in the garage if possible. Neighbors were able to share issues in our area. VEP will continue to work closely with SJPD.



There was a lot of great input from members during the open forum. This is greatly appreciated, as it helps the VEP board of directors choose future guest speakers that interest our neighborhood. We encourage everyone to invite a neighbor. Membership is not required to attend.

At our next VEP Community Meeting on November 30th, we will have MidPen as our guest speaker. You will not want to miss this meeting! They will share information regarding the approved upcoming housing project, which will be located in Narvaez VTA Lot. This is NOT a proposal! This project has already been approved and is moving forward. We encourage neighbors to come and be informed.

Sign up for Project Updates & Meeting Alerts about the development in the Narvaez VTA Lot:

Click Here: [VTA Capitol Station Webpage](#)

Click Here: [VTA Capitol Station Project Updates](#)

VEP MEMBERS ASKED, WE PROVIDED!

--> Contacts for the City of San Jose Dept. of Transportation <--

[CLICK HERE FOR THE FULL LIST](#)

Membership Corner

Thank you to the VEP friends and neighbors who have joined and/or renewed via Zelle, PayPal, or check since our last newsletter and meeting. In recognition of your commitment, all memberships paid by November 30, 2022 will be entered into monthly raffle drawings for a \$20 Starbucks gift card. Good luck and please share with others in our local community. We'll announce both the October and November winners next month at the membership meeting on November 30th! Reach out with any questions and/or suggestions via email to Membership@vepca.net

THANK YOU for helping VEP Grow!



JOIN TODAY!

BECOME A
VEP MEMBER

STAY CONNECTED!

RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
ANNUALLY

PHONE A FRIEND!

INVITE YOUR VEP
NEIGHBORS VIA TEXT,
EMAIL, AND/OR SHARE
ON SOCIAL MEDIA

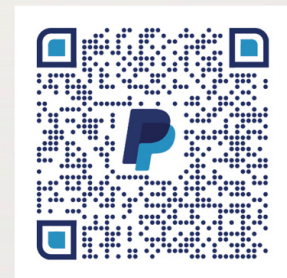
GET INVOLVED!

JOIN US AT AN
UPCOMING
MEMBERSHIP MEETING
OR COMMUNITY
VOLUNTEER EVENT

**YOUR ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT HELPS OUR
VEP LOCAL COMMUNITY GROW AND THRIVE!**

5 WAYS TO JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

- ① Mail your \$20 check to:
VEP Community Association
P.O. Box 18037
San Jose, CA 95158
- ② Pay by credit card via our website:
<https://vepca.net>
- ③ Pay by cash at an upcoming meeting or volunteer event
- ④ Pay via Zelle: dues@vepca.net
- ⑤ Join or Renew via PayPal \$20/year:



vepca@vepca.net

All new and renewal memberships received by November 30, 2022 will count for full year 2023
AND qualify you for entry into a drawing for \$20 Starbucks gift card!

Questions? Email membership@vepca.net

A Remarkable Return for VEP's Annual "Dave Fadness Beautification Day" after Pandemic Hiatus

By Brian Ferry

First, a huge THANK YOU to all of you who turned up for the 6th Annual Dave Fadness Beautification Day on October 22nd at Vista Park! From the long-time VEP members to folks newer to our organization, and all of the students who showed up to pitch in: we couldn't have done it without you! I'd also like to thank Ellie Ibanez from PRNS who helped coordinate and publicize the event; Sue Bowling, who helped with support from the Adopt-A-Park program; and Luz Juarez and her crew, who came from Beautify SJ - a city program which supports events just like ours!

A few numbers if you're interested: we had 54 volunteers, who trimmed, raked, shoveled and swept enough green waste to make a significant pile about 100 feet long, and who picked up enough trash in the park to fill a full-sized pickup truck load! We're sure that VEPCA's beloved "Tree Man," Dave Fadness, would have been awfully proud of the great work that was done!

If you haven't seen it yet, I invite you to stop by Vista Park, and take a look around the community center building; I think you'll find it looks quite nice! If you're interested in helping us maintain the park throughout the year, either at an event or on your own occasionally, please drop me a note at beautification@vepca.net. We'd love to have the help!

We look forward to continuing our annual tradition next October and hope to see you there! [VIEW MORE PHOTOS HERE \(CLICK!\)](#)



Current and Former VEPCA Board Members
Were On-Site and Working Hard!
Left: Alain Mowad & Heidi Racherla
Right: Laura McGeever, Aiko Fadness,
Cindy Bosworth, and Dave Noel



Aiko Fadness spoke about her late husband, then got to work!



News from Gunderson High School

By Marc McGeever for the Gunderson High School Foundation

GHS Foundation Fall Fundraiser: Place your order today for your Holiday Poinsettias while supplies last: <https://tinyurl.com/ghsfpoinsettias> (CLICK!)

All proceeds go to support the students at Gunderson High School.

