



VEP Community Meeting

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

~ Everyone is Welcome! Invite Your Neighbors! ~

NOVEMBER MEETING AGENDA

Bring a NEW UNWRAPPED Toy for "Toys for Tots"

- Special Guest: Rob Lloyd -
Deputy City Manager for San Jose

- Information & Updates: City of San Jose -
Vanessa Sandoval, Chief of Staff
Office of District 2 Councilmember Sergio Jimenez

- VEP Business Meeting -
Elections for the 2024 VEP Executive Board of Directors
Upcoming Events

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

PRESIDENT'S CORNER with Alain Mowad

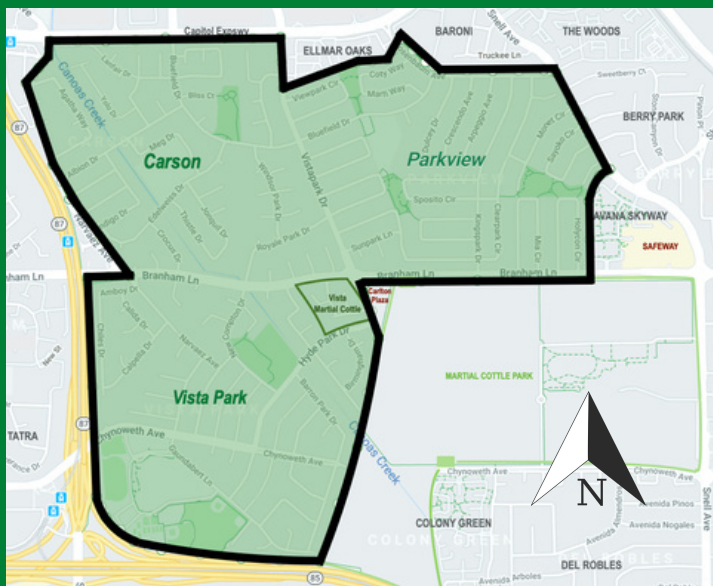
A huge thank you to everyone that turned out to help at the Dave Fadness Memorial Cleanup event we held at Meadows Park. We had a small but mighty crew and they did a LOT of good work cleaning up the park, which needed some tender loving care. It was a big disappointment for us to learn that the City and BeautifySJ are no longer participating in neighborhood organized cleanups, so thanks to all of you for volunteering not only your time but your tools. As the City is now taking the lead on sponsoring these cleanup and beautification events across San Jose, we are working with them to get included in an upcoming cleanup in one of our VEP neighborhood parks. Stay tuned.

We really encourage you to join us at our upcoming general meeting on November 29th. Rob Lloyd, Deputy City Manager, will share information on the City Manager's charter as well as the priorities they are focused on. There will be plenty of opportunity to ask questions and provide input on the priorities you feel are important for our community. We will also be holding elections for the 2024 Board, and we need your involvement. Electing a Board will ensure that the VEP can continue to operate in good standing and continue representing and supporting the VEP neighborhoods.

On November 27th, the VEP Board will be meeting with Congressman Jimmy Panetta. We're looking forward to hearing from him and sharing our concerns and ideas. If you

President's Corner continues on Page 2

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 bi-monthly to coincide with the community meetings, with the exception of the "Summer Break," from 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 (CLICKABLE!)

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

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

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

President's Corner, continued from Page 1

have anything you'd like us to share with him, please email myself at president@vepca.net or Heidi at vp@vepca.net and we'd be happy to share on your behalf.

Finally, it's hard to believe that Thanksgiving is just around the corner! And not long after that, we'll be hosting Santa in the Park on December 9th! Once again, we will have bins for the Toys for Tots program and hope you'll come by and donate a new toy for children in need while partaking in all of the fun activities we have planned.

Wishing you all a very happy and safe Thanksgiving, and looking forward to seeing you all at our meeting on the 29th!

September VEP Community Meeting Summary

By Heidi Racherla

Our VEP September meeting opened with a welcome from Alain Mowad, VEP President, and an update on the proposed bylaw amendments with printed copies for review. He also shared the need for a nominating committee to source potential board members and highlighted recent community activity: National Night Out hosted for all of District 2 by VEP at Vista Park, dumpster day, etc. before introducing guest speaker Vanessa Sandoval, District 2 Chief of Staff.

