

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

President Alain Mowad represented VEP at the District 2 Fall Festival



## 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

#### Toys for Tots Drive: Bring a New, Unwrapped Toy!

- Anisha Dalal: Principal, Gunderson High School -  
News and Updates for Families & Neighbors of GHS

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

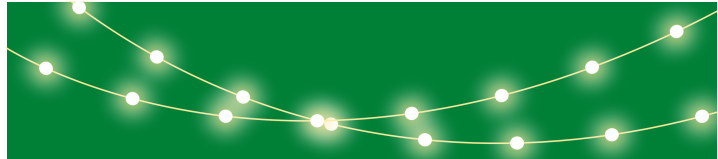
- Updates from the SJ Department of Transportation -  
Zahir Guladeh, Division Manager, DOT

- VEP Business Meeting -  
Treasurer's Report

Recap of Dave Fadness Memorial Beautification Day at Vista Park  
District 2 Task Force opportunities  
Upcoming Events ([Also, See page 3](#)) CLICK!

- Open Forum / Member Q&A -  
A chance to voice opinions and/or seek VEP's help.

- Membership Raffle -



### VEP Community Association's 11th Annual 🧊 HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST 🧊

Open to ALL single-family homes within the neighborhoods of Carson, Parkview, Vista Park & Martial Cottle. (VEP membership is not required)



#### Categories & Prizes:



##### Best Decorated Home

\$50 Gift Card & 1 Year Membership

##### Best Themed Home

\$50 Gift Card & 1 Year Membership

##### Best Decorated Street - Honorable Mention

**\*\* Keep your displays on until 10pm, for judging \*\***  
**December 9, 10 & 11th**

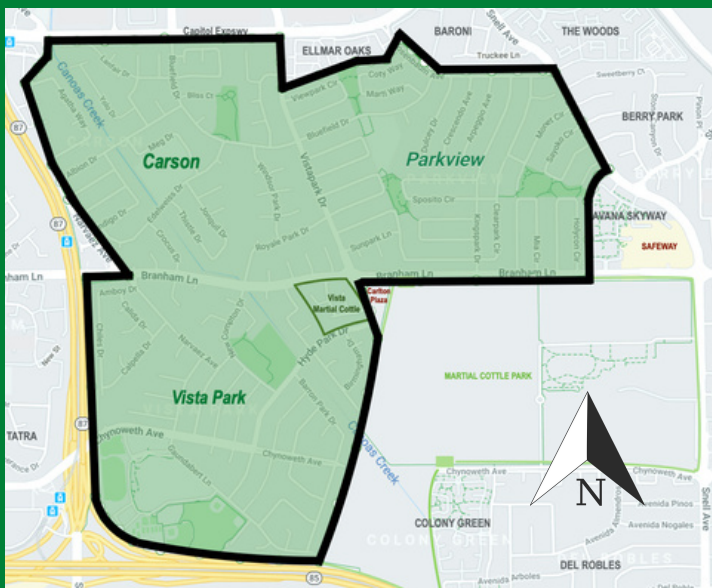
Winners to be announced by Dec 16th!

Best of Luck!

Thanks to All Homes with Decorations!



## VEPCA Membership Area



VEP 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](mailto:newsletter@vepca.net)

### VEPCA EXECUTIVE BOARD of DIRECTORS

President: Alain Mowad - [president@vepca.net](mailto:president@vepca.net)

Vice President: Heidi Racherla - [vp@vepca.net](mailto:vp@vepca.net)

Treasurer: Marc McGeever - [treasurer@vepca.net](mailto:treasurer@vepca.net)

Secretary: Lisa Sanchez - [secretary@vepca.net](mailto:secretary@vepca.net)

Beautification: Brian Ferry - [beautification@vepca.net](mailto:beautification@vepca.net)

Web & Social Media: Adina Pierce - [socialmedia@vepca.net](mailto:socialmedia@vepca.net)

Membership - [membership@vepca.net](mailto: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>

*Thank You! from Aiko Fadness*

My deepest gratitude to the VEP Board, PRNS staffers Sue and Ellie and all the VOLUNTEERS who made the Dave Fadness Memorial Beautification Day a huge success. Vista Park looks great!

