

# **VEP Community Association**

Representing More Than 2000 Families in the Blossom Valley Area of South San Jose Since 1969

Be sure to mark your calendars  
and invite your friends and neighbors to participate in these three VEP events:

**Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

## **★ Candidates' Forum ★**

Meet and ask questions of all the candidates running for  
County Board of Supervisors, San Jose Mayor, District Attorney, and City Council

**Gunderson High School Theater, 7 p.m.**

~ Vote smart on June 8 ~

Contact: Dave Fadness at (408) 578-6428 or drfadness@sbcglobal.net

**Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup>**

## **★ VEP Community-Wide Garage Sale ★**

A great opportunity for you to clear out your stuff and make some money

~ Start as early as 7 a.m. ~

No need to sign-up, just place your items outside your own home

For Garage Sale questions only, contact: Ginger Cardona at (408) 227-0222 or cardona@sbcglobal.net

\* \* \*

A Salvation Army truck will be at the end of Chynoweth Avenue (at Barron Park Drive)  
from 11 am to 4 pm to collect your unsold treasures and e-Waste.

For Salvation Army questions only, contact: Jonathan (M-F) at (408) 298-7600 or jonathan.frederick@usw.salvationarmy.org

To request home pickup of large items, call 1-800-SA-TRUCK on weekdays or on the day of our event

**Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup>**

## **★ VEP Memorial Day Parade & Festival ★**

Parade, Entertainment, Games, Prizes, Food, Crafts Sale, and Lots More!

Watch for more information in your VEP Newsletter

Contact: Dave Fadness at (408) 578-6428 or drfadness@sbcglobal.net

\* \* \*

**Interested in selling your home-made crafts at our Memorial Day Festival?**

Contact: Ginger Cardona at (408) 227-0222 or cardona@sbcglobal.net

These events are supported by VEP membership dues and are offered free of charge to our community. Membership is open to all interested residents. Visit our website for additional information. To join, write a check for \$20 to VEP and mail it to...

**P.O. Box 18111 San Jose, CA 95158**

**E-Mail: [vepca@vepca.net](mailto:vepca@vepca.net)**

**Website: [www.vepca.net](http://www.vepca.net)**

**Yahoo! Community E-List Group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/vep/>**



# VEP NEWS

• VEP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION •

Representing More Than 2000 Families In The Blossom Valley Area Of South San Jose Since 1969

October 2009

## VEP'S MEETING

7 p.m. Thursday

► April 22, 2010 ◀

**Gunderson High School  
Theater  
622 Gaundabert Lane**

## AGENDA

### ★ Candidates Forum ★

County Supervisor, District 1  
San Jose Mayor  
County District Attorney  
City Council, District 9

★ Please note – The Candidates Forum takes the place of the April Membership Meeting ★

Everyone is welcome. Invite your neighbors!

### Candidates' Forum April 22

*By Dave Fadness & Dave Noel*

To help prepare for the June 8<sup>th</sup> primary election, area voters will have an excellent opportunity to hear and ask questions of candidates at a Forum on April 22. Scheduled from 7 to 9:45 pm in the Gunderson High School Theater, 622 Gaundabert Lane, this free event is open to the public.

All candidates in the following races have been invited and have agreed to participate. (Substitute speakers and candidates for other offices will not be allowed to speak at this event.) Candidates will appear in this order:

County Board of Supervisors, District 1  
San Jose Mayor  
Santa Clara County District Attorney  
San Jose City Council, District 9

Each candidate will make brief opening and closing statements and be allowed to answer questions from the audience. Former KNTV Channel 11 news reporter **Susan Siravo** will be our event moderator.

This event is co-sponsored by VEP, the Almaden Valley Community Association, Colony Green Homeowners Association, Erikson Neighborhood Association, Hayes Neighborhood Association, Pinehurst Residents Association, and Thousand Oaks Neighborhood Association.

