

# VEP NEWS

• VEP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION •

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

April 2012

## VEP'S MEETING

7 p.m. Thursday

► April 24, 2012 ◀

## Gunderson High School

Theater  
622 Gaundabert Lane

## AGENDA

### ★ Election Forum ★

Candidates for  
City Council, District 10

San Jose City Employee Pension  
Reform Initiative

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

Everyone is welcome. Invite your neighbors!

## Election Forum at April 24 VEP meeting

*By Dave Fadness*

On June 5, VEP voters will be faced with important decisions on a city employee retirement pension initiative and the election of our District 10 city council representative. VEP is holding a forum that will help you to vote smart on these two ballot items.

► We'll start with pension reform. A speaker representing each side of the city employee pension reform initiative will be there to offer arguments. Each will deliver opening presentations, then take questions from our audience.

► All six District 10 city council candidates will attend. (Incumbent Nancy Pyle will be termed-out, so she can't run for re-election.) Each candidate will deliver a brief opening presentation. We'll then take questions from our audience before their brief closing speeches.

This is your chance to meet and see them all in person, to hear their views, and to ask your questions.

► Our moderator will be **Barbara Marshman**, Editor of the Editorial Pages for the San Jose Mercury News.

► Our Election Forum is open to the public. Please attend and pass the word to family and friends. Here are the details:

The Gunderson High School theater is adjacent to the school's front entrance. Gunderson is located at 622 Gaundabert Lane, off Chynoweth Avenue in the northeast quadrant of the Route 85/87 interchange.

We look forward to seeing you there.

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Each council candidate was asked to respond to a questionnaire VEP sent them. Their answers appear in this edition of our newsletter.

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In case you are unable to attend VEP's Election Forum, or simply can't hear enough about local politics, here are two other possibilities...

When: April 19 at 6:30 p.m.

Sponsor: Playa Del Rey Community Association.

Where: Pearl Avenue Library, 4270 Pearl Avenue.

When: May 10 at 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Sponsor: Almaden Senior Association & Almaden Community Center Advisory Council.

Where: Almaden Community Center, 6445 Camden Avenue

## March Meeting Summary

*by Katherine Decker and Marilyn Rodgers*

The theme for March's meeting was Easter – treats and goodies were provided at the sign-in table.

President Marilyn Rodgers welcomed everyone and gave a brief overview of the meeting's agenda. She introduced Denise Daly, a volunteer for the American Red Cross who gave a live demonstration of adult CPR on a mannequin. Denise also discussed the importance of taking a class in CPR for yourself and for the community. A question and an answer period was followed by a lively discussion on options for providing classes to the VEP community (see article elsewhere in the newsletter). President Rodgers introduced the featured guest speaker, Alex

2012 is VEP's 43rd year!

Fraser. Alex is a volunteer with San Jose Emergency Services, and has provided thousands of hours of education on emergency preparedness to community organizations including several classes for VEP in the past. Alex was honored for his volunteer activities by Councilmember Nancy Pyle at the 2012 Mayor's State of the City meeting. Alex provided a very informative update on emergency preparedness, reminding everyone that a disaster – such as a major earthquake will (not if) take place in the future, and we need to have the supplies and skills needed to take care of ourselves, families, and neighbors for a minimum of 3 days. First responders - firemen and police officers will be spread thin – with hospitals and other institutions being their priority for assistance. Mr. Fraser reviewed kits/bags that could be used at home, in your car, or office....with suggestions for long lasting supplies. Water, of course is the most important supply.

Alex also made an impassioned plea for attendees to strongly consider becoming CPR and First Aid certified. These skills will be critically important in the event of a major emergency or disaster.

Business Meeting and Announcements – President Rodgers brought forward a recommendation from the Board for a donation to the San Jose City Parks Foundation. (This recommendation was in response to a motion initiated at the February meeting directing the Board to consider a generous donation to the San Jose City Parks Foundation.) A motion was made and passed for a \$1,000.00 donation to the City Parks Foundation. Additionally, a motion was made and passed stipulating that VEP go forward with a proposal from the Executive Director of the San Jose City Parks Foundation which would allow VEP to be a pilot project for a “shared donation” program. (See article elsewhere in the newsletter.)

The Board of Directors will continue to pursue options for making a CPR class available in the VEP community (see article elsewhere in the newsletter).

The VEP Community Service Awards application packets will be available through Stephanie Heur at Gunderson High School and Joe Ortega at Andrew Hill High School. Application deadline is April 27th. Applications for At-Large candidates are available through Marilyn Rodgers.

The annual VEP Membership drive ends the first of April.

VEP is sponsoring a Candidate's Forum, to be held Tuesday, April 24th at 7pm, in the Gunderson High School Theatre. The Forum is open to the public, and all are invited to attend. (Note: the Candidates Forum will take the place of the regularly scheduled April membership meeting.)

Princeton Plaza Hours Monday – Saturday 10-6 Sunday 12-5

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## VEP Makes Donation to the San Jose City Parks Foundation

by Marilyn Rodgers

Parks have long been a priority for the VEP Community Association. VEP volunteers, in recent years, (working closely with city staff) have spent thousands of hours planting and maintaining trees, shrubs, and plants in neighborhood parks and other open areas. However, city budgetary issues now have dramatically decreased resources available to maintain city parks. As a result, the San Jose City Parks Foundation hopes to assist in bridging that gap. The foundation is currently exploring a variety of creative opportunities for organizations and individuals to become actively engaged in saving their city's parks. At the February VEP meeting, following a presentation by the Executive Director of the Parks Foundation, a motion was made and passed asking the VEP Board of Directors consider a generous donation be made to the San Jose City Parks Foundation. The Board brought back a proposal to the March membership meeting. The membership made and passed a motion to donate \$1,000.00 to the San Jose City Parks Foundation. A second motion was initiated and passed, stipulating that VEP go forward with a proposal from the Executive Director of the Parks Foundation for VEP to be a pilot project in a new “shared donation” program. Details are being finalized, but the basic premise is that for every donation made by VEP as an organization, and/or made by individual VEP members that identify their affiliation with VEP, the Foundation would share a portion of those funds coming in with VEP (up to 50%). Watch for additional information and details.

*Randazzo's*

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## GUNDERSON NEWS

Spring semester brings all kinds of activities and events to Henry T. Gunderson High School as the school preps for the final 6 weeks of the semester. Staff and students invite you to visit and attend these events that we all take tremendous PRIDE in. It is also the time of year when seniors learn of their acceptance to the colleges of their choice. To date, Gunderson has students who will be attending Cal, UCLA, UC Davis, UCSB, UCSD, UCSC, SF State, Dominican, USF, Michigan State, Azusa Pacific, UOP, and many others to come. Also, San Jose State accepted more Gunderson students than they have in the past. GRIZZLY PRIDE!



