

VEP NEWS

• VEP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION •

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

APRIL

2016

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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 & VEP News Editor - Rachel Witmeyer

VEP'S COMMUNITY MEETING

7:30 p.m. ~ Tuesday

► April 26th, 2016 ◀

Vista Park Community Room
475 Hyde Park Dr.

Everyone is welcome. Invite your neighbors!

AGENDA

★ Martial Cottle Park - Partner ★

UCCE Master Gardner Program

Presentation by
Pam Roper, Co-Liaison, Volunteers

★ Household Hazardous Waste Program ★

Presentation by
Tammy Green, Community Outreach Coordinator
County of Santa Clara

★ VEP Business Meeting ★

Announcements & Updates:

Councilmember Khamis and Staff
Updates on District 10 and City of San Jose

Saturday, April 23rd
City of San Jose All American Litter Pickup
and VEP's Spring Beautification Day
Sign-in Vista Park, Starting @8am

Saturday, May 7, 2016
Annual VEP Community-Wide Garage Sale

Upcoming Summer Events

California Primary Election ~ Tuesday, June 7, 2016
3rd Annual - 4th of July Fireworks & Festival, Lake Almaden

★ Your Concerns and Ideas ★

Your chance to voice your opinion and/or to seek VEP's help.
Everyone is welcome. Invite your neighbors!

◆ 2016 is VEP's 47th Year! ◆

VEP's April Meeting Preview

By Marilyn Rodgers

We look forward to seeing you, your friends and neighbors, on **Tuesday, April 26th** at the VEP Community meeting!

► Presentations:

This month's presentations will feature Martial Cottle Park Partner UCCE Master Gardners of Santa Clara County. **Volunteer Co-Liaison, Pam Roper**, will provide an overview of the many programs provided by this all-volunteer group at their location as a Park Partner for Martial Cottle Park – including how to build and utilize a “raised garden.”

Tami Greene, of the Household Hazardous Waste Program, will provide information on what is included in the category of “household hazardous waste” as well as how and where to dispose of these potentially dangerous products and materials.

► VEP Business Meeting/Updates/Announcements.

Other informational items and announcements will be provided including updates from Councilmember Khamis and Staff regarding issues of interest on District 10 and the City of San Jose. Announcements and information will be highlighted on upcoming events in the months of May, June, and July. (Reminder: VEP takes “summer break” during the months of June through August.)

► 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 **April 26th**. Please join us!

March Meeting Synopsis

By Marilyn Rodgers

President Rodgers welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. She began by introducing VEP Board members Katherine Decker, Vice President, Ginger Cardona, Treasurer, Adina Pierce, Secretary/Webmaster, and Rich Giammona, Board Member as well as District 10 Representative on the San Jose City Neighborhoods Commission. She then introduced VEP Past Presidents Greg West, who is also current Chair of the Santa Clara County Parks Commission, Bob Aquino, and Stephen Lindsey.

Also introduced was Virginia Holtz, Board Member for the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority. Virginia provided the group with announcements on the upcoming public meetings the Open Space Authority has initiated. Last year, the “Measure Q” ballot initiative passed. This initiative provides for additional funds being generated for the Authority through an increase in “parcel tax” paid by homeowners. 20% of these additional funds are being allocated specifically for projects to improve “urban” areas. The first such public meeting was recently held at Gunderson High School. The next public meeting will be in Morgan Hill – with additional meetings throughout the area. The purpose of the meetings is to inform the public of the opportunity to make suggestions regarding possible use of these funds to improve their urban areas – including their neighborhoods. These funds will be dispersed via a grant process. The public is being encouraged to write/initiate grants. Ms. Rodgers interjected that at the first meeting at Gunderson, she attended to represent VEP. Several people from the Erikson Neighborhood Association were also in attendance. Ms. Rodgers raised the possibility of a grant for the purpose of finalizing a design that would then allow movement forward to the building of a “pedestrian bridge.” This bridge was originally proposed by both VEP and Erikson in the planning/approval process for the development of the Almaden Ranch project. The bridge

would allow people walking and/or riding bicycles access from Almaden Ranch to cross Guadalupe to the east (our neighborhoods) and connect with trails and walkways. More information will be forthcoming from Open Space Authority on specific requirements for writing/initiating possible grant proposals.