Meet the candidates running for office, hear what they have to say, and let them know your interests and concerns. Be sure to attend our Forum--then vote smart on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

### March Home Fair

*by Debra Suydam, Helen Castillo, and Marilyn Rodgers*

The VEP March Home Fair, held March 30<sup>th</sup> at Gunderson High School in the Forum Area was enthusiastically received by exhibitors and attendees alike. Exhibitors included current VEP newsletter advertisers, past business exhibitors returning to this popular event, first time exhibitors, and non-profit agencies. The list of exhibitors were:



Autism Speaks  
Avon  
Blossom Valley Christmas Tree Fund  
Bowles Pest Control  
California Bathroom & Kitchen  
Century 21, Sandra Sample  
Champagne Chocolate  
Chesnos Painting  
Consolidated Plumbing  
ELOS Heating & Air Conditioning

**2010 is VEP's 41st year!**

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 H & H Construction  
 Humane Society of Silicon Valley  
 Isaacs Enterprises  
 Pacific Coast Termites  
 Pampered Chef  
 Precious Moments Photography  
 PG&E  
 Sacred Heart  
 SunRun Solar  
 Ventura Barnett Realty, Helen Castillo  
 Tupperware  
 Willow Glen Homeowners Assoc, Encore Pool  
 Zens Automotive



Fun and excitement was felt throughout the evening, especially when the \$25.00 cash raffle prizes were presented:

Winners were:

Carol Skoog  
 Mike Bousman  
 Chuo-Han Lee  
 Alan Cardona  
 Frank Kistler  
 Debra Suydam  
 George Matora  
 Sandra Sample  
 John Leonard  
 Jim Hicks  
 Aiko Fadness  
 Kathy Bowles



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## VEP Board Elections

by Marilyn Rodgers



It is time for the election of members to the VEP Board of Directors. This will occur at the May membership meeting. Please consider running for a Board seat.

The current Board Members enjoy their activities with VEP, but are anxious to help others assume these positions. New Board Members mean.... new ideas and enthusiasm. This is very important to keep the organization energized and pertinent to all of our members!!

For additional information, please contact Dave Noel, Past President, and Nominating Committee Chair at dnoel1234@aol.com or 266-7183, or contact any Board Member for additional information about activities and opportunities.

## VEP March Membership Mailing

By Debra Suydam and Marilyn Rodgers



During the third month of the annual membership drive, VEP mails a letter to members who have not renewed their membership. This letter is called the "We Miss You Letter". It is a friendly reminder and encouragement to send in their membership renewals. The mailing preparation for this is done at the same time as the monthly VEP newsletter mailing preparation.

This is always a fun opportunity to network with neighbors and other VEP members – and an opportunity to volunteer a couple of hours in support of our community association. Thank you to the following volunteers for their assistance in this very important VEP activity:



Bob Aquino  
 Bill Johnson  
 Josie Supencheck  
 Joyce Chesnos  
 Peggy Golden  
 Meeta, Richa, and Reena Nanavati  
 Debra Suydam  
 Don and Marilyn Rodgers

## Neighborhood Safety Alert

by Marilyn Rodgers

Several neighbors have alerted VEP to some recent incidents which need to be highlighted for everyone's attention. Two strong arm robberies have occurred during the end of March and first week in April. The first was on March 25<sup>th</sup> at the corner of Branham and Vista Park. The second occurred on April 6<sup>th</sup> at 10pm on Indigo Drive. This victim of this incident was a woman who had just pulled up in her driveway, was approached by two men while she was still in her car. She was threatened and robbed. Fortunately, she was not hurt.



A VEP member also reported several attempted home break-ins in and around the Devon Park Court area. Four young men were observed on a weekday morning at approximately 10:30am going from house to house, trying each house door knob. This incident occurred during the last week in March. The police were contacted.

The police are advising residents to increase their vigilance as home break-ins and robberies are on the increase. They suggest that residents lock side garage doors and place locks on side gates, as this appears to be the primary access to home break-ins. Any suspicious behavior should be immediately reported to the police.

VEP has initiated VEP Yahoo Groups as one way for any resident to alert their neighbors to safety issues. That website is <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/vep/>. VEP Board Members Susan Iverson and Adina Pierce are the coordinators of this Yahoo Group.

Also, for updated crime reports, visit the VEP website [www.vepca.net](http://www.vepca.net) for links or go to [www.crimereports.com](http://www.crimereports.com).