Students and staff broke for Spring Break April 9 through the 13<sup>th</sup>. Over 30 students, along with several teachers, traveled to Boston, New York and Philadelphia for an educational and fun trip. All students will be returning on April 16 to CST testing and prepping for AP tests and graduation. Motivational and skill building videos have been shown in preparation, posters made by staff and students have adorned the halls and a rally is planned to boost Grizzly Pride for the testing period.

Students will be honored for their hard work and diligence on April 25 when the Academic Awards will take place in the gym. The evening is sponsored by the GHS PTSA.

The annual One Act Play Festival will take place May 9th and 10th at 7pm in the Gunderson theater. All drama students participated in this yearly event. The evening consists of short plays, the majority of which are written and directed by students.

On May 23, music will fill the air at the Gunderson Theater at 7pm for the annual spring concert. Tickets will be sold at the door. Choir and band will be performing a wide variety of music.

Outstanding seniors will be recognized on May 26 in the Gunderson theater. Scholarships, awards and other accomplishments will be highlighted for these seniors who have distinguished themselves in academics, community service and the arts and sciences.

Principal Dominic Bejarano holds monthly chats at 6pm on the first Thursday of each month. The next chat is scheduled for May 3. Please take the time to come by and meet Mr. Bejarano.

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## Pie For a Year

*By Kathy Wood, Baker*

“Instantly slims you.” This is the claim projected by an article of clothing I recently purchased. Now, I’ve experienced several diets in my lifetime (losing and gaining the same 10-20 pounds) and if there’s one thing I’ve learned-nothing in the weight loss program is “instant”.

So, what’s inside this piece of cloth that once I put it on, I will magically look thin? Are there little fat-munching gremlins sewn in that start working as soon as the cloth hits the rolls of excess? Really? The fat has to go somewhere, either above or below the top, which isn’t “slimming” you, it’s distributing it to other areas (still not attractive).

Skeptically, I tried the top on and was actually pleased to discover, just maybe, the manufacturer had reason to proclaim the “instantly slims you” phrase. It was all in the wrapping around of material, covering what needed to be slightly less visible in a fashion that appears acceptable. No gremlins and no take-my-breath-away tightness.

Well, I’d like to say that this pie will “instantly slim you”, but that probably wouldn’t be true (unless you have a vivid imagination). Unlike the pies filled with sweetness, this one is halfway healthy, depending on the various ingredients involved. **Quiche** is what’s for breakfast (or lunch or dinner)!

Ingredients: 1 ½ cups shredded cheese, 4 teaspoons all-purpose flour, ½ cup cooked ham, diced, 3 eggs, 1 cup milk or cream, ¼ teaspoon salt, ¼ teaspoon ground dry mustard, 1 (9-inch) unbaked pie crust, 2 tablespoons fresh parsley, for garnish (if desired), 2 tablespoons chopped pimenton peppers, for garnish (if desired).

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. In medium bowl, toss the flour with the grated cheese. Sprinkle mixture into the pie shell. On top of cheese, sprinkle the ham. In medium bowl, combine eggs, milk or cream; add salt and mustard. Beat until smooth and pour over cheese and ham in shell.

Bake in preheated 400 degree oven for 60 minutes, or until the filling is set and crust is golden brown.

For a picture and other pie ideas, check out [pieforayear.blogspot.com](http://pieforayear.blogspot.com).

“As easy as pie!”

## Vegetables in Container Gardens

By John Marks

Veggie lovers -with or without land - can grow cool-season vegetables for fall in pots on a sunny balcony, patio, front stoop, or doorstep. Choose containers - most anything from a chimney pot to a whiskey barrel will do - being sure there's good drainage, and room enough for the vegetables you want to grow. Consider the depth and width of each pot.

Lettuce has shallow roots and needs a soil depth of 6 to 8 inches and 6 inches of space between plants. Beets, carrots, chard, radishes and spinach are best when there's about a foot of soil for root room. Gallon pot should do for all of these cool-season crops. A garden pot 8 inches in dia. will hold about a gallon of soil, large enough to grow two, loose-leaf lettuce plants, or as many as 18 radishes, which need an inch or two between plants. A row of five-gallon pots containing broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower could serve as an alternative for traditional winter blooms. These crops are best spaced 8 to 12 inches. A nutrient-rich soil is a must for growing vegetables. There are good soil mixes available at local nurseries. Mix in rich compost, if you have some.

If you're going to use large containers, position them first, then fill with soil, since they can become too heavy to easily move. A 12-inch pot hold about 3.54 gallons of soil; a for-inch container holds 6 gallons of soil. Apartment dwellers should check building codes to determine the weight allowed on a balcony. Place the containers where the proper sunlight requirements can be met. Plants that bear fruit, such as tomatoes and peppers, need full sun, whereas root and leaf crops tolerate full to partial sun. Fill the containers to about 3/4 of an inch below the rims. Plant container vegetables at the same times you would in the garden, like now. Container-grown vegetables need maintenance. The relatively small amount of soil in a pot will dry out more quickly, especially in warm weather. Keep the soil moist. Place saucers under balcony plants to avoid drips below. As the weather cools, the soil will retain moisture longer.

If you use a fertilizer-enriched soil, the container plants should have enough nutrients for about six weeks. After that, apply a water-soluble fertilizer, like Miracle Grow, on a weekly or bi-weekly basis, depending on how much you water. Frequent watering leaches nutrients from the soil. An occasional application of fish emulsion is beneficial, too. Even a tiny balcony can be home to a small container garden of herbs. You can deep small pots of rosemary, thyme, oregano and basil right outside the kitchen.

*This article extracted from the San Jose Mercury News, 2/28/05.*



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## Dive into Encore Pool!

Encore Pool, located at the corner of Rosenbaum & Bluefield not far from Parkview Elementary, has served our neighborhood for over 35 years. Not only does the pool provide a great place to hang out on hot summer days, but it also offers swim lessons, parties, social events, holiday celebrations, and more. Currently, the pool is finishing up a resurfacing project that will make it like new!

Swim lessons will once again be offered at affordable rates, so call soon to reserve your spot! You can also throw a pool party at Encore Pool—a great option for a team party, birthday, or family gathering. Associate memberships are currently on sale for the 2012 season. Members have access to the pool from our opening day, May 5, to the end of the season on October 6. That's over 5 months of swimming for your family! Contact Jackie at (408) 226-6445 for more information. You can also like WGHOA Encore Pool on facebook!

Hope to see you this summer at the pool!

