

VEP NEWS

• VEP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION •

Representing More Than 2,000 Families In The Blossom Valley Area Of South San Jose Since 1969

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2014

☞ *Table of Contents* ☜

VEP Nov.-Dec. Meeting Agenda	p. 1
VEP Nov.-Dec. Meeting Preview	p. 2
VEP October Meeting Synopsis	p. 2 - 3
VEP Community News & Updates	p. 3 - 7
VEP Member Columns	p. 8 - 9
Images of the Community	p. 10 - 11
Community Calendars	p. 12 - 13



The "VEP News" is the official publication of the VEP Community Association, published monthly during the months of September through May each year.

We appreciate and will, at the discretion of the VEP Executive Board, attempt to publish any and all articles that will be of general interest to our membership community.

The VEP strongly encourages local schools to submit news articles about events and achievements on their campuses. Articles written by students will be given extra special consideration.

Persons, schools, or organizations who are interested in submitting articles, letters, or information to be included in the VEP News are encouraged to contact the Editor of the "VEP News," Mrs. Rachel Witmeyer. Email: vepeditor@gmail.com // Phone: 408-226-2935

VEP Community Association Membership

Persons who would like to join the VEP Community Association may send their name, address, and \$20 yearly dues to:

VEP Community Association
P.O. BOX 18111; SAN JOSE, CA; 95158.

Please, do not send cash. Make checks payable to "VEP."

VEP Community Association ~ Executive Board of Directors

President - Marilyn Rodgers
Vice President - Katherine Decker
Secretary - Adina Pierce
Treasurer - Ginger Cardona
Director - Helen Castillo
Director - Rich Giammona
Director - Peggy Golden
"VEP News" Editor - Rachel Witmeyer



VEP'S MEETING

7:30 p.m. - Tuesday

▶ **December 2nd, 2014** ◀

Vista Park Community Room
475 Hyde Park Dr.

Everyone is welcome. Invite your neighbors!

AGENDA

★ Santa Clara County Update ★

Presentation by

Mike Wasserman

President of the Board
and

Supervisor for District 1
Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors



★ Opening of Martial Cottle Park & Trail ★

Updates and Plans for Opening Ceremony

Presentation by

Eric Goodrich, Phil Hearin, & Alica Flynn

County Parks Staff

★ VEP Business Meeting ★

Announcements & Updates

Santa in the Park, Sunday November 30th
Martial Cottle Park & Trail Opening ~ December 13th, 11:30am
VEP Neighborhoods Christmas Decoration Contest, Dec.12-14th
VEP Annual Membership Drive Begins in January
VEP's Next Meeting - January 27, 2015

Happy Holidays!!

★ Your Concerns and Ideas ★

Your chance to voice your opinion and to seek VEP's help.

◆ 2014 is VEP's 45th Year! ◆

VEP's November-December Meeting

By Marilyn Rodgers

We look forward to seeing you, your friends and neighbors, on **December 2nd**. Please join us at the November/December VEP Community meeting, featuring:

► **Presentations include:** Featured guest speaker **Santa Clara County Supervisor Mike Wasserman** will provide an overview of current issues effecting residents of Santa Clara County. This is an opportunity to learn more about services provided by the County including homelessness, healthcare and mental health issues, as well as roads and transportation concerns. **County Parks Staff** will provide updates and plans for the opening of Martial Cottle Park and Trail scheduled for Saturday, December 13th – beginning at 11:30am. This will be an exciting and informative meeting that you won't want to miss. Plan now to attend!

► **VEP Business Meeting/Updates/Announcements.**

Announcements and updates will be included.

► **Your Concerns and Ideas** – We want to hear from you! Together we can work toward positive resolution. This continues to make VEP neighborhoods strong, healthy, and attractive.

We look forward to seeing you, your friends and neighbors, on **December 2nd** Please join us!

October Meeting Synopsis - Mayoral Forum

By Marilyn Rodgers

On Wednesday evening, October 29th, VEP Community Association joined both Erikson and Pinehurst Associations in presenting a Mayoral Candidates' Forum at the Pearl Avenue Library Community Room. The meeting started promptly at 7pm. The sponsors of the forum were pleased with the community's response to this event, given that it was competing with the final game of the World Series (Note: The San Francisco Giants won!) The Community Room was filled – “standing room” only, with over 80 people in attendance!

The format for this forum was somewhat different from previous electoral forums, primarily in that each Mayoral Candidate was scheduled to meet individually for 30 minutes with the audience. In other words, this format was a “forum” not a “debate”. Prior to the forum, a list of questions was developed by the Presidents of the sponsoring community associations, with input from members and residents. This list of eleven questions was not shared in advance of the forum with the two candidates. During the forum, audience members were encouraged to write additional questions on 3x5 cards and submit them for review and possible selection. Not all questions would be included in the forum. However, the remaining amount of time allowed for five questions from the audience to be selected and presented to each of the candidates. Both candidates were asked the exact same questions. Every effort was made to be fair and equitable to each candidate in this process.

The time allotted for the candidates' responses was as follows: 2 minutes for an opening statement, 1 minute for a response to each question posed by the moderator, and 2 minutes for the final wrap-up statement. Bob Aquino, Past President for VEP, and a very experienced timekeeper (from past candidate debates), did an excellent job keeping the candidates on track with the time allotted for their responses to the questions.

Sam Liccardo was the first candidate to address the audience, from approximately 7pm to 7:30pm, followed by Dave Cortese during the second 30-minute segment, from 7:30pm to 8pm.

Both candidates seemed to enjoy themselves and commented on the “rapid-fire” questions as well as the quality of the questions - allowing for a significant amount of information to be shared in a condensed amount of time.