VEP member Sherri Goodrum, has initiated a Neighborhood Watch program for residents on Wellington Park. She is eager to share information with others, or to assist other residents in starting their own Neighborhood Watch program. See the article in the March VEP Newsletter, or contact Sherri at [sgoodrum@juniper.net](mailto:sgoodrum@juniper.net)

Most importantly, we encourage our neighbors to be vigilant.

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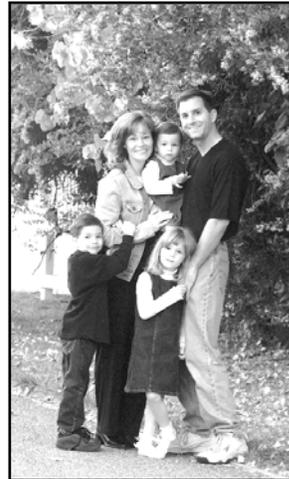
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## Superintendent's Message

*Oak Grove School District*

Text of article

The students and staff in Oak Grove are preparing to take the state assessments to evaluate all of the hard work that has gone on since the start of the school year. I am confident that we will do well and meet our targets.



Oak Grove believes in offering parents options in programs for their children. We continue to offer the following programs: a Junior Kindergarten for those with birthdays August 1 through December 2, a Kindergarten through third grade Bilingual waiver program, the Independent Study Program, IN-DIGO, a parent participatory program based on a constructivist/positive discipline approach to learning, and small school programs within our intermediate schools.

The 2010-11 school year will see the implementation of a STEM choice program for students in grades 5-8. This choice program will focus on a hands-on approach to learning focusing on science, technology, math and science. Parents interested in signing up for this program, which will be housed at Herman Intermediate School, may obtain a choice application form at any of our schools or our District Office.

Thanks to our community, Oak Grove receives approximately \$1.7 million a year from the current parcel tax. This tax of \$68 per year, per parcel (seniors and renters are exempt from this tax) will expire in June. Oak Grove will ask our community to renew the \$68 during the June election. Measure C is the ballot measure and it is the second lowest parcel tax in our county for school districts.

As always, please feel free to contact me regarding any matters pertaining to the Oak Grove School District.  
email: [superintendent@ogsd.k12.ca.us](mailto:superintendent@ogsd.k12.ca.us)  
Phone: (408) 227-8300 ext.202

Tony Garcia  
Superintendent

# Be a VEP volunteer!



## Wesley W. Terrell

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### VEP's Membership Drive Closed April 1st

by Marilyn Rodgers

The annual VEP membership drive takes place during the months of January through March. However, memberships are welcomed all during the year. If you have a friend or neighbor interested in VEP membership, an application is available online at [www.vepca.net](http://www.vepca.net), or they can simply mail a check for \$20.00 made out to VEP, and address it to P.O. Box 18111, San Jose, Ca. 95158.

The Board of Directors appreciates all of the kind comments that members include with their membership renewals. Thank you again for your continued support of VEP!

### Community-Wide Garage Sale on May 1st

Our annual *Community Garage Sale* will be held on Saturday, May 1st. Make sure to mark it on your calendar now, and start gathering those treasures you no longer use from your garage, attic, and closets.



We want to get everyone in our community to have a garage sale on the same day. The best way to find a new home for your unused stuff is to increase traffic to your home. So, VEP will advertise this event in local newspapers and by distributing flyers around our neighborhoods.

Activity attracts more activity. Your best resource is you--get your neighbors involved. People will pass by your street unless they think something is happening there. Try to get *everyone* on your street to join in. You might even pool all your neighbors' goodies into one big second-hand superstore. If your neighbors aren't selling, ask if you can spread out to their driveway.

Plan now to make sure you can be seen from the street. Put up balloons or signs. Have your out-of-area friends bring garage sale items that add to yours--make it a big, fun event on your street or cul-de-sac. A little energy and creativity now will pay off in big dividends, freeing up space in your home and putting extra money in your pocket.