## VEP Annual Board Elections

by Marilyn Rodgers and Jeri Arstingstall

May is the annual meeting VEP which includes the election of a slate of members who will serve as the Board of Directors. The names of members who will be included in the slate are forwarded to the membership for election at the May meeting, and will be listed in advance in the May VEP Newsletter. Once the membership elects the Board of Directors, the Board then elects organizational officers such as President, Treasurer, etc.

We would like to encourage members to consider running as a member of the Board!! Currently, we have a wonderful group of board members, many of whom have served on the board for several years! Our goal, however is to rotate members through these important roles. It is a nice opportunity for members to learn more about our community and our city, and provides individual members a venue for sharing skills and talents with their community. New board members also provide new ideas along with enthusiasm in giving back to their community.

If you have questions or would like additional information about serving as a board member, don't hesitate to contact any current board member. Contact information is listed on the cover sheet of the newsletter.

Jeri Arstingstall, a VEP Past President is the Nominating Chairperson this year. Please contact her for additional information or to volunteer to be a candidate. Contact Jeri at phone number 408-281-1959, or e-mail at [jeri@arstingstall.com](mailto:jeri@arstingstall.com).

## VTA and “Moveable Feast” Connects Transit and Food

*Street-Food Fairs Continue at Two VTA Light Rail Stations in 2012*

San Jose, Calif. – The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) and Moveable Feast have teamed up for the entire year, turning two transit park & ride lots into trendy dining destinations. For the remainder of 2012, the Blossom Hill Light Rail Station will feature “Moveable Feast Southside” from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. every Monday. “Moveable Feast Willow Glen” will continue at the Curtner Light Rail Station every Friday from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The hip, street-food movement has proven quite popular with San Jose residents with record attendance in the 300-400 range and people of all ages enjoying the family friendly atmosphere. These events also give VTA customers and local foodies more options for a unique and convenient dining experience prominently located at popular transit stops along the Alum Rock-Santa Teresa Light Rail Line.

Food trucks such as The Chairman (Baos/Chinese cuisine), Curry Up Now (Indian), and MoGo BBQ (Korean/Mexican) serve specialty gourmet treats at down-to-earth prices. Treatbot, the karaoke ice cream truck, will honor a \$2.00 discount on any single ice cream purchase just by taking VTA to the event and showing valid fare.

For more information about the Moveable Feast events, visit [www.myblfeast.com](http://www.myblfeast.com).

For a customized trip plan, please contact VTA Customer Service at (408) 321-2300; TTY (408) 321-2330. You can also log onto [www.vta.org](http://www.vta.org) and sign-up to receive VTA email updates. Find VTA on Facebook at “SCVTA”, Twitter at “SantaClaraVTA”, and YouTube at [www.youtube.com/scvta](http://www.youtube.com/scvta).

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## Fraternal Order of Eagles—People Helping People

*By: Grant Beech*

Last month I told you about many of the charities that the “Eagles” support. There are several more that I will cover in coming issues of this newsletter.

This month I would like to tell you more about the “San Jose #8 Aerie of the Eagles”. Yes we call our meeting place an Aerie. As defined in my dictionary as the nesting place of any large bird. The original group is known as “The Aerie” and the women’s group is known as the Auxiliary.

Our hall is often rented out for private parties. We can hold up to 200 people (more if outdoor tent seating is practicable). If you are interested in renting please call our rental manager Greg Colburn at 408-891-4222

You can visit our web site at [WWW.8.foe.com](http://WWW.8.foe.com) then click on Hall Rental Info to see how the hall has been set up in the past for large dinners. For all rentals, full bar service is available.

We have a very nice members only room with a full bar, several large TV’s which will show all major sports events, and a free full size pool table and a computer for members use. The hall is located at 1036 Lincoln Ave, just south of Coe on the west side of the street.

Both of the group’s memberships are now open. The Aerie meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 7:30pm and the Auxiliary meets on the first and third Tuesdays at 7:00pm. Women can join either group and many women have joined The Aerie. Annual dues are \$30 for The Aerie and \$25 for the Auxiliary, plus a onetime initiation fee of \$15 for each. We do initiations on the first and second Tuesdays. To show our appreciation, we offer all Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters, Emergency Medical Technicians, Military Police, Military Firefighters, Correctional Officers, and all honorably discharged military one-year complimentary membership with the Eagles. If you have any interest in membership, please contact Grant Beech at 408-314-1040 and I will get an application to you.

Check us out at [www.8.foe.com](http://www.8.foe.com).

## CPR Class in the VEP Neighborhood

By Marilyn Rodgers and Katherine Decker

VEP has been exploring options for providing a CPR class to members and residents in the VEP neighborhood. There are two issues which have delayed the initiation of a class – the cost of a class, and the number of participants required.

The usual cost of a class for adult CPR is \$80.00. The cost is based on expenses required to purchase and maintain equipment for the course (particularly for the mannequins). VEP has been able to negotiate a reduced price, and secure a class for approximately \$35.00. This fee includes the use of a mannequin for each class participant, a course manual, and a certificate of completion for the course. The class would be approximately 3 to 3-1/2 hours long. To secure a class for this amount requires a minimum of 15 participants. This class would be open to all VEP members, their families, friends, and neighbors (including other neighborhood association members).

As of this writing, a specific date and time have not been scheduled. Please let us know if you would like to take a CPR class offered by VEP to be held in the neighborhood (Vista Park Community Room). Please contact Marilyn Rodgers at MRodgersRN@aol.com with the following information:

Your Name  
Number of people in your household/group who want to attend  
Your contact information – e-mail and phone number  
Your preference for time of day to attend class –  
Weekday evening, or  
Saturday morning.

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## VEP March Membership Mailing

by Katherine Decker, Ginger Cardona, 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. To accomplish this, a lot of “behind the scenes” activity takes place by volunteers – we would like to acknowledge and send special thanks to:

Bob Aquino  
Katherine Decker  
Susan Iverson  
Ginger Cardona and the Cardona Family  
Adina Pierce  
Don and Marilyn Rodgers

## Community-Wide Garage Sale on May 5th

Our annual *Community Garage Sale* will be held on Saturday, May 5th. 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 and would like to have your street specifically listed on craigslist, please email just the street name to [vepeditor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vepeditor@sbcglobal.net).

