

Snow covers the eastern hills in late February.
(Looking across Martial Cottle Park.)
- Photo by Adina Pierce

VEP Community Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29th @7:00 PM
Vista Park Community Room
475 Hyde Park Drive

~ Everyone is Welcome! Invite Your Neighbors! ~

MARCH MEETING AGENDA

- Information & Updates: District 2 -

From the Office of Councilmember Sergio Jimenez

- President's Message -

Alain Mowad, VEPCA

- Guest Speaker: Mayor Matt Mahan -

- VEP Business Meeting -

Treasurer's Report
Upcoming Events

- Open Forum / Member Q&A -

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

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Alain Mowad



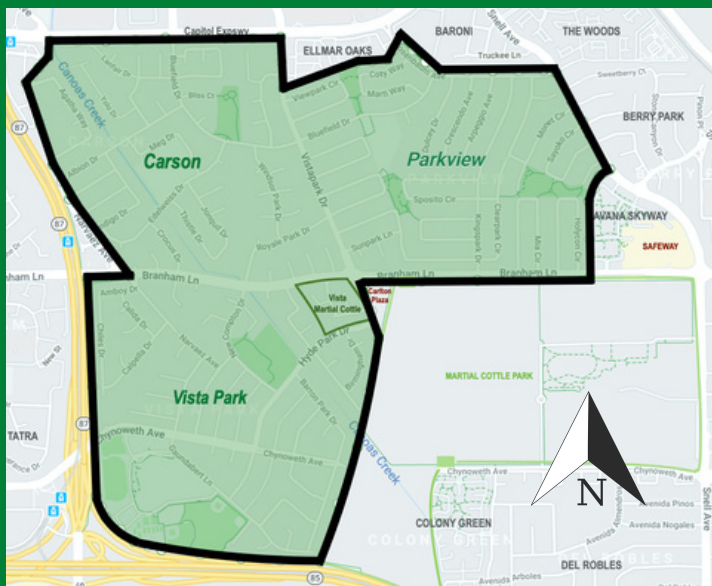
We were all rattled by the news regarding the Vista Park resident whose home was filled with explosives and a meth lab on Potomac Ct. A big thank you to the SJPd who worked with over 40+ FBI agents and other agencies to apprehend the suspects and make our neighborhood safe again.

This can happen anywhere, but when it happens in our neighborhood, we are reminded that we should all remain vigilant. Every one of us is responsible for the safety and well being of our VEP neighborhood. It was a resident that reported suspicious activity that led to the investigation and subsequent arrests. I am so glad nothing more came of this and that everyone in our community is safe again.

We are excited to announce that we will once again be sponsoring a community garage sale and cleanup day in our neighborhood, in partnership with the City of San Jose and the Salvation Army. This will be on Saturday, May 6th, starting at 8:00 AM. For items you can't sell or prefer to donate, the Salvation Army will have a truck for you to drop them off. For any items you can't donate, but want to get rid of, the City will provide dumpsters for you to drop them off.

Finally, please join us on March 29th at the Vista Park Community Center for our association meeting, which starts at 7 PM. We're very excited to be hosting our Mayor, Matt Mahan, who will present to our members and field questions as well. We also have a number of updates we want to share with our members, so we really hope to see you there! I apologize that I will not be able to make the meeting as I will be traveling on business, but our Vice-President, Heidi Racherla, will run the meeting for us. Thank you, Heidi!

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, Images, and/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 & SHARE!)

IG <https://www.instagram.com/vepca95136/>

FB <https://www.facebook.com/vepca95136>

FBG <https://www.facebook.com/groups/vepca>

January 25th Community Meeting Minutes

Compiled by VEPCA Secretary Lisa Sanchez

Here is a snapshot of VEP's January Membership Meeting:

Guest speakers were from VTA and District 2. VEP then followed with an Open Forum, where members can ask questions or voice concerns. VEP encourages all neighbors to join us, membership not required. See website or newsletter for dates and other upcoming events.