The following is the list of the eleven questions developed prior to the forum:

1. Describe your position on pension reform.
2. How will you increase the number of new police officers, retain experienced police officers; and how will you pay for this?
3. There have been accusations that the Police Officers Union has been inappropriately encouraging both current police officers and new recruits attending the Academy to leave the SJPD. As Mayor, how would you respond/manage this issue?
4. What are your plans to restore morale and trust with city employees, especially with the police department?
5. Branham Lane desperately needs to be widened from two to four lanes to improve traffic, bicycle and pedestrian safety. After 15 years, funds were set aside for this, but then diverted by the City Council to build Hwy 880/Coleman interchange to support the airport expansion. We don't expect you to know the funding status for this project. However, we would like to know what you will do to ensure that critically-needed road infrastructure will be funded and built to address both current and future needs (which will increase with population growth). Also, what is your plan to maintain our current roads, and how will you pay for that?
6. Serious traffic accidents and pedestrian deaths continue to be a major problem throughout San Jose (including 5 fatalities on Branham Lane in this neighborhood), and could get worse as population increases. Funds for neighborhood traffic calming were gutted during the recession. What will you do to address both arterial and neighborhood traffic and pedestrian safety?
7. A major concern for area residents is commercial and residential redevelopment. There are 4 projects, proposed or approved, within a half mile radius of this Library. Included is the CarMax Auto Superstore at the corner of Capitol Expressway and Pearl. These proposals will greatly impact our neighborhoods, including increased traffic and street parking. The CarMax development will also introduce significant numbers of large transport vehicles, which will be parked on our busy roads, and unloaded during peak commute hours. As Mayor, how would you assure that the residents' concerns for traffic safety and street parking, are not only heard, but resolved?
8. San Jose has built more than its fair share of housing for the region. As Mayor, how would you work with other cities in the region to encourage them to build needed market-rate and affordable housing?
9. Describe your plan to increase job growth within the City of San Jose? Given the competition from other cities and states, what specifically will you implement to ensure San Jose is successful in this endeavor?
10. Describe your position on the City's marijuana collectives. How and when will you address closing the ones that have been deemed illegal due to proximity to residences, schools, and libraries (including one near this library)?
11. What is your position on vapor (smoke) clubs in residential neighborhoods throughout the City? Are you in favor of regulating them, and if so, would you lead this effort?

Following the Candidates' Forum, an additional speaker, Mr.

Continues on Page 3

Continued from Page 2

Stephen McMahon, San Jose Unified School District's Chief Business Officer, provided an overview of a proposal for a "continuation high school" (Liberty H.S.), which will be housed at the Erikson School site, beginning in the school year 2015-16. Mr. McMahon indicated that SJUSD was on track to go forward with this proposal. Concerns and questions were raised from the audience. Of particular concern was what plans or options were available to those who are currently utilizing the site, specifically Kidscopeia, who stated this was the first time they were hearing of the proposal. Mr. McMahon apologized to the representatives of Kidscopeia, as current tenants should have already been notified. He indicated he would meet with them as soon as possible.

Three Single Car Accidents in Vista Park Area By Marilyn Rodgers

During a 12-day period in October, there were three single car accidents in the Vista Park area of VEP. While these accidents resulted in significant vehicle and property damage, fortunately none resulted in human fatalities.

1. On Chynoweth in front of Gunderson High School, **Saturday October 11th, 2014, 8:30am**. Minivan hit a light standard, severely damaging the vehicle, and demolishing the light standard, requiring its complete removal.
2. Deadend of Chynoweth (south of Gunderson H.S.) just past Baron Park Drive, **Sunday night, October 19th, 1am**. Black Dodge Avenger crashed through chain-link gates and fence onto the Martial Cottle Park property, going over/through a ditch dug for irrigation/utilities around the future pedestrian gate for the Trail. Vehicle abandoned after sustaining damage making it un-drivable.
3. Deadend of Vistapark Drive (at Hyde Park Drive), **Thursday night, October 23rd, 3am**. Car crashed half way through planted area, resulting in the splitting-in-two and completely uprooting two trees. Took some time for tow truck to extricate the damaged vehicle from the area. Apparently involved alcohol. The driver was attempting to leave the area on foot, when apprehended by SJPd.

The Vista Park area of VEP is continuing to have an increased amount of "drive through traffic" with drivers on Chynoweth, Hyde Park Drive, and Vistapark that are unfamiliar with the area - driving too fast and which all too often is resulting in accidents. Please be aware, and drive carefully!

San Jose Police Department and Santa Clara County Parks Staff and Sheriff's Department continue to encourage VEP residents to call in any incidents of cars speeding, cars doing "stunts", drag racing, or undetermined sounds of possible cars crashing (especially after dark).

Damage at the Vista Park Community Room By Marilyn Rodgers

On Sunday, October 12th Adina Pierce, VEP Secretary, notified me that a window on one of the doors of the Vista Park Community Room had been broken (facing Hyde Park). Upon inspection, it appeared that something (possibly a mud rock) had been thrown hard enough to shatter the upper right portion of the glass window panel of the door, also making a hole approximately 4"x6" in size. The window was temporarily covered, and San Jose Parks and Recreation Department was notified. A new glass window panel for the door has already been put in place.

Hopefully this was an accident, rather than intentional vandalism of the Community Room. Should anyone notice suspicious behavior in or around the Park and/or the Community Room, please call 311 to report it. If it appears a crime is in progress,

please call 911. With increased awareness, hopefully we can protect the Vista Park and the Community Room, which are very valuable assets to our neighborhood and community!