**VEP helps you solve  
community problems**

## VEP's Membership Drive Closes in April

by Marilyn Rodgers, Adina Pierce, and Ginger Cardona

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 not as yet sent in your membership renewal, or 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!**

### Missing—Sierra LaMar

From the Office of Supervisor Mike Wasserman,

Every parent's worst nightmare is to have a child disappear. Sadly, that has been the reality for the family and friends of **Morgan Hill high school student Sierra LaMar** who has been missing since March 16th. The Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office has spent 5,000 hours searching for the missing teen and is following up on nearly 900 leads. The Sheriff's Office would like to thank the community for all of their help and as a reminder, any and all information and suspicious activity should be reported. Anyone with information on Sierra should call the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office at (408) 808-4500. You can also call the anonymous tip line at (408) 808-4431, or email [tips@sheriff.sccgov.org](mailto:tips@sheriff.sccgov.org). Also, visit the [Find Sierra LaMar Facebook Page](#).



**MISSING**  
FROM MORGAN HILL, CALIFORNIA



**Sierra LaMar**

Law enforcement is looking for Sierra LaMar (19) last seen at 8:00am on Friday, March 16, 2012 when she left home on foot to catch the school bus. Sierra is 5'2" tall and thin with brown eyes and long, black hair. She was carrying a black and pink "Jansy" brand purse. Call in tips to Santa Clara Sheriff's Department anonymous tipline at (408) 808-4431. Download flyer: [tinyurl.com/sierramissing](http://tinyurl.com/sierramissing)

**CALL 408-808-4431**  
[facebook.com/help.find.sierra](http://facebook.com/help.find.sierra)

## Upcoming Local Events

From the Office of Supervisor Mike Wasserman

### San Jose: 8th Annual Pat's Run

Date: Saturday, April 21, 2012

Time: 9:00am

Location: Corner of Camden Avenue and Via Valiente, San Jose

Over 35,000 participants, volunteers and spectators from across the country will unite to run, walk and honor Pat Tillman's legacy while raising important funds to support the programs created to pay tribute to his commitment to leadership and service.

More Information: [Pat Tillman Foundation](#)

### Santa Clara County: The Health Trust: Dining Out for Life

Date: Thursday, April 26, 2012

Location: Participating Restaurants

Join the Health Trust in the fight against HIV and AIDS by dining out at participating restaurants. A portion of your bill will be donated to The Health Trust AIDS Services, the largest non-medical provider of AIDS services in Silicon Valley. **Supervisor Mike Wasserman** and other members of the Destination: Home Leadership Board will be participating at Nick's Restaurant, 35 East Main St., Los Gatos.

For a list of restaurants or more information visit: [Health Trust](#) or call (408) 559-5594

### Saratoga: West Valley College Dinner Theater Gala

Date: Saturday, April 28, 2012

Time: 6:30pm – 10:00pm

Location: West Valley College, 14000 Fruitvale Ave., Saratoga  
Support local students! Experience the incredible talents of West Valley College Theater, Music and Dance students as they present the Tony-award winning musical Pippin. It will be an evening of music, magic and merriment, and proceeds will benefit education and student support programs at West Valley College. Tickets are \$45.00 per person, which includes appetizers, dinner, dessert and the fabulous performance of Pippin, and must be purchased in advance.

To purchase, visit: [West Valley College Dinner Theater Gala](#)

### Los Gatos: Spring Lamb BBQ

Date: Saturday, May 5, 2012

Time: 2:30pm – 9:00pm

Location: Campo di Bocce Restaurant, 565 University Avenue, Los Gatos

The Spring Lamb BBQ is an annual event staged at Campo di Bocce in Los Gatos by a committee of dedicated volunteers; proceeds benefit the Ronald McDonald House at Stanford.

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## Vista Park Play Lots Get New Wood Chips

By Dave Fadness

194 volunteers turned out on a cool and overcast Saturday to spread woodchips on the two play lots at Vista Park. Trucks dumped 175 cubic yards—a mountain—of fresh woodchips in the parking lot the day before and, on March 24, our volunteers got it moved and spread. It only took 2-1/2 hours. Amazing—and we beat the rain.

VEP worked with San Jose Parks' Coordinator **Mollie Tobias**. Her outreach to area high schools and community groups was key to getting most of the volunteers. The city provided wheel barrows, shovels, rakes, brooms, and gloves for those who didn't bring their own. Parks Maintenance staffers Wendell Cox, John Keltner, and Bernie Merilos were also on hand to get this big job done.

Fourteen VEP volunteers were there to help. VEP members will recognize these folks as extraordinary "regulars" at our volunteer workdays: Bob Aquino, Phil Bejar, Ginger Cardona, Katherine Decker, Ellen Finch, Vic & Sherri Goodrum, Marietta Harris, Jim Hicks, Frank Kistler, Dennis Nitschke, Bob Shoberg, and Josie Supencheck. District 10 City Council candidates Denelle Fedor and Johnny Khamis also lent a hand.

These 23 Gunderson High School students volunteered that day: Wayne Beecher, Chris Ben, Cynthia Casas, Angel Cisneros, Tasean Clarik, Charles Dackerman, Alex Greene, Eddie Guzman, Nayeli Hernandez, Ashley Jimenez, Reese May, Carolina Martinez, Cody Miguel, Daniel Negron, Thieu Ngo-Phan, Brendan Nguyen, Brian Nguyen, Rastislav Rabatin, Gerardo Sandobal, Isabel Simmons, Koei Sulka, Antonio Torres, and Ryan Tran. What an energetic group—it's great to have young people with us at these events!

Special credit is due to Gunderson Career & College Center's **Stephanie Heuer** for her always willing assistance in recruiting student volunteers. Ms. Heuer is an incredible resource for us and for Gunderson students; they need community service hours in order to graduate, we need volunteers. Ms. Heuer puts us together—a perfect match that greatly benefits our community.

In addition to moving 175 yards of wood chips, volunteers painted thirteen trash containers, trimmed suckers from trees, pulled mallow weeds from the lawn, cleared encroaching weeds and grass from tree basins, picked up litter, and swept the parking lot and walkways in the park. We started at 9 am. About twenty volunteers stayed until 1 pm.

Vista Park looked great when we were finished. Our thanks and hats off to all who showed up to help!

## Aidbergs, you forgot your rake!

By Dave Fadness

A 16-1/2" leaf rake was left behind at Vista Park on March 24. It's a new looking, green BackYard brand with a yellow aluminum handle. The name "Aidlberg" is written on its handle.

If you know the Aidlbergs, please have them call me at 578-6428. I'd like to get their rake back to them.