Volunteers Needed!: Gunderson High Foundation is looking for alumni and community volunteers to help support peer-based mentorship and social wellness programs. The Foundation is preparing short presentation in areas such as improving these skills: interviewing, time management, effective communication, personal budgeting, relaxation techniques such as: meditation, deep breathing, and visualization. If you have skills in any of these areas or if you would like to be trained to present these workshops to our students, please contact the Gunderson Foundation at: <https://tinyurl.com/volunteerGHSF> (CLICK!)

To stay up to date on all the Gunderson High Foundation activities, please visit <https://www.gundersonhighfoundation.org> (CLICK!)

Holiday Poinsettia Sale

Place order today & Pick Up order on
Dec 8th or 9th (Supplies Limited)

Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/ghsfpoinsettias>

Purchase one plant for \$20

Purchase a pair for \$35

Purchase a case of six for \$90



A Letter from Andrew P. Hill High School to Students & Families

My name is Jose H Hernandez, principal of Andrew P. Hill High School, and the teachers, staff and I welcome you to our Falcon Family. We are proud to provide a safe, supportive, and innovative learning environment to enable your child to succeed.

We strive to ensure that all parents and students are well-informed on how to plan for success in high school and attend a college or university. Our school is equipped to prepare your child to enter and meet the academic demands of higher education. At each grade level, counselors meet with all students to discuss personal and academic exploration and refinement of career and college goals through a Guidance Plan.

You will learn more about our globally-recognized International Baccalaureate program, an exciting curriculum that offers students valuable perspectives on international affairs and advanced classes. Our students learn to develop key transferable skills identified as Approaches to Learning Skills (communication, social, self-management, research and thinking) by the IB Program. The Approaches to Learning Skills are a major focus in all 9th & 10th grade classes as part of the IB Middle Years Program that prepares students for the advanced courses in the IB Diploma Program for grades 11 and 12.

We offer advanced courses from IB Diploma Program and AP in English, Math, Performing Arts, Science, Social Science, World Languages and Visual Arts as well as college preparatory electives and four academies/pathways: Health & Medical Magnet, Multimedia Academy, Legal Practices Academy and Puente. As an extension of these courses, students have the opportunities and access to hands-on experiences with numerous Silicon Valley industry partners. These include internships, guests' lecturers, and mentors. We also provide field trips to local professional industries and colleges.

Our students get various opportunities to demonstrate their growth and overall learning through some unique experiences. The IB Diploma Chemistry and Sports & Exercise Science classes create group projects based on scientific concepts that they present to local Hellyer Elementary students this coming November 9, 2022. During the second semester our students return and become Science Fair judges for Hellyer Elementary. Another unique experience that began last week was when both of our 12th grade Health & Medical classes reached out to a Honduras Community Medical group via Zoom style communication. Our students are communicating directly with doctors and patients in Honduran clinics about actual medical issues.

Apart from our strong academics, we offer a variety of athletic programs in football, basketball, baseball, soccer, and many other sports activities. We also offer an array of extracurricular activities and clubs, such as the Associated Student Body (ASB), our national award-winning Robotics Club, Stanford Future Advancers of Technology, Mindfulness Club, Choir, Band, Cheerleading and many more to fit student interests!

VEP President Alain Mowad, Treasurer Marc McGeever, Director Adina Pierce and Vice President Heidi Racherla Hosted the VEPCA Booth together at the 6th Annual Martial Cottle Fall Festival on October 1st, 2022



~ DATES TO REMEMBER ~

MONDAY, OCTOBER 31ST - HAPPY HALLOWEEN!
VEP Wishes Your Family a Fun & Safe Holiday!

NOVEMBER 1ST/2ND - ¡FELIZ DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS!
"Memories Keep Us Alive."

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH - DAYLIGHT SAVINGS
"FALL BACK" - Turn Clocks Back 1 Hour

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH - ELECTION DAY!
Get Out to VOTE for San Jose Mayor, County Supervisor, California State Assemblymember, other California State offices, and many important ballot measures!

VOTING RESOURCES: (CLICKABLE LINKS!)

Registrar of Voters - sccvote.sccgov.org

State Voting Info. - sos.ca.gov/elections

State Voter's Guide - voterguide.sos.ca.gov

Voter's Edge Website - votersedge.org/ca

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH - VETERAN'S DAY
Honoring Those Who Have Served

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH - D2 FALL FESTIVAL
<-- See Flyer at Left for Details.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH - VEP MEETING
In-Person @Vista Park Community Room - 7:00 PM
Meeting Agenda on [Page 1](#) (CLICK!)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3RD
VEPCA'S HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST
Show off your Holiday Spirit!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10TH
VEPCA'S "SANTA IN THE PARK" EVENT
FREE, FAMILY FUN! SANTA PHOTOS!
Bring Your Family and Your Own Camera.
@Vista Park Community Room - 10 AM to NOON

District 2 Fall Festival

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2022
10 A.M. - 2 P.M.
HAYES MANSION & EDENVALE GARDEN PARK
200 EDENVALE AVE.
SAN JOSE, CA 95136

Free ice cream for first 200 people!
Free resource fair, games & activities,
face painting, balloon art, music
& more! Beverages & food for sale.





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