Notice of Date Change: Nov/Dec VEP Meeting

The November membership meeting this year is being changed to the **first Tuesday in December**. In recent years, members often are too busy preparing for Thanksgiving and are unable to attend the November meeting. As a result, the VEP Board of Directors decided to change the meeting date which would have been November 25th to the first Tuesday in December - **December 2nd**.

4th Annual VEP Christmas Decoration Contest By Marilyn Rodgers and Katherine Decker

The 4th Annual VEP Christmas Decorations Contest will be held in December - decorations will be judged over the weekend of December 12th through 14! (and possibly into that next week!) Do you and/or your neighbors really enjoy decorating the exterior of your house and/or yard for the Holidays?! If so, this contest is for you! The VEP Board of Directors is once again sponsoring a contest for the best Holiday Decorating done on a house and/or yard in the VEP neighborhoods.

What will you win? This year, rather than one winner, as in past years, there will be a Grand Prize Winner, and three additional winners - by categories: 1) Spectacular (this one puts everyone in awe!), 2) Religious theme, 3) Fantasy theme, 4) Best use of animation and/or inflatables. Prizes will include for 3 of the categories: membership in VEP Community Association for the calendar year 2015 (\$20.00 value each) and bragging rights of course!

For the Grand Prize Winner - a yard sign indicating they are the winner for 2014, a gift certificate, and membership in VEP for 2015 - and of course, bragging rights! In addition, there are usually several "honorable mentions" as well. There will be pictures and an article in the January edition of the VEP Newsletter, so be sure to watch for it!

The Board of Directors functions as the judges for the contest. However, member and resident participation are greatly encouraged. Everyone can help by notifying the Board at www.veca.net of houses/yards to consider. Please nominate your house/yard, and/or nominate a neighbor(s) for consideration!

A VEP e-mail alert will go out prior to Christmas, indicating the winners, so that you, your family, and visiting friends and relatives, can drive around the VEP neighborhoods enjoying the spectacular decorations our neighbors put up for all to enjoy!



Update on Flu Shots

By Marilyn Rodgers

With the recent extensive media coverage and concern about diseases such as Ebola, we all need to keep in mind and... act on... those opportunities already available to us to protect ourselves and our families from illness. Specifically, taking advantage of widely available flu shots!

The flu vaccine is never a guarantee for not getting the flu, but getting one will lessen the severity, should you become ill with the flu. Additionally, it is important to get the vaccine as early in the flu season as possible, (flu season starts in September and goes through April) as it takes two weeks for your bodies' immune system to be fully activated. This is why the myth continues that —I got a flu shot and then got the flu." You cannot get the flu from current vaccines. Also, it is never too late in the flu season to get vaccinated.

Current CDC recommendations for those who should receive the flu shot -- those who are over 6 months old or older should be vaccinated. Especially important for children under 6, adults over 65, and other high risk groups which include pregnant women, American Indians, Alaskan natives, and people with health issues, particularly asthma, heart disease, and chronic lung issues.

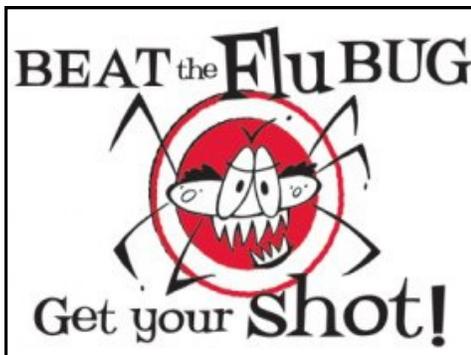
Health authorities are particularly concerned that young children are vaccinated. Last year 107 children died from the flu as a result of not being vaccinated — over 50% of them had no previous health issues. Experts strongly believe all of these deaths could have been prevented.

Adults 18 – 64 years old have been increasingly affected by the flu in recent years, and only 34% of this age group typically gets vaccinated. New recommendations for individuals over 65. In addition to being vaccinated against the flu, they should also have two additional vaccines. The vaccine that is also highly recommended is for pneumococcal disease, which is a potential complication of the flu. It can be deadly – causing pneumonia, meningitis, and blood poisoning. The first injection needs to be for pneumococcal conjugate, and six to 12 months later, the second vaccine is pneumococcal polysaccharide. Fortunately you only need one dose of each for life.

Children ages six months to 8 years that have never been vaccinated against the flu – two doses may be required. If they had not been previously vaccinated, they will need to be protected from H1N1, and then have this year's vaccination as well. Ask your healthcare provider for recommendations, if your child fits into this category.

In addition to receiving the flu shot, use good flu-fighting strategies. These include frequent handwashing, not touching your eyes, nose and mouth, covering your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze, and avoiding contact with others that are ill. If you do get sick, stay home for at least 24 hours - until your fever has gone down, and limit contact with others to help prevent spreading the disease. Good strategies for many diseases!

Getting a flu shot increases your odds of having a happy and healthy Holiday Season and Winter!



flu Myths vs. Facts

MYTH #1 The Flu Vaccine gives you the flu

FACT: The vaccine, including this year's version, consists of a dead virus which cannot infect you. What it can do is make your body produce the antibodies necessary to fight that virus if you come in contact with a live version of it.