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June 5, 2012 Primary Election

1. What volunteer service or involvements in our community distinguish you from other candidates and serve to illustrate how you could be effective as our representative on the city council?	
<b>Edesa Bitbadel</b>	<p>I am lifelong volunteer, I believe in leading by example. As Councilmember for Council district 10, I will participate in improving our community along side of community leaders and residents. Over the last fifteen years, I have served on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Martin-Fontana Parks Association, Membership Director</li> <li>• Almaden Valley Rotary, Boardmember</li> <li>• Almaden Valley Women's Club, member</li> <li>• Almaden Art and Wine Festival, former committee member</li> <li>• Almaden Valley Library, member</li> <li>• Almaden Valley Community Association, member</li> <li>• Silicon Valley Cares, member</li> <li>• YWCA, former Boardmember</li> <li>• Silicon Valley Crime Stoppers, former Boardmember</li> <li>• Junior League of San Jose, Sustainer</li> <li>• Friends for Youth, former Mentor (partial list)</li> </ul>
<b>Robert Braunstein</b>	<p>Through the work on my show and my wife's work through her school we are very involved in the community. Our show honors athletes in a positive way each week. In addition, we support athletes who have overcome adversity in their lives to succeed in school and in sports. Through our show, nearly \$200,000 in scholarships and gifts to school have been given out. I volunteer for the Reach Scholarship program through the City of San Jose which also gives scholarships to needy teens and am on the Hall of Fame Board in San Jose which gives gifts to high schools. I also help my wife with yearly clothing drives and a Halloween "candy to the troops" drive.</p>
<b>Denelle Fedor</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• San Jose Police Foundation (SJPF) 2009 - Present –Executive Board Member and Chair of Clays for Cops and Volunteer for Bowling for Badges (two fundraisers for the SJPF)</li> <li>• Friends of the San Jose Mounted Unit (a non-profit organization), President and Founder – 2005 – Present</li> <li>• Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) (volunteer)</li> <li>• Amador County Historical Society (member)</li> <li>• Morgan Hill Historical Society (member)</li> <li>• Almaden and Evergreen Valley Times Reporter (former volunteer writer 2009-2011)</li> <li>• Luminaria Chair for Willow Glen Relay For Life (American Cancer Society- former volunteer)</li> <li>• YWCA Rape Crisis counselor (former volunteer 3 years)</li> <li>• Operation Care and Comfort (former volunteer)</li> <li>• Silicon Valley Open Art Studios (former member)</li> <li>• Board Member of the San Jose Library Foundation (former volunteer for 6 months)</li> </ul> <p>My background of volunteer service showcases my interest and abilities to voluntarily work in a variety of diverse organizations. I have volunteered my time to many groups and have taken on additional responsibilities as well as being elected to serve in leadership positions within these organizations by my peers.</p>
<b>Johnny Khamis</b>	<p>Community service and volunteer work have been a huge part of my life for the past 12 years. In addition to being the coach of my son's Lego Robotics team at Los Alamitos Elementary, an active member of groups such as Almaden Cares and the Almaden Kiwanis I was also the Chairman of the Santa Clara County Human Relations Commission and the Chairman of the San Jose Small Business Development Commission. I am also the only candidate who has regularly attended City Council meetings, speaking out against the raising of sales and property taxes and speaking in favor of the Mayor's budget reforms.</p>
<b>Brian O'Neill</b>	<p>I belonged to Almaden Valley Rotary for over 10 years. I participated in many community projects such as the beautification projects of public land, building benches at the Almaden Lakes Park and constructing a sign at Almaden Community Center. I was involved with the Boy Scouts of America when raising my two sons. I was Chair of Troop 294, Scout Master, Assistant Scout Master and Equipment Manager. I was also the Almaden Valley Rotary coordinator for the Boy Scouts. I was a volunteer leader for a statewide Appraisal organization in the late 1980's and early 90's serving in the capacities of President and executive board member.</p>
<b>Leslie Reynolds</b>	<p>I have been serving on the San Jose Unified Board of Education for past 8 years, and therefore am the only candidate with publicly elected experience while maintaining a <b>balanced budget</b> the entire time on the board, <b>without raising taxes</b>. I've collected Toys for Tots, planted shrubs in Jeffery Fontana Park, was a Girl Scout and Boy Scout leader and lead all my scouts in numerous community service projects, and have participated in dozens of volunteer activities over the past 20 years. I also have years of business experience, both in small and large corporate companies.</p>

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2. Which current city council member(s) do you align with philosophically?	
<b>Robert Braunstein</b>	I am endorsed by current City Council member Sam Liccardo and former Mayor Tom McEnery and align well with them along with Mayor Chuck Reid. At the same time, I think aligning with a philosophy is at least as important as being able to align with a way of going about the job as City Councilmember. I think there is a model in District 10 about how a Councilmember can represent our neighborhoods in a proactive and highly engaged way. For that characteristic, I would model my time on the Council with Pat Dando.
<b>Denelle Fedor</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor Reed, Vice Mayor Nguyen, Councilmembers Oliverio, Constant, Liccardo and Herrera regarding the support of pension reform.</li> <li>• Councilmember Chu regarding his leadership in North San Jose.</li> <li>• Councilmember Campos regarding his sincerity for the east side area.</li> <li>• Councilmembers Kalra and Rocha for their inclusiveness to others on the council.</li> <li>• Councilmember Pyle for her support of private/public partnerships.</li> </ul>
<b>Johnny Khamis</b>	I think my hopes and goals for the city align with those of the Mayor and Council Member Pete Constant. They recognize the fiscal challenges facing the city and are motivated to try and resolve those issues. I also appreciate the efforts of Pierluigi Oliverio in trying to mobilize volunteers to maintain our parks.
<b>Brian O'Neill</b>	I would say I am in the middle of that continuum. However, I believe that governance is important and philosophical differences may be a fact of life, but in the end, you must govern to help the city grow and function as a great city. Philosophical differences should not compromise the health and safety of our city.
<b>Leslie Reynolds</b>	I align most closely with Pete Constant, Pierluigi Oliverio and our Mayor Reed. They do their research, instill logic into their rational, and practice fiscal responsibility and accountability. They have business backgrounds, and are more deeply involved with their communities. They work hard to inform and include the public about their choices. These are practices I employ in my current Board of Education Position.
<b>Edesa Bitbadel</b>	Vice Mayor Madison Nguyen, Councilmembers Rose Herrera, Don Rocha, and Nancy Pyle.
3. Do you think our city government is leading us in the right direction? What policies are you most and least in support of?	
<b>Denelle Fedor</b>	<p>Although the City government is headed in the right direction; it does need to work more diligently to rid the City of the decade long budget deficit. With pension reform and a conservative fiscal agenda, the City has successfully started to guide us toward a fiscally responsible and viable budget. Our leaders have allowed voters to weigh in on important issues such as changing the pension structure.</p> <p>I support competitive bidding and pension reform (Measure B), open government, and a streamlined permitting process which keeps up with the demands of business.</p> <p>I <b>do not</b> support raising taxes for the General Fund, nor do I support the use of a lease/revenue bond. I do not support policy which will inhibit small business growth or large business location in San Jose.</p>
<b>Johnny Khamis</b>	I think city government is making great strides toward moving in the right direction. In the midst of this financial crisis I am most in favor of the mayor's pension reform as well as efforts in refining and streamlining the permitting process. I am least in favor of the proposed increases in sales and property taxes and as I stated before, was the only candidate to appear before City Council speaking out against these proposed increases.
<b>Brian O'Neill</b>	<p>No I do not believe San Jose is going in the right direction. I support streamlining the business permit process which will enable businesses to occupy office buildings quickly, set up business and create jobs. This in turn will increase sales tax revenue as more workers are employed and will also increase property taxes which will help fund our schools and city services. I support the decrease in traffic impact fees, since that will help bring more jobs to San Jose.</p> <p>I am least supportive of the contentious negotiations with the employee groups over pension reform. I know that both sides (city council and labor groups) want pension reform. The Pension Measure that we are now being asked to vote on is froth with legal problems that will end up in court for years. The savings we desperately need will not be realized because it will be tied up in court.</p>
<b>Leslie Reynolds</b>	Many on our current council make unsustainable and unrealistic decisions and seem to operate under the practice of what will get them elected next term. I believe items like the plastic bag ban is a smoke screen for fixing the structural budget problems our city faces. I am most supportive of pension reform and least supportive of increasing the amount of pot dispensaries, particularly since the requirement and recommendation created by the planning commission is only 500 feet from a school!
<b>Edesa Bitbadel</b>	I think the current council is taking important steps to bringing the City back to prosperity through addressing pension reform and making increasingly significant policies to streamline the development process for businesses. I also appreciate Council's recent action to prioritize road maintenance but worry that it favors other Districts and does not give District 10 enough attention due to its location compared to other districts and public transportation hubs. As a Councilmember, I would make sure District