VTA - Capitol & Branham Station Access Study

- VTA Team Presenters: Roberto, Jennifer, Jeanine & Aiko (not to be confused with our Aiko Fadness)
- Aiko Cuenco reviewed VTA's Study Background on Transit Oriented Program
- Gave overview of VTA Station Access Study for pedestrians, vehicles & cyclists
- Updated Timeline: Currently in Phase 1 Community Outreach & Assessment of Improvements. Phase 2 projected for spring '23.
- Reviewed current challenges with VTA pedestrian, vehicle & cyclist access
- VTA will be staging station pop ups, community meetings & on-line survey, regarding user challenges
- Safety is a current issue, they are concerned with encroaching encampments
- Contact Aiko Cuenco with any questions:
408-321-7575 / community.outreach@vta.org
- Q&A

District 2 Update - Helen Chapman

- Shared some background as Jimenez enters his 7th year with lots of experience (currently involved with Public Safety Program)
- Abatement Project, corner of Branham & Monterey, began in February 2023. (*Editor's Note: The homeless encampments on the property were cleared. Perimeter fencing and bike lane barriers were installed the week of March 13th.*)
- No status on Kingspark & Branham crossing light, but it is an approved project in the making
- Focus on re-opening Police Academy is ongoing, funding needs to be included in budget
- Monterey Road Maintenance Project, from SJ to Morgan Hill, will target maintaining & installing traffic lights, cameras, railroad crossing maintenance and street & tree clean up
- Open Space Authority is now chaired by Helen Chapman
- Former Aloha Rink (Charities Housing Project) targeted to be complete late summer 2023, with resident occupancy commencing the fall of 2023
- VTA Safe Parking on Santa Teresa & Ignacio delayed but should complete in 2023

Meeting Minutes Continue on Page 3

- Submit reports and pictures regarding public safety issue, through 311, which also works with Beautify SJ (for reports such as fallen trees during storm)
- Parking Compliance backlogged, focus will be to examine & improve current processes
- Q&A
- Link for D2 Newsletters:

<https://www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/departments-offices/mayor-and-city-council/district-2/newsletters>

Member Q&A - Heidi Racherla

- Treasurer Report presented by Heidi
- Santa in the Park was a success, see January newsletter for details and pictures
- Member requested VEP advertise meetings, via Nextdoor/Facebook/email, days prior to date of meeting
- Concern raised with maintenance of neighborhood eucalyptus street trees after storm
- Helen asked residents to forward pictures of trees needing maintenance to D2, via 311
- D2 can arrange a Dumpster Day!! VEP will contact Helen or Vanessa to coordinate and share details with members
- Next VEP Member Meeting is March 29th
- Jan Maisen and Rachel Witmeyer did not receive electronic January Newsletter. Verified showed up as "Unsubscribed". VEP will look into possibly programming a "Are you sure you want to unsubscribe" default, if the unsubscribe link is inadvertently being clicked.

VEPCA on "NEXTDOOR"

Please show your support by selecting VEPCA as a "Fave" when you use "Nextdoor." Thank You!

<https://nextdoor.com/pages/vep-community-association-95136/>

Beautification Update

Hi Friends - Well, the big issue with beautification projects so far this year seems to be the weather. We've had to cancel two events due to weather, and another 3 due to holiday conflicts. Our next scheduled clean-up event will be Sunday, June 11th, 2023. Location will be announced soon; watch for the next newsletter!

I'd also like to thank all of you who raised your voices to the city when some folks set up a camp at the recently restored "VEP Grove" at Branham Ln & Narvaez Av. I don't have the particulars on the outcome of the calls, but we all hope they were assisted to some appropriate shelter. Don't forget that issues like this can be reported by notifying the city's Homeless Concern folks at:

homelessconcerns@sanjoseca.gov

See you out there!

Brian Ferry

Update on VTA Projects

By Helen Chapman, for D2 Councilmember Jimenez

From the housing department: Staff is estimating the site preparation work for the **VTA Safe Parking** project will be complete in March, so they are preparing for a mid to late March opening the program for RV participants.

The safe parking CAC has been meeting 2 x month and reviewing/discussing operating plans and participant agreements. The CAC also reviews the outreach progress updates. Right now, there are 7 RV's from Hedding and Spring area that still want to participate in the RV safe parking. LifeMoves is doing weekly outreach to the list of sites we received from D2 and D10, which does include your neighborhood.

VTA/Branham Light Rail Station: Councilmember Jimenez inquired VTA about the status of this site and was told that there is a 9 month feasibility analysis with Charities Housing for the site. They're exploring the potential in building low income for-sale units. Further info can be found on the January 12th VTA board meeting under consent item 6.3.