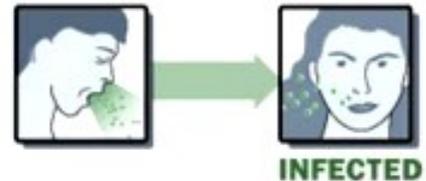


Dr. Cindy Feely #FluHELP

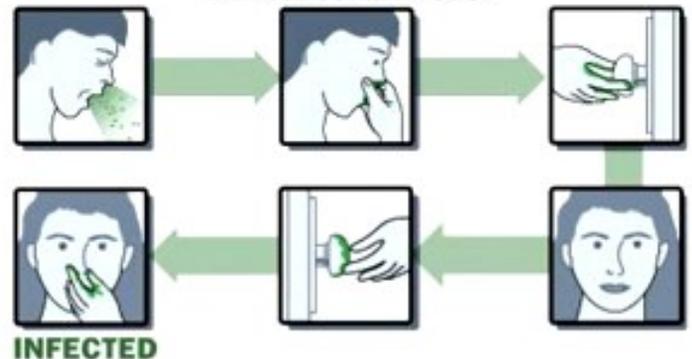
Mount Sinai

How The Flu Works: Contamination

Direct Contamination



Indirect Contamination



Keep your GERMS to Yourself!



Don't spread germs



Cover your cough



Wash your hands often

www.nyhealth.gov

www.cdc.gov

Thefts Increase during the Holidays

By Marilyn Rodgers

While it seems hard to believe - Thanksgiving is almost upon us, and Christmas is just a few weeks away - remember to be aware and vigilant. Thefts greatly increase at this time of year!

1. **Shopping Online – having packages delivered** to your home. If possible, have your packages delivered to your work address. If this is not possible or allowed, have a trusted neighbor or friend watch for anticipated delivery of packages to your home, and have them pick up and store your packages until you arrive home. Video cameras also are an added security deterrent. Last year over the holidays, the number of packages delivered by UPS and FedEx – which were later reported as stolen by thieves following their trucks on deliveries, was up over 300%.

2. **Shopping at the Mall** – If you spend an extended amount of time at the Mall, shopping....**be sure to lock your packages in your trunk** – do not put them in the passenger compartment of the vehicle. Also, if possible, each time you return to your vehicle to leave packages, move your vehicle to another parking space, – this makes it harder for potential thieves to watch your movement and break in to your vehicle to quickly obtain your just purchased packages.

3. **Keep Vehicles Locked at All Times** – Whether your vehicle is at the Mall, or parked in your driveway or in front of your home, be sure to keep it locked.

4. **Personal Security** – We are often harried and/or distracted during the busy holiday season. Even more important to remind ourselves of the need to be vigilant and aware of our surroundings at all times – especially aware of others in close proximity to us. Be sure to have your car keys easily accessible before you approach your car. Try to park in well lighted busy areas when making a quick trip to the Mall alone after dark.

Have a safe and enjoyable Holiday Season!

Hyde Park Drive – Speed Limit Set at 25 mph

By Marilyn Rodgers

On September 12th, the speed limit signs were changed on Hyde Park Drive between Chynoweth and Vistapark Drive. **The speed limit for ALL of Hyde Park Drive is now 25 miles per hour.** This change was made at the request of many VEP members, particularly those that live along this section of Hyde Park Drive. The change was needed and justified due to increasing vehicle accidents, increasing “near miss” incidents between vehicles and pedestrians, decreased visibility due to curves in street and high rates of street-parking, and an increase in non-residential vehicles using the street as a short cut.

January - Annual VEP Membership Drive: Volunteers Needed for “Mailing Party”

By H. Castillo, D. Suydam, K. Decker, and M. Rodgers

The VEP annual membership drive begins in January. An important part of kicking off the annual membership drive, is the Membership Drive party! This “party” is an enjoyable event for VEP volunteers who come together to prepare the January newsletter and the membership letter for mailing. The tentative date for this event is Sunday, January 18th from 1 to 3pm at the Vista Park Community Room! To volunteer, please contact Helen Castillo at 408-981-5902 or e-mail at hcastillo@vbprop.com.



Communication with Our Members

By Marilyn Rodgers, Adina Pierce, and Rachel Witmeyer

Face to face communication is usually the most meaningful and rewarding. Monthly membership meetings between September and May, special events and projects provide this opportunity. However, we have many non-face to face opportunities as well – they are as follows:

As you are reading this newsletter, you already know about our Number 1 (and most popular) way to communicate with our members – through the **VEP NEWS**. Our members continue to tell us how much they enjoy receiving and reading the newsletter.

We continue to evaluate and utilize electronic means of communicating with our members, particularly in between editions of the newsletter (remember **e-distribution of the newsletter** is available upon request as well).

E-mail alerts: if you have e-mail and would like to receive monthly e-mail Alerts, please be sure we have a current e-mail address. (We usually send one or two e-mails per month - we will not fill your mailbox with junk! E-mail addresses are 100% confidential).

VEP Website: www.vepca.net – find current information, highlights of upcoming events, as well as historical information on the website. Our website is intended for use by both members and non-members.

VEP on Facebook: For those members interested in additional electronic access and use “social media” sites, VEP has a new “private” Facebook account, available to VEP members only. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/vepca/>

Additional Social Media - Nextdoor: VEP Community neighborhoods are represented by three separate Nextdoor sites: Carson, Parkview, and Vistapark. Visit www.nextdoor.com to get started.



Proud Supporter of the VEP

Layla's Bistro
4472 Pearl Avenue
(408)269-2221

(Inside the Branham Plaza, behind the Wienerschnitzel)

Please Visit our Website for Hours of Operation

www.laylasbistro.com

California BATHROOM & KITCHEN Remodelers Inc.



Complete Custom Bathroom & Kitchen Remodeling Since 1994

From Planning & Design To Detailed, Quality Craftsmanship
Personalized Service, Clean & On Time
Excellent References

408.360.9700

www.cabr.net
LIC.NO.698718



SHOWROOM BY APPT.
1261 LINCOLN AVE.,
SUITE 112, SAN JOSE, CA 95125



Santa in the Park – Coming Nov 30th

By H. Castillo, R. Witmeyer, A. Pierce, and M. Rodgers

Save the date – Sunday, November 30th - and plan to attend the VEP Santa in the Park - for fun... and to have a picture taken with Santa! A nice way to finish up Thanksgiving weekend and begin thinking about the Christmas holiday season.