Vanessa invited everyone to the upcoming District 2 festival at Edenvale Garden Park, a family friendly event with games, a resource fair plus ice cream and tacos for the first 200 attendees.

She also shared updates on the Branham Monterey emergency interim housing project, post-Covid unhoused trends, neighborhoods working in partnership with Mayor Mayan's San Jose Together, district holiday event, city of San Jose budget issues, etc. before taking a few questions from members re: RV safe parking site.

The meeting adjourned with a review of upcoming fall and winter events and dates, including Fadness Memorial Beautification Day at Meadows Park.



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Ph: 408-489-6812

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MEMBERSHIP CORNER with Heidi Racherla

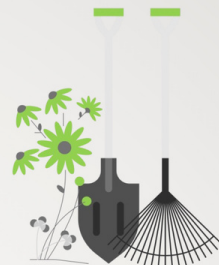
Thank you to the VEP members who have joined or renewed their memberships year to date in 2023. Your ongoing support enables VEP to continue making an impact in our local community so please encourage your friends and neighbors, especially those who may be new to our Vista Park, Carson and Parview neighborhoods, to join today.

Payments received now through any of our convenient methods extend your membership throughout 2024.

As promised, congratulations to our September and October raffle winners, each receiving a \$20 Starbucks gift card: Carol Lettieri and Steve Stroup! We look forward to seeing you all at our November 29 meeting and drawing our final lucky prize winner of 2023.

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!

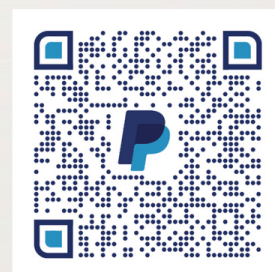
JOIN US AT AN
UPCOMING
MEMBERSHIP MEETING
OR COMMUNITY
VOLUNTEER EVENT

**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

VEPCA's 7th Annual "Dave Fadness Memorial Beautification Day"

By Brian Ferry

On Saturday, October 28th, A dozen hardy souls turned up in the brisk autumn morning air to give Meadows Park the "VEP Treatment" at our 7th Annual Dave Fadness Memorial Beautification Day. We cleared the entire park of litter and rubbish, pulled weeds and gave some of the shrubs a much-needed pruning! Everybody who attended was pleased with the results, and we think you will be too! Many thanks to everyone who showed up and got to work!

We're going to pause any VEP-specific beautification events for the winter, but we may pass on opportunities to help out in our area as we hear about them. As always, if you have any beautification-related questions or suggestions, you can email me at beautification@vepca.net.

Pictured Below:

Back Row, Left to Right: Robert Supencheck, Dave Danitz, and Brian Ferry

Front Row, Left to Right: Laura McGeever, Debbie Danitz, and Aiko Fadness

Also Present, but Not Pictured: Dave Noel and Zach Danitz



Some Seriously Spooky Scenes Spotted in VEPCA Neighborhoods!

Neighbors in our community make Halloween so much fun! - Photos by Adina Pierce



Santa Claus is Coming... to Vista Park!



VEP's 15th Annual Santa in the Park Saturday, December 9th

10:00AM to 12:30PM

Vista Park Community Room
473 Hyde Park San Jose, CA

Bring your Kids for this VEPCA Holiday Tradition
Pictures with Santa: Kids and Families!
Arts & Crafts Stations ~ Sweets & Treats

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 29th - VEP Community Association Meeting
December 9th - 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!