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Alain Mowad

As we reflect on Thanksgiving Weekend, we have a lot to be thankful for:

- Our membership is growing again and we are especially excited to bring new members into our community. Welcome to the VEP neighborhoods! We are so happy to have you!
- Our first Dave Fadness Memorial Day beautification event in almost 3 years at Vista Park was a huge success with a large turnout of neighbors. With just 4 hours of work the park's transformation was a sight to see!
- We are once again planning to host our annual Santa in the Park on December 10th! This will be the 14th Santa in the Park VEP has hosted for our community. ([See Page 3: CLICK!](#))
- We are looking forward to another in-person meeting with all of our members!
- VEP is also making its presence felt at the District 2 level and we are actively building relationships with other neighborhood associations!

On that note, we participated in the District 2 Fall Festival at Hayes Mansion on Saturday, November 19th, hosted by Council member Sergio Jimenez. At the event, we had an opportunity to connect with a few new VEP members, with other neighborhood associations that share the same challenges and hopes we have, and with representatives from different departments within the City and the County of Santa Clara. Councilmember Jimenez came by to speak with us at the VEP booth and will be attending our meeting on November 30th. He and his staff have been extremely supportive of neighborhood associations such as ours, and it was great to see them all again at the event. Finally, we met with Congressman Elect Jimmy Panetta, who wanted to learn more about the VEP and also volunteered to make a presentation and field questions at one of our upcoming meetings. Stay tuned for more details on that.

All in all, a busy couple of months, and looking forward to more as we head into the holidays and into the New Year! Wishing you and yours a very happy and restful Thanksgiving Weekend, and Happy Holidays!

# Santa Claus is Coming... to Vista Park!



## VEP's 14th Annual Santa in the Park Saturday, December 10th

**10:00AM to 12:00PM**

Vista Park Community Room  
473 Hyde Park San Jose, CA

Bring your Kids for this VEPCA Holiday Tradition  
Pictures with Santa  
Arts & Crafts Stations  
Sweets & Treats

Community Donation Opportunity  
Toys for Tots Donation Box

## Support Children in Need this Season From the VEP Executive Board

The winter holiday season is a time for giving. Please support our "Toys for Tots" Toy Drive!

We will have Toys for Tots collection boxes available at the following two events:

November 30th - VEP Community Association Meeting  
December 10th - Santa in the Park

All toys need to be new and unwrapped.  
Stuffed toys need to have original tags.  
No toy weapons are accepted (guns, knives, swords).  
All other toys welcomed.

Help us make this holiday season special for a child in need!  
Thank you!



## New Beautification Opportunity

Howdy, and I hope this finds you all well. Building off the fantastic response we had for our annual Dave Fadness Clean-Up event, we'll start having a monthly clean-up/maintenance session in our area.

We'll start at 9:00am, and wrap up by 12:00pm. No RSVP needed, stay as long as you can; this is a very casual event!

Our first session will be: Sunday, January 8th, 2023 - 9:00am - 12:00pm  
Vista Park - Hyde Park Dr & New Compton Dr.

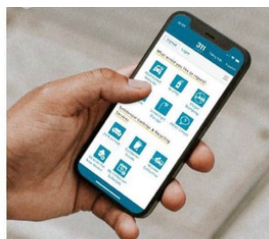
If you have any questions or would like to suggest a location that would benefit from the "VEP Treatment", my email is [beautification@vepca.net](mailto:beautification@vepca.net).