6.3. ACTION ITEM - Authorize the General Manager to conduct predevelopment work with Charities Housing for a term of up to nine (9) months to formulate a proposal for Board consideration for development of a feasible 100% affordable, owner-occupied "for-sale" housing project at the VTA Branham Light Rail Station park-and-ride lot, pursuant to the existing Cooperative Agreement between VTA and the County of Santa Clara (County) Office of Supportive Housing (OSH). If a feasible concept cannot be accomplished with Charities Housing during the term, authorize the General Manager or designee to then pursue a feasibility collaboration for a period of up to 9 months with Jamboree Housing Corporation for the same purpose.

LINK:

<http://santaclaravta.iqm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=14&ID=3626&Inline=True>

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MARINE CORPS VETERAN

INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING WITH THE VEP NEWS?
CONTACT US: NEWSLETTER@VEPCA.NET



More Wild Weather



Views of snowy Mt. Hamilton and eastern hills from Parkview School - By Rachel Witmeyer



View of the snowy east hills, Looking down Branham along Martial Cottle Park - Photo Shared by Jose Martinez, Seven Trees

Snow on Mt. Umunhum - By Adina Pierce



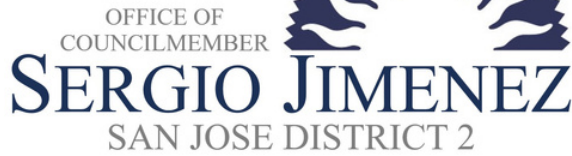
Tree Damaged by High Winds at Parkview School - R. Witmeyer



Do you have
photos of our
community
to share?

Send them to
VEPeditor@vepca.net

Updates from the



Groundbreaking Timeline: Emergency Interim Housing Community Site at Monterey Hwy. and Branham Lane

The City and its partner LifeMoves are ready to break ground on the much needed and highly anticipated Emergency Interim Housing Community at Monterey Rd. and Branham Ln. This project will create 204 units of interim housing for our community's most vulnerable residents. In addition to safe and stable housing, LifeMoves will provide residents with case management, crisis intervention, employment services, community development, and community integration.

The project is funded by a \$51.55 million grant from the State of California Project Homekey as well as additional funding from the City of San José and the Sobrato Family Foundation.

After many months of planning, we will be entering into the development phase of the project. LifeMoves is scheduled to take ownership of the site this week. The site will be cleared (weather permitting) on Friday, March 17, 2023. The site clearing includes abating the unhoused encampment that has occupied the site for some time. The residents of the encampment have received outreach and have been offered services through the Temporary Housing Assistance Program (THAP) from LifeMoves and the City's Homeless Response Team.

The site has been cleared and the perimeter will be fenced by General Contractor Devcon Construction, Inc. until construction is complete. (*Editor's Note: Fencing was installed the week of March 13th.*) Onsite security will be provided to monitor the area and prohibit trespassing. Neighbors should expect to see tree removal and other construction equipment on the site.

As the site is developed, we will provide construction updates when available. For questions about this site, please contact my office at district2@sanjoseca.gov.



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BOARDS AND COMMISSION VACANCIES

City of San José, Office of the City Clerk

Application deadline: April 16, 2023

ATTENTION RESIDENTS OF SAN JOSE MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD APPLICATIONS are being accepted for current, upcoming, and future vacancies of City of San José Boards and Commissions.

- Airport Commission (8 vacancies)
- Appeals Hearing Board (3)
- Arts Commission (4)
- Clean Energy Community Advisory Commission (2)
- Council Appointment Advisory Commission (6)
- Housing and Community Development Commission (5)
- Library and Early Education Commission (8)
- Measure T Community Oversight Committee (4 general vacancies, 1 vacancy for someone with a financial background, & 1 for someone with an environmental background)
- Parks and Commission (5)
- Salary Setting Commission (5)
- Senior Commission (8)
- Applications also being accepted for Neighborhoods Commission and Small Business Advisory Commission.
- QUALIFICATIONS: Generally, you must live in the City of San Jose and have a commitment to being active in the community. Appointed Commissioners serve up to 4 years per term. See the link for specific details about the requirements of the commission you are interested in.
- For more information about the commissions and to apply online visit the link below. (CLICK!)