~ HOLIDAYS 2023 ~

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD

HAPPY HANNUKAH!
DECEMBER 7TH THROUGH 15TH

WINTER SOLSTICE / WINTER BEGINS
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21ST

MERRY CHRISTMAS!
MONDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

HAPPY KWANZAA!
DECEMBER 26TH, 2023
THROUGH
JANUARY 1ST, 2024

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
MONDAY, JANUARY 1ST, 2024

VEP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION's 12th ANNUAL HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST

Open to all single family homes within
Vista Park, Martial Cottle, Carson & Parkview
(membership not required)

Categories & Prizes

Best Decorate Home
\$50 Gift Card

Best Themed Home
\$50 Gift Card

Best Decorated Street
Honorable Mention

Judging weekend of Dec 15, 16 & 17th
Keep displays on til 10pm

Winners will be announced the following week
In VEP Newsletter & Nextdoor

Holiday Poinsettia Sale

Place order today & Pick Up order on
Nov 30th or Dec 1st (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



**GUNDERSON ALUMNI
BECOME A MEMBER!**

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- ✓ Lifetime Membership
- ✓ Invite to Homecoming Game
- ✓ Quarterly Newsletter
- ✓ Community Service Opportunities



JOIN NOW

School Notes from Gunderson High Foundation

Our Alumni Homecoming Football Game event was a big success, we had around fifty in attendance, everyone had a good time and the Grizzlies won the game. Next year we hope to get our numbers closer to one hundred, so maybe we will see you there. The Foundation's focus this year is to get reconnected with our alumni, so we are offering a lifetime membership to the Gunderson Alumni for only \$25. That membership money will go directly back to Gunderson High grants, programs, and scholarships, so please consider joining today!

Another way you can support Gunderson High School students is by purchasing some Holiday Poinsettias. Orders are being accepted now and you can pick up your plant(s) at Gunderson High School on either Thursday, November 30th or Friday, December 1st, between the hours of 3PM to 6PM.

Thank you for your support! — Marc McGeever, Gunderson High Foundation Board President

30 Days to a Clutter Free Home! - Contributed by Jayshree Reddy

A nice, sparkling home for the holidays will set you in the mood for 2024! Each day, sort all items for that area and categorize them into 3 piles: Keep, Donate, Discard. As the year is coming to an end, pause, reflect, celebrate your victories, and set your intentions for next year! Happy Decluttering!

Day 1 Bedroom closets	Day 16 Kitchen Counters
Day 2 Bedroom Dressers	Day 17 Kitchen Drawers & Cabinets
Day 3 Nightstand/ other bedroom storage	Day 18 Refrigerator
Day 4 Shoes	Day 19 Pantry
Day 5 Kids Closets	Day 20 Entry way area & Closet
Day 6 Kids Closets	Day 21 Seasonal Items
Day 7 Kids Shoes	Day 22 Purses & Bags
Day 8 Kids Bedroom	Day 23 Craft area/ supplies
Day 9 Bathroom Cabinets	Day 24 Laundry Space
Day 10 Linen Closet	Day 25 Utility Room
Day 11 TV area	Day 26 Mail/Paperwork
Day 12 Living Room Shelves & Storage	Day 27 Office
Day 13 Books & Magazines	Day 28 Garage Shelves & Cabinets
Day 14 Kids Toys	Day 29 Tools
Day 15 Dining Area	Day 30 Miscellaneous storage and spaces



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VEPCA MEMBER

MARINE CORPS VETERAN



South San José

WINTER

Holiday Party

Get to know your neighbors!

Wednesday, December 6th
5:30 - 7:30 PM

at the

Southside Community Center
5585 Cottle Rd, San José

Free!

food, drinks, music
& crafts for kids

hosted by



Paid for by the
City of San Jose

~ DATES TO REMEMBER ~

VEP COMMUNITY MEETINGS: 2023-2024

@Vista Park Community Room - 7:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH, 2023

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31ST, 2024

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27TH, 2024

SOUTH SAN JOSE WINTER HOLIDAY PARTY

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6TH

5:30-7:30 PM

<--- See Flyer at Left <---

VEPCA'S "SANTA IN THE PARK"

FREE FAMILY EVENT!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9TH

AT VISTA PARK

10:00 AM - 12:30PM

Get Your Holiday Photo with Santa

See More Info. on Page 6 <<<Click!

VEPCA'S 12TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST

> JUDGING WEEKEND <

DECEMBER 15TH-17TH

See Flyer on Page 6 <<<Click!

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

MONDAY, JANUARY 15TH, 2024

VALENTINE'S DAY

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH, 2024



GHS Class of 1994 &
VP Resident Since 2004

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