This year, all the previously included fun activities will be provided: crafts for youngsters, a cup of hot cider for all to enjoy, and of course – the main event – a picture with Santa!

There is a new addition this year: **Baked Goods Share and Swap!** Bring your favorite homemade holiday treats to —trade— with your neighbors! We look forward to seeing all the wonderful pies, cakes, cookies, brownies, pastries, and breads made by the cooks in our community! There may even be a prize awarded!

Please be sure to come out and enjoy talking to your neighbors and have a cup of something warm to drink. Arts and crafts are also available to entertain the smaller members of families.

Volunteers Needed – does this event sound like something fun that you would like to help with? **Needed:** Volunteers to help with the afternoon activities; **Needed:** Enthusiastic photographers who will help take pictures – free to participants. If so, please contact Helen Castillo at 408/981-5902 or hcastillo@ybprop.com



Opening of Martial Cottle Park and Trail: Saturday, December 13th!

By Marilyn Rodgers and Adina Pierce

The long-awaited opening of the Martial Cottle Park, including the remaining portions of the perimeter Trail, is scheduled for Saturday, December 13th, beginning at 11:30am!

Attendees will be treated to tours of the Visitors Center, group picnic areas, children's discovery area, the completed perimeter trail, and many other delights. (See pictures, page 11.)



Among the many dignitaries scheduled to attend are U.S. Representative Mike Honda and California State Senator Jim Beall. Additional information and details will be provided at the VEP community meeting scheduled for Tuesday evening, December 2nd. We look forward to seeing everyone at both the December 2nd VEP meeting and the December 13th Opening of the Park!

Dave Fadness Acknowledged by the San Jose City Department of Parks and Recreation

By Marilyn Rodgers / Photograph by Peggy Golden



Dave Fadness has been recognized for his hours of volunteer service – specifically as an official “park adopter” for Vista Park. The San Jose City Department of Parks & Recreation recently placed a plaque on one of the light pole standards in Vista Park with Mr. Fadness’ name acknowledging his role as a park adopter.

The —Adopt-a-Park” program, which the City initiated several years ago, encourages individual residents to adopt city neighborhood parks. Park —adopters” volunteer to provide a variety of activities needed to keep San Jose’s neighborhood parks attractive and safe for residents’ enjoyment. Adopters volunteer their time on a flexible schedule that is convenient for them. For additional information on —Adopt-a-Park” program and to volunteer as an official —park adopter”, go to the City’s website under San Jose City Department of Parks and Recreation.

Celebrate the Gift!

— Park Opening Celebration —
11:30am to 1:30pm, December 13, 2014



Established 1868

Discover Silicon Valley's agricultural heritage at our newest park, donated to preserve the legacy of Martial Cottle and the significance of farming in Santa Clara Valley.

For info 408-355-2215 or email Tamara.Clark@prk.sccgov.org

parks for life



SANTA CLARA
COUNTY PARKS



Branham Ln

Chynoweth Av

Blossom Hill Rd

85

SHIEL AV



Did You Mark Your Calendar?

Remember...

Santa is Coming



**...to the
Vista Park
Community
Room!**

475 Hyde Park Dr.

Sunday, November 30th
Santa Hours: 2 pm to 4 pm

**Photos with Santa Claus ❄️ Arts & Crafts ❄️ Hot Cider
Canned-Food Drive ❄️ Holiday Toy Drive ❄️ Bake Swap**

Bring the kids or the whole family, for a free holiday photo with Santa Claus himself.

You may have your photo taken by a VEP photographer, or you may bring your own camera.

NEW: Baked Goods Share & Swap!

This year, bring your favorite holiday baked goods to "trade" with your neighbors. Anything homemade is welcome: pies, cakes, cookies, brownies, muffins, breads. There may even be a prize awarded!

Volunteers Needed to help with the afternoon activities! We need one or two enthusiastic **photographers** who will help take pictures free for participants.

If you can help, please contact Helen Castillo: at 408/981-5902, or hcastillo@ybprop.com

**Emergency Preparedness: Part I
Plan Ahead to Be Prepared!**

By Rachel Witmeyer



25 years ago, the San Francisco Bay Area was rocked by the Loma Prieta Earthquake, which caused widespread damage and injuries. This past summer, Napa experienced a sizable quake and significant damage resulted. Many geologists agree that the Hayward and Calaveras fault systems are overdue for quakes. This is also true for the Rogers Creek Fault, which runs beneath the East Bay and connects to the northern end of the Hayward Fault. The California geologic record indicates that Rogers Creek goes off about every 150 years, and we have passed the mark.

What does this mean for Bay Area residents? We all need to actively prepare for the eventual large-size quake that will inevitably affect the San Francisco Bay region. As quakes become distant memories, people fall into a false sense of security, thinking "It won't happen here again." The truth is that earthquakes are far less predictable than scientists would like—and we never really know exactly when or where the next major quake will strike. This means that it is every household's responsibility to get prepared!

In the coming months, I will be providing a short article on each of the 10 aspects of Emergency Preparedness, as recommended by Santa Clara County. I will include important information as well as references to helpful resources. It is my hope that the VEP Community will make a serious commitment to "readiness" and that all our families will do their best to follow that good old, "Boy Scouts" Motto: —Be Prepared!"