<https://sanjose.granicus.com/boards/w/923860ac785826ef>

SJPD's Camera Archive & Mapping Program

By Captain Steve Donohue, Southern Division

Bureau of Field Operations, San Jose Police Department

excited to announce our new Camera Archive & Mapping program! With this, residents and business owners will be able to register their cameras so when a crime occurs, the Police Department will be able to quickly identify potential locations of video footage and evidence, streamlining investigations and providing better service to the community. We need the community's help to keep our City safe. Use the links to learn more and get registered.



Program Information: CLICK!

<https://www.sjpd.org/community/crime-prevention/security-camera-registration>

Register Your Camera: CLICK!

[https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/5a477e88bdc64b3aa1311af350ee2c71?](https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/5a477e88bdc64b3aa1311af350ee2c71?portalUrl=https://maps.sanjoseca.gov/portal&field:reporttype=Add&field:recordsource=Public)

[portalUrl=https://maps.sanjoseca.gov/portal&field:reporttype=Add&field:recordsource=Public](https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/5a477e88bdc64b3aa1311af350ee2c71?portalUrl=https://maps.sanjoseca.gov/portal&field:reporttype=Add&field:recordsource=Public)

Upcoming Events at Martial Cottle Park

Friday, May 19th and Saturday, May 20th

The Friends of Martial Cottle Park (FOMCP) are making plans for a **Cottle and Lester Historic Ranch** tour in the spring before the area is closed for renovations. More information coming soon.

Saturday, April 15th - 9:00 am–2:00 pm

Join us for our **Spring Garden Fair**, our sustainable gardening showcase, premier plant sale, and educational fair. It will be held at our parcel in Martial Cottle Park in San Jose. Sales benefit the UC Master Gardener program. Choose from our huge variety of tomato, pepper, herb, flower and native plant seedlings, and succulents that we raise right here in the Santa Clara Valley. We grow varieties not readily available elsewhere, selected for outstanding taste, beauty, and performance in our soil and climate. Programs Include: Gardening Talks & Garden Tours, Children's Activities, Green Elephant Sale, Information Tables and Vendors.

For All the Details about the Day's Programs, **CLICK HERE:**
<https://mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu/events-calendar/spring-garden-market/>

Saturday, June 24th

Native Plant and Pollinator Day

Celebrate National Pollinator Week at Martial Cottle Park

June 24, 2023

9:00 am - 11:00 am

Free Admission! (\$6 Parking)

Native Plant and Pollinator Guided Walk
9:00 am - 9:45 am

Meet at the Visitor Center. The 45-minute guided walk will be about 1.5 miles round trip on paved paths.

Pollinator Related Activities

9:00 am - 11:00 am

Join us at the Ethel Lester Picnic Site to meet some of our Park Partners and enjoy fun activities.

For More Information Contact Jackie Zizana, Parks Program Coordinator at (408) 535-4062 or Jacqueline.Zizana@prk.sccgov.org

~ DATES TO REMEMBER ~

VEP COMMUNITY MEETINGS

@Vista Park Community Room - 7:00 PM
Wednesday, March 29th
Wednesday, May 31st

COMMUNITY-WIDE GARAGE SALE AND "SPRING CLEANING" EVENT

Saturday, May 6th

Garage Sales Starting @7:00 AM

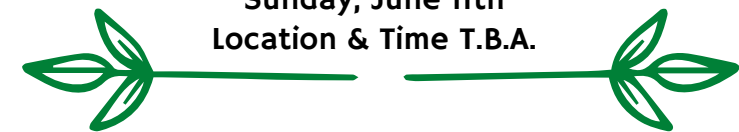
FREE Dumpsters from District 2
Including E-Waste!

@Viewpark Circle - Starts @8:00 AM

Donation Drop-Off Truck
Location & Times T.B.A.

BEAUTIFICATION EVENT

Sunday, June 11th
Location & Time T.B.A.



FREE PAINT NIGHT WITH LIVE MUSIC
AT PARKVIEW III PARK
FRIDAY, APRIL 7TH FROM 6-8 PM

ALL MATERIALS PROVIDED.
WINE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE.

MAXIMUM 50 PARTICIPANTS.

 **Registration Required:**

bit.ly/PAINTPARKVIEW

For More Information Contact Jackie Zizana, Parks Program Coordinator at (408) 535-4062 or Jacqueline.Zizana@prk.sccgov.org