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	10 receives access to City services as much as all other districts.
<b>Robert Braunstein</b>	In the areas of pension reform, attracting large businesses to San Jose, and the push to bring the A's to San Jose I think the City is on the right track. The City can do a better job of attracting and maintaining small and medium sized businesses.. We need these small and medium sized businesses to thrive and create new jobs and be sources of ongoing and new revenue. We need to make it easier to do business in San Jose.
<b>4. What specific actions would you propose and/or fully support to solve our city's structural deficit problems and their impact on city services?</b>	
<b>Johnny Khamis</b>	As a part of the City Council I would help with implementing budget reforms as well as encouraging health insurance reforms. I would also work on a fast track permitting system and developing a more aggressive program to attract business to San Jose. My goal would be to bring in more revenue to close the deficit without burdening the citizens with tax increases. I would also love to see community organizations such as the Kiwanis adopting and maintaining parks just like VEP is already doing.
<b>Brian O'Neill</b>	I would continue the actions by the city council to bring more jobs to San Jose by streamlining the permit process, lowering traffic impact fees and doing outreach to the business community to bring jobs to San Jose.  I am open for new bold ideas such as consolidating our police and fire with the county. There would be economies of scales in consolidating these two departments by saving on overhead and cutting redundant personnel. This would take careful study with the involvement of our various stakeholders and many community meetings to see if this could work, but it could mean millions in savings for our future.  I would propose a path to comprehensive budget reform that would include pension savings, study budget streamlining and reforms, and at the end propose revenue enhancements. In order for this to work you would need all stakeholders to compromise in order to make San Jose a stronger and better city. All proposals should be vetted to our community groups to get feedback and support. If ballot measure is required, this is one way we can start the discussion process.
<b>Leslie Reynolds</b>	I would move to implement a zero based budgeting model; something I've successfully done in our school district. Place every expenditure on the table. Define the NEED to have (core services), and the NICE to have. Create a priority list of the nice to have and in good times, place them in the budget in that order. During bad times, back them out in the same order. Form a budget advisory committee with representatives from the stake holders, including all 11 bargaining groups and community members, which will eliminate the mistrust between employees, the council and the public.
<b>Edesa Bitbadel</b>	As a City Councilmember, I would work on economic development measures that facilitate small businesses ability to establish and grow within San Jose. After a decade of cuts, it is important to fill all of our vacant business spaces and create jobs and revenue for the City of San Jose and its residents.
<b>Robert Braunstein</b>	I support the current pension reform ballot measure. In December, I asked my supporters to reach out to the City Council and urge the measure be put on the ballot. Once pension reform is in place, we need to work hard to repair the damaged relationship with our City employees and fully staff the Police Department to improve public safety. We also need to work on our infrastructure including repairing City streets to fix the large back log of damaged streets in the City.
<b>Denelle Fedor</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competitive Bidding (CB): I support allowing small businesses to bid on services such as park maintenance. CB can also be applied to other services like road repair.</li> <li>• I am the only candidate with the idea of amending the City Charter to <u>not allow</u> the City to use the General Fund (GF) as collateral to secure revenue/lease bond(s) unless the bond is approved by the voters. See my website <a href="http://www.VoteDenelle.com">www.VoteDenelle.com</a> for more information.</li> </ul>
<b>5. Aside from the city budget, what do you think are the other two most important issues that face the council and what is your position on those issues?</b>	
<b>Brian O'Neill</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The State of California, in order to save millions, is sending prisoners to county jails. There could be overcrowding and capacity could be a serious problem. This could extend to our neighborhoods. We need to work together with the county and make sure we are ahead of these issues before they become serious problems.</li> <li>2. Providing a police presence in our District, my car has been broken into twice over the last six months. Trucks and cars speed up and down Camden Avenue, a side street next to my house. Having a police presence could stop these minor, but irritating crimes from happening.</li> </ol>
<b>Leslie Reynolds</b>	Restoration of core services and eliminating the barriers for businesses are my other 2 top priorities. Without a strong business revenue stream, San Jose will continue to cut core services. Our current trajectory is driving precious businesses away from San Jose and into the arms of our neighboring cities. With poor city services, and a hostile business climate, San Jose will surely suffer the fate of our neighbors in Oakland.
<b>Edesa Bitbadel</b>	The two most important issues facing the City Council that affect District 10 are preservation of core services, especially street maintenance and public safety, and economic development. By preserving core services and increasing economic development, we can maintain and improve the quality of life in District 10.