10 Ways To Be "Disaster Prepared in Santa Clara County"

1. Learn which kinds of natural and human-caused disasters pose a risk for your area (earthquakes, fires, floods, etc.)
2. Develop a Family Disaster Plan and put it in writing.
3. Build Disaster Supply Kits for your home, office, and car.
4. Choose an out-of-town contact person whom family members may call to report how and where they are during an emergency.
5. Know where to go during an emergency; designate a park, school or other convenient location.
6. Prepare your children and remember those with special needs, such as infants, seniors, and people with disabilities.
7. Include your pets in your Family Disaster Plan.
8. Eliminate hazards in your home and office.
9. Learn how to keep yourself and your family safe by taking first aid, CPR and other preparedness classes.
10. Get involved - donate blood, educate your neighbors, and join your local Citizen Corps and volunteer!



•Sales •Service •Rentals •Body Shop

900 CAPITOL EXPRESSWAY AUTO MALL • SAN JOSE

266-9500

Serving San Jose Since 1875



COMMERCIAL ★ INDUSTRIAL ★ RESIDENTIAL

CA LICENSE #501042

BOB CHESNOS
★ VEP MEMBER ★

(408) 978-6640

INTERIOR ★ EXTERIOR ★ INSURED & BONDED

QUALITY PAINTING SINCE 1977



Gardening, with John Marks

Planting and Caring for Hydrangeas

Hydrangeas are an attractive perennial that call for little care. Few insects or diseases affect hydrangeas. But planting hydrangeas requires some care. After you obtain a starter, dig a hole larger than the container it came in. Place the plant in a hole where it will get a northern exposure, ensuring that the crown of the plant is slightly above the level of the native soil. Backfill with a mix of soil with a lot of compost, using excess soil to build a watering basin. Fill the basin with water, checking to see that there is little or no settling of the plant.

Hydrangeas thrive on ample water. Feed the plant when it leaves out in the spring and every other month during the growing season. Use about one-quarter cup of sulfate of ammonia, and spread it in a wide circle under the hydrangea. Water-in afterward.

In hot spells, may show signs of wilting, only to recover when the sun goes down. This is a natural occurrence called "incipient wilting." It happens even if the soil is very wet.

Hydrangeas bloom on the shoots produced in the previous year. Cut off the blossoms after the flowers have faded. Prune them just above the second set of buds from the bottom of the stem. The new shoots that grow from these buds will bloom in the following year. It is hard to kill a hydrangea.

After the plant is several years old, you may need to thin out the multitude of stems, removing any crossing, dead, or diseased stems. The older stems will be a darker color, with brown or gray scaly bark. These may no longer be productive and need to be pruned back to a set of buds near the base of the plant. New stems will emerge to replace the old.



Randazzo's

WATER CONDITIONING

WATER SOFTENERS & FILTER SYSTEMS

SALES + REPAIRS

Parts and Repairs for Most Brands

FAST SERVICE * FAIR PRICES

Discounts Available to VEP Members

Family Owned & Operated

License #514073

(408) 978-5355



A Year of Salads, Sandwiches, & Soups Online @ ayearofsaladssandwichessoups.blogspot.com

By Kathy Wood

AHA! I've found the ever-searched-for secret to losing those unwanted pounds! All that's involved is being born into a family with poor teeth, loving sweets, not having the opportunity to get braces, loving sweets, developing periodontal disease that requires multiple deep cleanings on a regular basis, and did I mention, still loving sweets? Since I can remember, I've had a love/hate relationship with different dentists, mostly hate (in fact, to be honest, I didn't feel any love at all).

Five or six years ago, I had an issue with TMJ (my jaw is out of line). I wore an appliance that over time fixed that problem, but that appliance was beginning to wear thin and lasted way longer than it should have. The next step was to replace missing teeth, install braces, and who knows what else (possible surgery) over several years.

After much research, my husband and I decided on the all-in-one-day-go-home-with-new-teeth surgery that broadcast many commercials on television. It's a scary thought to have all your teeth pulled at once, but in the back of my head, I knew it was the best choice. I arrived at 6:45 on a Monday morning, had the surgery, recovered all afternoon, and was home by 5:00 with a new set of teeth. These are temporary while healing takes place and the implants mesh with my bone. Within 6-7 months I should have my permanent teeth.

To get back to the weight loss topic, smoothies, pudding, Jell-o®, yogurt, cream soups, mashed potatoes, or anything I can smash with a fork is what's for dinner (and breakfast and lunch). It hasn't been so bad and I'm finding it a good challenge to come up with different kinds of smoothies, various soups, and I can still have chocolate, just in liquid form.

This plan may not be for everyone and eating healthy and exercising are still the most important factors of losing weight and maintaining, but this soup may become one of your favorites (and it's one I can have).



Pumpkin-Ginger Soup



Ingredients:

- 1 15-ounce can pumpkin
- 1 14 ½ -ounce can of vegetable or chicken broth
- 1 T. grated fresh ginger
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 5-ounce can evaporated milk
- ¼ cup creamy peanut butter
- 2 T. rice vinegar
- ¼ t. crushed red pepper
- ¼ cup snipped fresh cilantro
- sour cream



Instructions:

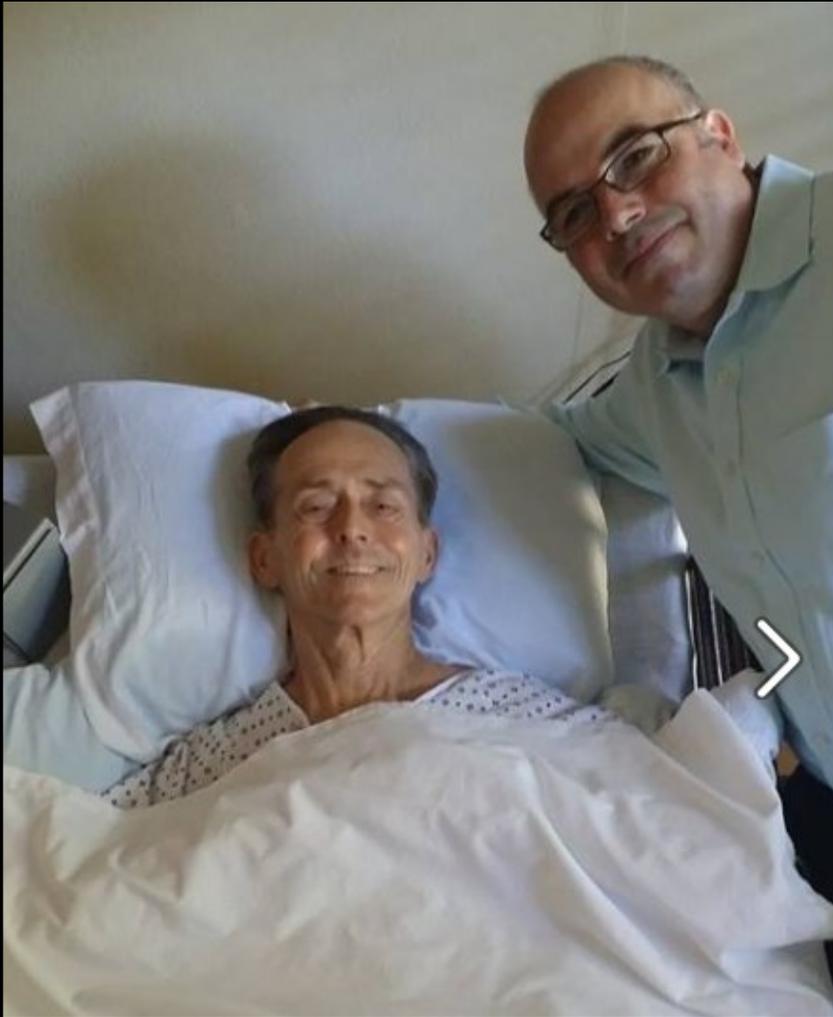
- In a large saucepan, combine pumpkin, broth, ginger and garlic. Bring to a boil; reduce heat.
- Simmer, uncovered, for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally.
- Whisk in the evaporated milk, peanut butter, vinegar and red pepper until smooth. Stir in cilantro.
- Ladle soup into bowls.
- Top with a dollop of sour cream, if desired.

"Soup's On!"

Praise for Dave Fadness Following Recent Facebook Post

Screenshot by Adina Pierce, Courtesy of Councilmember Khamis

Local community-members on Facebook responded with overwhelmingly positive praise for Dave Fadness, after Councilmember Khamis posted this photo of his recent visit with Dave in the rehab-center. (Facebook Identities were withheld for privacy.)



Councilmember Johnny Khamis

4 hrs · 2

Had to great visit with community leader Dave Fadness. Please keep praying for his recovery.

Like · Comment · Share

49 people like this.

Identity Withheld A great man.

4 hrs · Like · 1

Identities Withheld

I have said many times

that we are so glad we bought our house in the same neighborhood as Dave and Aiko Fadness. They have done so much for our neighborhood over the years. Praying for them both. Hugs to Dave. We will be visiting soon.

4 hrs · Like

Identity Withheld Will include him in my

prayers...thank you for being supportive Johnny

4 hrs · Like



Identity Withheld So great to see him

smiling! Ill keep praying for him.

4 hrs · Like · 1

Identities Withheld

...you are right. He is a

great man.

4 hrs · Like · 1



Identity Withheld

very nice smile, we miss you Dave and wish you a quick recovery. will keep praying for you.

3 hrs · Like

Identity Withheld

The world needs more leaders

like Dave Fadness

3 hrs · Like · 1

DOWNTOWN SAN JOSE FARMERS' MARKET

presented by  KAISER PERMANENTE®



May 2 - Nov. 21
Fridays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
San Pedro Square



Better Homes and Gardens
REAL ESTATE

VENTURA
BARNETT
PROPERTIES

Helen Castillo
Realtor®

BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS REAL ESTATE LLC
VENTURA BARNETT PROPERTIES
5985 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95120
www.bhgrealstate.com
Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated

Office 408.997.9999 x555
Mobile 408.981.5902
Fax 408.997.1111
HCastillo@vbprop.com
DRE #01472483

LAW OFFICE OF
LINDA J. LEZOTTE



► **Assisting** clients through the land use entitlement process

► **Advising** clients on CEQA compliance and local environmental policy

408.823.8200 Linda@LezotteLaw.com

"HOME SWEET HOME"

All Photos by Adina Pierce

* Sunrises in the VEP Community: October 17th, 2014 (left) and October 23rd, 2014 (right) *



VEP Community Schools Calendar

November / December 2014



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
16	17	18 PTA Meeting ~ 7:00pm ~ @Carson School Media Center	19 NJHS Meeting @JMMS SELAC Meeting ~ 6:00-7:30pm ~ @Gunderson HS	20 Principal's Coffee ~ 8:05-9:05am ~ @Carson School SSC Meeting ~ 7:00am ~ @JMMS Library	21 SELAC Meeting ~ 8:05-9:05am ~ @Carson School	22
23	24 Oak Grove Schools on Turkey Break All This Week	25	26 Minimum Day @Carson @JMMS	 Thanksgiving Break No School Nov. 27th & 28th		29
30	1 Holiday Shop Fundraiser @Carson School All This Week	2	3 High School Nite ~ 6:30-8:00pm ~ @JMMS	4	5	6
7	21 SSC Meeting ~ 2:30pm ~ @Carson School Room C-10	22	10 PTSA Meeting ~ 6:30pm ~ @JMMS Library	11 College Financial Aid Night ~ 6:00-7:00pm ~ @Gunderson HS	12 Principal's Coffee ~ 7:00am ~ @JMMS Library Falcon Night ~ 6:30-8:30pm ~ @JMMS Cafeteria	13
14	15	16 Kindergarten Holiday Program ~ 7:00-8:00pm ~ @Carson School	17 NJHS Meeting @JMMS SELAC Meeting ~ 6:00-7:30pm ~ @Gunderson HS	18 SSC Meeting ~ 7:00am ~ @JMMS Library	19 SELAC Meeting ~ 8:05-9:05am ~ @Carson School Pajama Day and Minimum Day @JMMS	20