**If you will be participating, please send your street name to [vepeditor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vepeditor@sbcglobal.net) to be listed in CRAIGLIST.COM garage sale ad. Only streets will be listed, NO ADDRESSES.**

### Make Movies Without a DVR

By John McCulloch

SeniorNet Willows will offer a new class next session utilizing Windows Movie Maker. With this free software on your PC, you can weave together still images as well as some digital video you have taken and create a movie. You can add background music or narration. The transition from one slide to another can be selected from a choice of dozens, from expanding circle to a wipe down to a spinning image. Whether just putting together pictures of grandkids to trying to make a comment on today's society, this class offers a whole new avenue to express your creativity.



When you have completed your movie, e-mail it to friends or upload it to [youtube.com](http://youtube.com), and let the whole world discover your talents.

If you are interested in this or any of our other courses on digital photography, searching the internet, word processing, e-mail, computer maintenance, file management, or Introduction to Computers (3 levels), go to [www.snicsj.org](http://www.snicsj.org) and click on Willows. Or you can call 371-3999.

Our Learning Center is located at the Willow Glen Community and Senior Center at 2175 Lincoln Ave. near Curtner Ave. Class registration is Saturday, May 15 at 1 pm for intermediate classes and 2:30 pm for Intro. classes. Each class is \$20 but there is an annual fee to our parent organization of \$40 per year. Our classes are for people 50 years young who are looking for an exercise class (that's brain exercise).

To see some videos we have made, go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com). Search for "SeniorNet Willows". Currently, we have 4 "How to Videos"

On Cut, Copy and Paste, Attaching photos to e-mail, File Management and Using Photomerge in Photoshop Elements.



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## VEP Neighborhood Watch Groups

By Sherri Goodrum

### What is Neighborhood Watch?

Neighborhood Watch focuses on informing the community how to discourage, deter and prevent crimes such as burglary, auto theft, car break-ins, and personal crimes which often occur in or near homes. Issues such as vandalism, graffiti, drug dealing and gang activity, sex offenders are also addressed when applicable.



### DID YOU KNOW...?

- That most residential burglaries occur during DAYLIGHT HOURS?
- How burglars can tell at a glance which homes are EASY TARGETS?
- What to do if you see a suspicious person on YOUR STREET?
- What types of personal attacks can happen to you right in YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?
- Why personal property which has been engraved with a California driver's license number is LESS LIKELY to be stolen?
- That crime rates in NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH communities can be greatly reduced through the simple, common sense measures you can learn by attending a NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH meeting.

VEP's hope and goal has been to have a large number of Neighborhood Watch groups. The Board of Directors is facilitating a process to publish the active Neighborhood Watch Groups within our VEP vicinity, which will allow households located within a street or small geographic area to be part of that specific Neighborhood Watch or to organize their own. It will also serve to allow block captains to contact each other to hear about issues, communications and resolution within other groups.

### What happens at the meeting?

Through this positive, pro-active program, you will learn facts about:

- Police districts and beats
- Duties of beat officers
- Crime trends in your area and identifying sex offenders and how to access the information on-line
- How to react to suspicious or criminal activity
- How San Jose's 9-1-1 system works
- Recommended security measures such as...
  - o Types of locks
  - o Lighting
  - o Alarms
  - o Operation Identification
  - o MUCH more...

Only residents attending the meeting will be entitled to receive a NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH window sign and other materials distributed at the meeting.

### How can a Neighborhood Watch meeting be arranged?

To request a NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH, call the **Crime Prevention Unit** listed below. The Crime Prevention Specialist who represents the area of San Jose in which you live will work with you to schedule the meeting date. For your convenience, invitation notices will be sent to you to distribute to your neighbors. For more information go to: <http://www.sjpd.org/BFO/Community/Crimeprev/neighborhoodwatch.html>

**San Jose Police Department**  
**Crime Prevention Unit**  
**Ray Cedano**  
**(408) 277-4133**

Many thanks to the VEP Board of Directors and volunteers for their dedication to our community well-being and safety!

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## VEP needs SJPD Volunteers on May 31

By Dave Fadness

Our Memorial Day parade uses city streets and crosses busy Branham Lane. To do this safely, we count on the San Jose Police Department. If you've attended in years past, you'll know that our area Captain, Vaughan Edwards is a great help in organizing department turn-out for this vital service.