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<b>Robert Braunstein</b>	<p>1. Restore Public Safety. We once were the safest big city in America, we need to get there again.</p> <p>2. Be an Advocate for District 10 Neighborhoods: While in office, work as hard as I intend to in this campaign. Listening to neighbors cannot be an “every four years” activity. For me it will be a daily occurrence. As I said above, there is an historical model for how this works in District 10: Pat Dando.</p>
<b>Denelle Fedor</b>	<p>Neighborhood Infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public safety for residents—ensures police and fire are available for responding to fire and medical emergencies, as well as burglaries, suspicious activities etc. within a 3- to 5-minute response for emergencies and an 8-minute response time for other concerns.</li> <li>• Transportation—city needs to re-budget the money they do have and prioritize those monies to fix our streets. Further, we need to investigate the possibility of how VTA monies could be used to pay to repair roads instead of only subsidizing public transportation- diversified uses.</li> </ul>
<b>Johnny Khamis</b>	<p>In these times, every issue facing City Council directly stems from our budget crisis. Until we can get our financial house in order, we can't hope on implementing or bringing back valuable services and organizations that help create a better community. I would love to see programs implemented in the areas of crime and gang prevention.</p>
<b>6. What do you consider “core” city services? Which currently offered city services could be dealt with differently or be eliminated?</b>	
<b>Leslie Reynolds</b>	<p>Police, Fire, roads, libraries, parks, water, garbage, and infrastructure. The city needs to refocus on these items first and foremost. I also believe that San Jose needs to be smarter with the tax payer's money by utilizing outsourcing when possible and quit spending one time money on on-going projects. We need to end “auto pilot” spending and quit distracting ourselves with feel good items that have gotten us into financial peril.</p>
<b>Edesa Bitbadel</b>	<p>Core city services include street maintenance, libraries, public safety services (Police &amp; Fire), graffiti abatement, and park maintenance. The City has already outsourced graffiti abatement and sections of park maintenance, which means that staff must be properly advised and trained to perform contract management in addition to their normal duties. I would also encourage the City to continue to implement economic development policies alongside pursuit of all possible grants and monies to increase or at least maintain current levels of public safety staffing and services. I discussed street maintenance issues in question 3.</p>
<b>Robert Braunstein</b>	<p>Public Safety is first: Fully staff the Police Department and make sure the Fire Department has the necessary equipment and staff to keep our City safe. Maintaining our infrastructure is next, with street maintenance, water and sewage, and then parks, libraries, community centers.</p>
<b>Denelle Fedor</b>	<p>Core City Services are: Land Use (Development/Parks), Sewer/Gutter infrastructure, Public Safety (Police/Fire), Libraries and Streets/Roads.</p> <p>I would support competitive bidding for the departments listed above (except police and fire) and other departments within the City that are not “core.” For example, the City “owns” the streets, gutters, parks, etc.; however we should increase our competitive bidding so the City saves money on the services that these departments offer.</p>
<b>Johnny Khamis</b>	<p>I would consider core services to be police, fire, roads, libraries and parks. I believe the use of sub contracting and volunteerism can change the way we deal with parks and libraries. I also believe any money losing golf courses should be sold.</p>
<b>Brian O'Neill</b>	<p>The core city services are Neighborhood services (Libraries and Parks), Police and Fire protection and maintaining the infrastructure of the city (roads).</p> <p>I think consolidating police and fire with the county deserves exploration and would have the biggest savings. Affordable housing has lost a good portion of funding because of the elimination of Redevelopment. The city needs to work with State and Federal elected leaders to backfill that funding because there is a need for affordable housing in San Jose.</p>
<b>7. How will you address the decaying infrastructure and declining urban services of our city? What will your top three priorities be?</b>	
<b>Edesa Bitbadel</b>	<p>My top three priorities are economic development, preservation &amp; improvement of quality of life by ensuring that District 10 receives its fair share of city services, and constituent outreach to ensure I know exactly what problems the community is finding as well as being open to creative solutions from residents. My top priority will be economic development, starting with the vacant office and retail spaces in District 10. Through my background with economic development and helping small businesses navigate City processes, I believe that I have the experience to help bring businesses to the area, which will increase jobs and revenue for San Jose and its residents. In turn, more revenue will aide in improving the quality of life for residents by addressing such issues as getting more streets the maintenance they need. Lastly, by always having an open door and reaching out to the community, we can improve the quality of life by targeting the specific issues affecting residents and businesses.</p>
<b>Robert Braunstein</b>	<p>Once the Pension reform ballot measure passes, which I expect it will, we need to fully staff the Police Department to make San Jose the safest big city in the nation once again. At that point you can accelerate the plans to repair our City streets and get back on a regular maintenance schedule. We also need to build relationships with new and existing businesses to help a beautification of San Jose project where businesses and the City work together on new and creative ways to make the City more beautiful.</p>