Hope to see you there! - Brian Ferry, the Beautification Guy



# Get It Done!

SAN JOSÉ  
**311**  
CITY SERVICES



DOWNLOAD  
the app

DIAL  
3-1-1

VISIT  
[sanjoseca.gov/311](http://sanjoseca.gov/311)



## Roberto Ruiz

Intero Broker Associate  
BRE Lic. #01270734

- VEP Member  
- Marine Corps Veteran

5580 Almaden Expressway  
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[www.RobertoRuiz.info](http://www.RobertoRuiz.info)  
[Rruiz@interorealestate.com](mailto:Rruiz@interorealestate.com)



## Membership Corner

In the spirit of the season, we are grateful for the VEP friends and neighbors who have helped reinvigorate VEP by joining and/or renewing your membership via Zelle, PayPal, or check over the past few months.

As promised, all payments received before October were entered into a raffle drawing and we're thrilled to announce that DIANE LECHNER is the lucky winner of the first \$20 Starbucks gift card. Enjoy your favorite holiday beverage compliments of VEP!

For the rest of us, it's not too late! There's still time to be included in the November raffle drawing if you send in payment now. We'll announce the next winner on November 30 at the in-person VEP membership meeting at Vista Park Community Center and have another drawing planned for December.

To help spread the word to others in our local community, please share the VEP invitation with your friends and neighbors, connect with us on social media and reach out with any questions and/or suggestions via email to [Membership@vepca.net](mailto:Membership@vepca.net).

Thank you and Happy Thanksgiving!

# 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

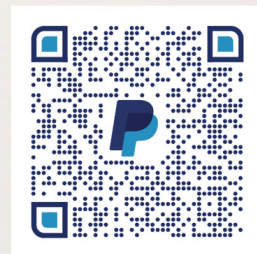
① Mail your \$20 check to:  
VEP Community Association  
P.O. Box 18037  
San Jose, CA 95158

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](mailto:dues@vepca.net)

⑤ Join or Renew via  
PayPal \$20/year:



[vepca@vepca.net](mailto: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](mailto:membership@vepca.net)

# 5 Tips to Make Your Home a Secure Place

By Jayshree Reddy

Hello neighbors, it's that time of the year! Family, Friends Food & Holidays! Your home is your secure place make sure to follow some tips to make it safe for your loved ones. By combining several different safety features and approaches, your home can be even safer than it is now for the holidays.

## Home Security Tips:

### 1. Get an alarm system

It's not clear exactly how many potential intruders are put off by home alarm systems. Some burglars won't mess with security systems. But regardless of how they feel about alarm systems, most burglars don't want to take a chance with alarm systems, So, get a security system, preferably one that alerts even when disabled. Chances are a burglar will skip over your place for an easier target.

### 2. Notify your neighbor

If you are planning on going out of town, keep a trusted neighbor informed. They can keep an eye on the house and report any suspicious activity. Please be extra cautious about posting your holiday plans on social media, you never know who has access to your online accounts.



### 3. Check your holiday lights

Holiday season can sometimes increase the risk of fire. Check your lights for frayed cords and even broken lamps. Throw away all damaged lights and replace them with safe new ones. Keep an eye on candles and place them a foot away from all decorations.

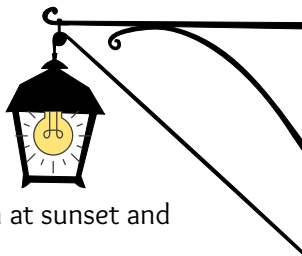


### 4. Shut your blinds at night

Lights on, dark outside? Keep your blinds shut. You'd be surprised by how many burglars take advantage of that time of night when they can see straight into your home.

### 5. Make porch lights automatic

A peephole isn't very helpful in the dark. Adding automated porch lights, that could cover everything from motion-based lights to a setup that allows you to turn your lights on at sunset and off at sunrise.



Wishing our wonderful community, a lovely and safe holiday season!

## ~ DATES TO REMEMBER ~

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH - VEP MEETING

In-Person @Vista Park Community Room - 7:00 PM  
Meeting Agenda on [Page 1](#) (CLICK!)