We typically pay for two of the police officers, a fee that comes out of the available net proceeds we donate to our co-sponsoring public schools.

To save cost, this year Captain Edwards suggested that we ask for police volunteers from our community.

If you are or know a San Jose police officer who may be willing to donate an hour or two on May 31, please have them contact Captain Edwards--or me at 578-6428 any day or evening.

Our parade steps off from Vista Park at 11 am and ends at Parkview School about one half hour later. Although we enjoy having officers with us at the Festival that follows, our need is for police protection during the parade.

Put VEP's Memorial Day Parade & Festival on your family fun calendar for May 31. See you there!

# VEP helps you solve community problems

## Spring is in the air! At the Library!

By hally Lin, Librarian

April showers have indeed brought May flowers this year. All the beautiful colors as well as the longer days are certainly cheering us up here at the library. We hope the spring season is brightening your days as well and drawing you out from your winter lairs to enjoy the sunshine and beauty all around. If so, we have the perfect opportunity for the whole family on Saturday, May 8 at 11 am with our **Cinco de Mayo Celebration**. Come and see traditional Mexican dance performed by Ballet Folklorico!



Then, the following Saturday (May 15) there's more family fun with **Celebrate Cambrian** at the Camden Community Center (3369 Union Ave.). There'll be a resource fair, a car show, crafts, food and more! And, last but not least, our **Friends of the Library Book & Craft Sale** will be on Saturday, May 22 10 am to 5 pm. The craft sale will feature items made by our **Knit and Crochet Club** that meets Tuesdays at 3pm. In three months, the group has made 25 baby blankets, 3 pairs of booties, and 79 hats to donate! In fact, today, they dropped off knitted newborn caps to Kaiser in Regional.

We have many fun and educational programs for children as well. Our **Book Scouts** club is having their monthly meeting on Friday, May 14 at 4 pm. Club members can gain library and research skills through games and snacks! And if you like to learn without it feeling like learning, **Mixing in Math** is a great event for you. It's happening Monday, April 26 at 5pm and three more times in May. Come for a chance play games and win prizes!

In addition to our regular weekly story times, there are two special story time events for May. First, we've started a new **Baby Lapsit Story Time** on the last Thursday of the month (April 29 & May 27) at 11 am. This is a chance for parents/caretakers to learn fingerplays and songs to play with and educate their babies. Lapsits are one-to-one between the caregiver and the child and is for children 18 months and younger.

There's also going to be an **Inclusive Preschool Story Time** on Wednesday, May 12 at 11:30 am. Inclusive story times are designed for children of varying backgrounds and abilities. Through the activities in the story time, children come to appreciate differences while developing the social and early literacy skills that are so critical to later success.

To find out more about these highlighted programs and other events, please go to [http://www.sjlibrary.org/about/locations/pearl\\_ave/events.htm](http://www.sjlibrary.org/about/locations/pearl_ave/events.htm) or come by the branch and pick up a calendar!

## Mossy Bricks and Squirrels

By John Marks

Brick patios that get very little sun in the winter end up with a healthy moss growth by this time of year. Moss can be removed with Lilly-Millers Moss Out. It's available at Woolworth's and Orchard's. Be careful to keep the solution away from flowers and plants, however. Next year consider putting it on before the rains start as a preventive measure.

### Squirrels

As you know from previous newsletters, there are no repellents or magic wands to make squirrels go away. But you can discourage them by putting walnut-size rocks on the surface of soil in pots and planters. Use colored rocks if possible -- red, white, lava or smooth black stones. Don't ask me why it works, but the size is important, but those bushy-tailed rats will leave your containers alone.



### Crab grass Bothering You?

One way to handle crab grass is weed killers. Many types exist. The most effective among them are pre-emergent types that kill weed seeds as they sprout. It's essential to apply the herbicide before the crabgrass emerges from the soil. This happens in spring when soil temperatures are greater than 55; to 60;F for 7 to 10 consecutive days, so you may still have time. Check with your local extension service for timing, or monitor the soil temperature yourself using a soil thermometer inserted at an angle just below the surface. But don't apply weed killers prior to seeding or in an area that's just been seeded.