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<b>Denelle Fedor</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Balance the budget</li> <li>• Job creation and creating a sustainable tax base to support core services.</li> <li>• Engage business and community to help mitigate the decay of infrastructure, and implement policy to allow public / private partnerships for maintenance and operation.</li> </ul>
<b>Johnny Khamis</b>	The nucleus of these problems is based on the fact that our expenses are higher than our revenues and until we can make government more efficient we will continue to see our services decline. It's my hope that the current pension reform passes and other fiscal reforms will be put on the table so we can make government more efficient.
<b>Brian O'Neill</b>	We need incentives for new businesses to open and ease unnecessary restrictions for the existing businesses to thrive. With millions of dollars in infrastructure projects on the horizon, we must work to maximize this opportunity and create a pathway to a strong and sustainable economic recovery.
<b>Leslie Reynolds</b>	I see maintaining our infrastructure as a core service, and has to be made a priority, just as you would take care of your home or car. Police, Fire and our roads need the most attention at this juncture of time and would be my top 3 core service priorities. Pension reform, outsourcing for competitive pricing and quality work, along with better short and long term planning will facilitate making these essential items sustainable. Applying these strategies has helped maintain a balanced budget in my district without raising taxes.
<b>8. Only about 15% of what's needed will be spent annually for street repair in San Jose, leaving a shortfall of ~\$600-million over the next decade. To what extent is this a priority for you and how would you propose to address the problem?</b>	
<b>Robert Braunstein</b>	It is a major priority and an area where the City has an obligation to its citizens to keep on top of its road repairs. This is where getting the City's fiscal house in order really comes into play. There needs to be creative new ways to raise revenue so the city can afford to make the much needed repairs to its roads. This also means making it easier to do business in San Jose so new businesses can develop and thrive here to help create new jobs and a larger tax base overall to give the city the money it needs for the necessary repairs. In several venues, many are talking about a new, short-term tax to pay specifically for road repairs. In those venues, I have stated that I would need to consider these taxes carefully, but am not "knee-jerk" opposed to taxes to pay for infrastructure improvements. because of the short-term nature of the taxes, the benefit they would provide, and the neutral impact to the City's General Fund.
<b>Denelle Fedor</b>	<p>Street maintenance is a priority for me due to the potential escalated costs needed to repair/replace roads in future years when left in disrepair. A comprehensive analysis should be done to understand the trade off of deferred maintenance and future costs. Sound fiscal policy should be enacted to accurately assess the funding needs to maintain roads and infrastructure, while deferring what is feasible.</p> <p>I view taxation with caution, but if it is seen as a possible "remedy" by a majority, then a sales tax should be investigated, not a parcel tax. Tax would need to follow Measure A and/or another successful measure where the project was completed on time, on budget and has an end date—no extension of the tax. Proposed tax would need to include an oversight committee—including a CPA and a business attorney for me to consider supporting a sales tax.</p>
<b>Johnny Khamis</b>	When the city defers maintenance the cost of making those repairs in the future dramatically increases. Unless we get our costs under control we can't expect to see this reversed. We have no choice but to make government more effective and efficient. This is one of the motivating factors that caused me to run.
<b>Brian O'Neill</b>	This should be a priority. We need to end the endless potholes. An easy solution would be to fund this through an assessment tax, but there is strong resistance from voters right now. Comprehensive budget reform with a balanced approach to fix our roads, with savings from labor costs and a tax proposal to fund roads on a continuing basis is perfect solution. I would propose directing the city manager to lobby the federal government to provide funds to fix our roads.
<b>Leslie Reynolds</b>	Our citizens are being burdened with expensive auto repair costs because of the neglected roads, so this is a serious priority. We need to start with eliminating those items that keep us from being able to fund road repair such as subsidizing the Hayes Mansion which loses money each year. We would need to service those roads used most heavily used first and be more aggressive with obtaining grants to catch us up to the standard we should be at. We need to have a real open bid process that allows outsourcing to reduce costs.
<b>Edesa Bitbadel</b>	First, we need increase the economic prosperity of San Jose through economic development. As the innovation capital of the world and the 10 <sup>th</sup> largest City in the United States, we should be able to attract many more businesses as well as foster the entrepreneurial spirit that has led to many successful small businesses and large companies. This increased revenue will enable the City to address more street repairs. In addition to economic development, I am interested in pursuing some other creative ideas such as leveraging City funds for a bond that could only be used for street repairs. Another action being taken at the state level is looking into establishing an infrastructure area where tax increment financing could be used to specifically address infrastructure concerns.

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<b>9. What specific actions would you take to deal with litter, graffiti, gang, and drug problems in our city?</b>	
<b>Denelle Fedor</b>	<p>I would look into expanding the street sweeping contract our city has to help abate litter; I would continue to monitor the success of the existing private contract to assure swift graffiti abatement, continue Litter Pick Up Day as well as partner with non-profit groups (Guadalupe River Parks &amp; Gardens), Sierra Club and others to keep our waterways and open spaces clean and litter free.</p> <p>I would partner with community groups—The Corazon Project and East Side Heroes along with investigating more grant funding and private funding to help the SJPD's Gang Prevention Task Force and drug enforcement unit to continue a keen focus on gang and drug activity.</p>
<b>Johnny Khamis</b>	<p>I am proud to see the efforts of VEP to address the graffiti issue. Neighborhoods and neighbors need to be more diligent in getting to know one another. When the budget is fixed I want to pour money into the reinstating of the gang prevention task force and other programs to deter other crime and drug issues.</p>
<b>Brian O'Neill</b>	<p>The city police are working on gang prevention programs and they have been successful. I think there can be collaboration between the city, the county and our non-profits that can provide wrap around services that will help with the gang and drug problems.</p> <p>Cleaning up the city is important, especially as new families want to move to into our neighborhoods. I would like to see more volunteers programs that help in cleaning their area while providing incentives.</p>
<b>Leslie Reynolds</b>	<p>I would leverage my relationships with school districts to form meaningful and powerful partnerships to target specific areas and hot spots where drug, graffiti and gang activity take place. Hold accountable the garbage collectors we currently contract, as they account for a large portion of trash on our streets each week. By hiring more police officers and using volunteers, we can respond to litter in a more effective manner. We can save money by having students use their required community service hours and paint over graffiti. Work with the county to use jailed offenders to clean up litter.</p>
<b>Edesa Bitbadel</b>	<p>I will work to improve the direction and the strategies of the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force as a start for addressing the issues. In addition, I will work on improving the relationships with our school districts so that a more coordinated effort is being made to protect our students and keep them from doing drugs, joining gangs, or damaging property. As part of this effort, I will make sure to provide adequate funding to parks and recreation programs to relieve some of the burden from schools to provide so many needed programs and services.</p>
<b>Robert Braunstein</b>	<p>These are huge issues with volumes written on how they can be solved. Fully staffing the Police Department will help. I would also propose building a huge new teen center available to all San Jose teens where they can go for sports, computer science, art, music, tutoring, video production and more. It would start as a public/private co-op, then be turned over to a nonprofit to run for the long term. Local corporations would be asked to donate their time and equipment to help teach our young people, keep them off the street, and make them ready for the jobs of the future. The model of a volunteer "identify and clean" graffiti abatement program has worked in San Jose, and to some extent still does, but we need to give the program a new shot in the arm.</p>

*[Editor's Notes: (1) Candidates were required to limit their answers to 900 words total (an average of 100 words each for the 9 questions). As submitted, actual word counts were: Edesa Bitbadel = 783; Robert Braunstein = 898; Denelle Fedor = 898; Johnny Khamis = 588; Brian O'Neill = 888, and Leslie Reynolds = 762. (2) Except for formatting, these candidate responses are printed as received.]*

# VEP Community Calendar

## October / November 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
15	16	17 Income Tax Due!	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Election Forum 7pm at Gundersen High School Theater	25	26	27	28
29	30	1 May Day!	2	3	4	5 Community Wide Garage Sale
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19

### Dates to Remember!

VEP Community Meetings

April 24, 2012  
May 29, 2012

Community Events

Community Garage Sale - Saturday May 5, 2012

# THE VEP NEWS



## VEP Community Association

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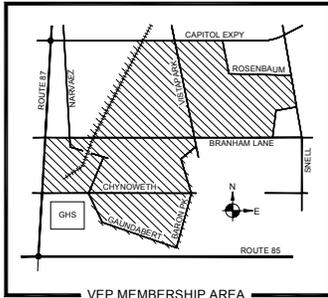
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Check our website: [www.vepca.net](http://www.vepca.net)

Gunderson High School Theatre

7 pm in the

April 24th Election Forum

VEP'S

Be sure to attend