Community Schools Contact Information

Carson Elementary School ~ Home of the Cougars

WEB: <http://www.sjUSD.org/carson/> PHONE: (408) 535-6287

Parkview Elementary School ~ Home of the Panthers

PHONE: (408) 226-4655

John Muir Middle School ~ Home of the Falcons

WEB: <http://sjUSD.org/john-muir/> PHONE: (408) 535-6281

Gunderson High School ~ Home of the Grizzlies

WEB: <http://gunderson.sjUSD.org/> PHONE: (408) 535-6340



VEP Community Calendar

November / December 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
16	17	18 Turkey Day: Story & Craft ~ 11:30am ~ @Edenvale Branch Library	19 D10 "Office Hours" Meeting w/Johnny Khamis ~ 5:00-6:00pm ~ City Espresso 630 Blossom Hill Rd	20 Thanksgiving Placemat Craft ~ 3:30pm ~ @Pearl Library ~ 3:30pm ~ @Edenvale Lib.	21 California Writer's Club Open Mic' ~ 7:30pm ~ @Willow Glen Branch Library	22 Library Book Sales @Ellington Branch ~ 10am - 2pm ~ @King Library ~ 10am - 5pm~
23 Library Book Sale ~ 1:00-5:00pm ~ @King Library	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Placemat Craft ~ 3:30pm ~ @Pearl Library	27 	28	29
30  Santa in the Park ~ 2:00-4:00pm ~ @Vista Park Community Room	1	2 VEP Community Meeting ~ 7:30 PM ~ @Vista Park Community Room	3 D10 "Office Hours" Meeting w/Johnny Khamis ~ 8:30-9:30am ~ @Almaden Valley Community Center	4 Gingerbread Craft ~ 3:30 pm ~ @Edenvale Branch Library	5 SCVMHD: Mental Health Info. Table ~ 1:00 pm ~ Gingerbread Craft ~ 3:00 pm ~ @Seven Trees Lib.	6 Puppet Show: Frosty's Magic Hat ~ 12:00 pm ~ @Seven Trees Lib.
7	8 Puppet Show: North Pole Review ~ 3:30 pm ~ @Edenvale Branch Library	9	10 Shadow Puppet Show ~ 4:00pm ~ @Pearl Library Kids' Book Club ~ 6:00 pm ~ @Seven Trees Lib.	11 TeensReach Meeting ~ 4:00 pm ~ Steampunk Craft ~ 4:15 pm ~ @Edenvale Lib.	12  VEP Community Association Christmas Decorations Contest Judging Weekend!	13  Officially Opens!
14	15	16	17 Knit & Crochet Club ~ 3:00pm ~ @Pearl Library Living Room	18	19 TeensReach Mtg. ~ 4:00 pm ~ @Seven Trees Lib. LEGO Club ~ 4:00pm ~ @Pearl Library	20

Coming Soon in the VEP:

VEP Community Meetings

NEW DATE

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER:
Tuesday, December 2nd

JANUARY:
Tuesday, January 27th

*Join Us
for Fun
With
Santa
Nov. 30!*



VEP Community Events

Holiday Decoration Contest Judging
Weekend of December
12th through 14th

Membership Drive Mailing Party
January 18th (1:00-3:00pm)

VEP Community-Wide Garage Sale
Saturday, May 2nd, 2015

THE VEP NEWS



VEP Community Association

P.O. Box 18111 San Jose, CA 95158
 Email: vepca@vepca.net Website: www.vepca.net

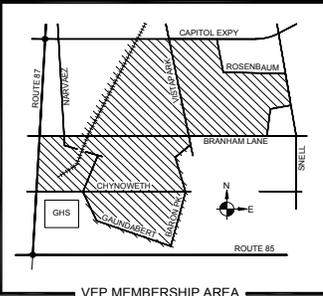
Published monthly by VEP Community Association, a not-for-profit organization of volunteers established in 1969 to serve and represent more than 2000 homes in the Blossom Valley area of southern San Jose. VEP is dedicated to neighborhood maintenance and improvement in its membership area as well as to 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 our Treasurer or write to the address listed above.

VEP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Marilyn Rodgers	225-7553	mrogersrn@aol.com
Vice President	Katherine Decker		kddecker@sbcglobal.net
Secretary	Adina Pierce		adinap@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Ginger Cardona	227-0222	cardona@sbcglobal.net
Director	Helen Castillo		hcastillo@vbprop.com
Director	Rich Giammona		rich@wonderfulworldlearning.com
Director	Peggy Golden		peggygolden@mac.com
Editor, VEP News	Rachel Witmeyer	226-2935	vepeditor@gmail.com

PRSRT STD
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 SAN JOSE, CA
 PERMIT #5242

Prefer your newsletter via Email?
 Let us know at vep@vepca.net.



Check our website: www.vepca.net

Community Room

Vista Park

7:30 pm in the



Be sure to attend
 VEP's Community Meeting
 Tuesday, December 2nd