### 5 Pointers for Container Gardening

1. Don't wait for plants to "grow into" the pot; pack them in, then prune or remove later.
2. Water them in the morning, so leaves aren't wet at night. Check the soil often, water accordingly
3. Let that water drain. Make sure the pot has drainage holes, and us a drainage-friendly potting soil, not dirt from the backyard.
4. Mix a granular, slow-release fertilizer with the potting sil before you plant. Use a water-soluble, half-strength fertilizer when plants are actively growing.
5. Deadheading once a week will help plants bloom and fill out.

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# VEP Memorial Day Parade & Festival

Co-sponsored by Gunderson, Carson, and Parkview Schools

Mark your calendars and  
be sure to join our Parade & Festival fun!

**Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup>**

- Parade leaves Vista Park at 11 am <
- Festival follows at Parkview School <

**Bring your friends and entire family**

- **For general information contact <**  
Dave Fadness at 578-6428 or drfadness@sbcglobal.net
- **To volunteer contact <**  
Helen Castillo at 981-5902
- **For craft booth information contact <**  
Ginger Cardona at 227-0222 or cardona@sbcglobal.net
- **To donate contact <**  
Marilyn Rodgers at 225-7553 or mrodgersrn@aol.com

**Do it today!**

## VEP Goes Viral! Find us All Over the Net!

By Susan Iverson

Did you know that VEP has an online community too? You can find VEP in Yahoo! Groups. Yahoo! Groups allow members to exchange information quickly and easily, by using a web based forum to distribute email, photos and files. Utilizing the VEP Group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/vep/> will allow neighbors to stay informed about what is going on in the neighborhood, exchange information, and generally get to know your neighbors better.

We are also on Facebook! How hip is that? Become a fan! <http://www.facebook.com/pages/VEP-Community-Association/323623191370> (Or it might be easier to search for VEP Community on Facebook!)



## Community Service Awards

By Dave Noel

If you know a graduating high school senior with outstanding volunteer community service, now is the time for them to apply for our 2010 community service awards. Applications are due April 30<sup>th</sup>.

→ **ATTENTION CANDIDATES** ←

**Applications must be received by April 30**

**At-Large** → **Mail to VEP**  
**Gunderson** → **See Stephanie Heuer**  
**Andrew Hill** → **See Joe Ortega**

Applications available from [www.vepca.net](http://www.vepca.net)

The 2010 CSA budget is \$1,000. The program structure approved by members at our January 26<sup>th</sup> general meeting provides maximum flexibility for the judging committee to decide how to best award the funds. We will grant up to three awards, with no more than award one per category (At-Large, Gunderson, and Andrew Hill). For more details, see the February VEP News or contact Dave Noel.

→ **VOLUNTEER NEEDED** ←

This will be my last year as the CSA committee chair. If you want to see this program continue, please consider chairing or co-chairing it.

Or, if you'd like to launch a new youth program to replace or supplement the CSA program, we'd love to hear your ideas. For example, we could have a VEP Youth Auxiliary that provides volunteer opportunities and serves the VEP area.

We'll present our awards in late May and early June at the winner's school's senior awards program. If we have an At-Large winner, we'll present their award at our May 25<sup>th</sup> general meeting.

If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer to help the Community Service Awards committee, please contact me at (408) 266-7183 or DNoel1234@aol.com.

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## Helpful Phone Numbers:

By Dave Noel

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Abandoned Vehicle on street	(408) 277-5305
Barking, Injured or Stray Dogs	(408) 578-7297
Blighted Properties	(408) 277-4528
Graffiti 24-hour Hotline	(408) 277-2758
Household Hazardous Waste Disposal	(408) 299-7300
Inoperable Vehicle on Private Property	(408) 277-5305
Potholes	(408) 277-4373
Recyclables Scavenging	(408) 277-4528
San Jose City Hall Customer Service	(408) 535-3500
Street Light Repair	(408) 277-5517
Vista Park Community Room Reservations	(408) 268-2053