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9TH - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH

#### VEPCA'S HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST

Show off your Holiday Spirit!  
See Article on [Page 1](#) (CLICK!)

### 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  
See Article on [Page 3](#) (CLICK!)

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 19TH HAPPY HANNUKAH!

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25TH MERRY CHRISTMAS!

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 26TH HAPPY KWANZAA!

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 1ST HAPPY NEW YEAR!

### VEP COMMUNITY MEETINGS IN 2023

@Vista Park Community Room - 7:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25TH

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29TH

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31ST

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8TH, 2023

### MONTHLY BEAUTIFICATION EVENT

@Vista Park - 9 AM to NOON

SATURDAY, MARCH 25TH, 2023

### SPRING BEAUTIFICATION EVENT

Details T.B.A.



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Your Neighborhood Realtor

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San Jose, CA, 95136

License #: 02141214



## Update from Friends of Martial Cottle Park

We all love Martial Cottle Park and will continue to work to make it better. If you have walked or biked through the Park these past months, you have seen how the community continues to enjoy the trails more than ever. The Park provides a safe place to get outside, exercise, experience nature, enjoy pastoral views of the farm and the valley. Martial Cottle Park fills a need in all of us, so let's continue to work together to support it. Through generous donations from community members, Friends of Martial Cottle Park has funded various projects in the Park.

### Park Projects

Hedgerow Project: The Hedgerow Project was the first focus project for Friends of Martial Cottle Park. Thanks to our members, donors and fundraising events, we have been able to contribute \$10,000 over the past few years plus another \$1,500 this year for a total of \$11,500.

What's Growing Signs: FOMCP funded signs that are installed throughout the park indicating the type of crops being grown by Jacob's Farms. Martial Cottle Park staff designed and installed the signs.

School Bus Fund: FOMCP is partnering with Environmental Volunteers, an organization that links funding for school bus transportation with local low-income schools so they can participate in school field trip programs. FOMCP will fund several school field trips to Martial Cottle Park.

Farm Equipment Refurbishing: Martial Cottle Park will be doing maintenance work and replacing tires on historical vehicles at the park and FOMCP will contribute towards equipment refurbishment.

### Upcoming Events

We are making plans for a Cottle and Lester Historic Ranch tour in the spring before the area is closed for renovations. We will let you know when we have a date.

### Ways to get involved

Please consider volunteering your time and talent this coming year. You can email us at [info@fomcp.org](mailto:info@fomcp.org) and let us know what you are interested in doing in 2022-23. We will need help with the fundraising event, the projects we are working on in the park, and events at the park.

Please consider becoming a member or donating to Friends of Martial Cottle Park online:

<https://fomcp.org/membership/> (CLICK!)

Checks payable to FOMCP may be mailed to:

Friends of Martial Cottle Park  
1177 Branham Lane, PMB 318  
San Jose CA 95118



## Support for Gunderson High School

By Marc McGeever

for the Gunderson High School Foundation

[Holiday Poinsettia Sale](#)

To support the Students at Gunderson High School

Order today: <https://tinyurl.com/ghsfpoinsettias> (CLICK!)

Poinsettias will be available for pick up on Thursday, December 8th or Friday, December 9th - 3PM to 6PM

Pick Up Location: In front of the Gunderson Office  
622 Gaundabert Lane San Jose, CA. 95136

To stay up to date on all the Gunderson High Foundation activities, visit:

<https://www.gundersonhighfoundation.org> (CLICK!)



3RD ANNUAL  
POINSETTIA  
FUNDRAISER!

**Gunderson High  
School  
Foundation**



**Holiday  
Fundraiser:  
Beautiful  
Poinsettia  
Plants for Sale**

<https://tinyurl.com/ghsfpoinsettias>

Single (1) Poinsettia: \$20  
Pair (2) Poinsettias: \$35  
1 Case (6) Poinsettias: \$90

*Order  
before they  
sell out!*