### To Report Graffiti...

	Phone #
Vandalism <i>in progress</i>	9-1-1
Vandalism <i>from a cell phone</i>	277-8911
Vandalism <i>after the fact</i>	3-1-1
On libraries, parks & community centers	277-4741
On painted curbs & on the street	277-3626
On street signs	277-4691
On all expressways	494-1307
On bus stops	321-5800
On light-rail	321-2300
On Highway signs	(510) 536-0413
On Highway roads	436-0930
Taggers <i>anonymously</i>	947-7867
San Jose Information Center	535-3500
Anti-Graffiti Hotline	277-2758

## Have Pen, Will Write!

You may be so used to seeing the same names ever month that you assumed the staff writing positions were highly coveted and competitive! While we truly appreciate the regular contributions of our board and past presidents, this is a community newsletter and we love community input. Is there something you would like to see covered in an upcoming newsletter? Have a local human interest story to submit?



Articles are typically due the first Friday of the month, and follow some very simple guidelines. For more information, or to be added to the distribution list to receive a reminder email, contact [vepeditor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vepeditor@sbcglobal.net).

And if you want to be the first to see all the new articles coming out, consider the position of VEP Newsletter Editor! It is easier than you think. If you are interested in details, please contact [vepeditor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vepeditor@sbcglobal.net)

Add VEP's website [www.vepca.net](http://www.vepca.net) to your "favorites"

## VEP Wins BRICC Award

By Dave Fadness



VEP was awarded a BRICC Award and \$1,000 by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation. Three other creative, resourceful, and inspirational Santa Clara County neighborhood groups were similarly honored on April 17 at the United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County Spring Conference. (BRICC stands for Building Resourceful Inspirational Creative Community.)

BRICC awards commemorate the late Elizabeth Anabo, a former officer at Community Foundation. Anabo was extremely dedicated to and passionate about neighborhood groups and made tremendous contributions to them over the four years she worked at the Foundation.

Each year since 2001, BRICC awards have been given to neighborhood groups in Santa Clara County that have made outstanding contributions to their community in:

- Mobilizing broad citizen participation;
- Addressing significant issues in their community;
- Making creative use of available resources;
- Providing opportunities for neighbors to take greater control of and responsibility for what goes on in their neighborhood; and
- Inspiring neighbors and others to take action.

VEP members can be rightfully proud of the 41 years of dedicated volunteer achievement and service to our community that qualified us for this recognition; the second major tribute we've received this year.

To view our application for this award, visit [www.vepca.net](http://www.vepca.net).

\* \* \*

Serving San Mateo and Santa Clara counties for fifty years, the Silicon Valley Community Foundation is a partner and resource to organizations improving the quality of life in our region, and to those who want to give back locally, nationally, and internationally. Thousands of individuals, families, corporations, nonprofit and government organizations, and community leaders work with them to address critical needs and make an impact through effective programs and inspired philanthropy.

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# VEP Community Calendar

## April / May 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
18	19	20	21 	22 Election Forum, 7:00-9:30 PM, Gunderson High School Theater  Earth Day	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1  VEP Neighborhood Garage Sale
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Mother's Day 	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31  Memorial Day Parade and Festival					

# THE VEP NEWS



## VEP Community Association

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 Email: [vepca@vepca.net](mailto:vepca@vepca.net) Website: [www.vepca.net](http://www.vepca.net)

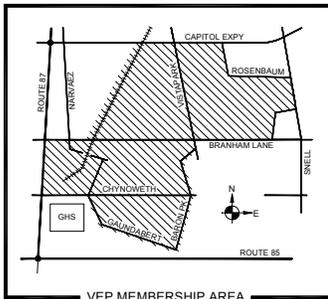
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Published monthly by VEP Community Association, a not-for-profit organization of volunteers established in 1969 to serve and represent more than 2000 homes in the Blossom Valley area of southern San Jose. VEP is dedicated to neighborhood maintenance 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. For membership or paid advertisement information, contact

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Prefer your newsletter via Email?  
 Let us know at [vep@vepca.net](mailto:vep@vepca.net).



Check our website: [www.vepca.net](http://www.vepca.net)

Gunderson High School Theatre

7:00 pm in the

Election Forum  
 April 22nd

Be sure to attend VEP's