Ms. Rodgers then invited Dora Gonzalez, Council Assistant for Councilmember Johnny Khamis to address the group. Ms. Gonzalez made several announcements including a reminder about the upcoming All American Litter Pickup scheduled for Saturday, April 23rd. There will be a sign-in station for the VEP area at Vista Park. She encouraged people to either go online to register, or if they preferred, to utilize the sign-in sheet she left at the back of the room. She will then take the sign-in sheet and register people for the event. This helps City staff in determining how many people to expect at the event, and to adequately provide for morning snacks and for lunches which will be provided to participants. She also reminded people of the Councilmember's Community Office hours. She encouraged everyone to come by and take the opportunity to talk to the Councilmember in an informal environment, without making an appointment to see him. Community Office hours are held every month.

Ms. Rodgers said she was pleased to introduce the next speakers: CrimeStoppers. This organization has been in existence for some time. Ms. Rodgers indicated that VEP had a presentation about CrimeStoppers approximately 8 years ago, and thought it would probably be helpful to have an update. Their organization is one more option for people to use toward our overall goal of increasing safety in our neighborhoods. Ms. Rodgers then introduced CrimeStoppers of Silicon Valley President Tuyen Fiack and Board Director and Community Liaison Chair Desiree “Dee” Barragan. They are a private community (all volunteers) organization that works closely with the police. They cover all of Silicon Valley, however, they work most closely through the San Jose Police Departments Crime Prevention Unit.

How does the program work? Should you **see a crime in process, call 911** to report it. However, for illegal activity, that is not an emergency, and you **want to remain anonymous, call 408-947-STOP (7867)**. You can also submit tips/reports online at www.tipsubmit.com. You will be given a code to keep your information anonymous. A report is generated and utilized by the Crime Prevention Unit. Should it be outside the City of San Jose, the officers in this unit have similar contacts in other area law enforcement departments, and the information is shared, but again kept anonymous regarding the reporter. Should the tip result in an arrest, a reward is generated. You will be sent a voucher again with the code that can be taken to the bank to be cashed. The bank only has the code as verification – no other identification is needed.

Cash rewards can be as large as \$1,000. However, this is the limit of the amount that can be awarded and kept anonymous. Any reward that would be given by any organization that is larger than \$1,000.00 cannot be anonymous – information on informant has to be given to the IRS (thus the limit by CrimeStoppers).

Whether you call or provide information online, be ready to give the following information:

- ** Who or what do they look like? Do you know their name(s)?
- ** What happened? What type of crime were they involved in?
- ** When did it happen? Location or address?

An example of a non-emergency tip: Drug dealing, tips about people you know doing illegal activity.

CrimeStoppers volunteers are very proud of the number of tips that result in arrests, and in the number of rewards they are able to disburse to people that initiated the tips.

Continues on Page 3

If everyone at CrimeStoppers is a volunteer, where does the reward money come from? **CrimeStoppers actively does fund-raising for the money.** Their largest fundraiser is held annually...it is the "Crab & Pasta Feed." This year it is scheduled for April 16th – Saturday from 6pm to 9pm. Tickets are \$65.00 per adult and \$25.00 for Kids 12 and under. All proceeds are tax deductible. (Flyers are available with additional information).



Ms. Rodgers thanked the CrimeStoppers representatives for their presentation, and for their volunteer activity which helps makes all of our neighbors and neighborhoods safer!

The next presentation was to be given by the Environmental Services staff of San Jose. Ms. Rodgers started to provide information on the 3-Large Item per household pickup program. This **program is free through June 30th** for a one-time pickup per household residence. Additional pickups of large items can be scheduled and picked up for a small fee (approximately \$27.00). To schedule a pickup of **3-large items, call 408-213-7800**, or contact our service provider (California Waste Solutions) at www.calwaste.com. Staff will provide you a date for the pickup. Place them at curbside on that date, for pickup.

The two representatives from California Waste Solutions, Marissa Wong and Alejandro Barajas, continued with the presentation on other services and issues. Included in the **3-Large items** that can be set out at 6am the day of pickup are sofas, mattresses, carpet, tires, e-waste, and other miscellaneous items (ask staff when making appointment to be sure your items will qualify for pickup). **Unaccepted items** – commercial refrigerators with locking doors, construction debris, glass windows, mirrors, biohazards, hazardous and organic waste.

They also reviewed some issues of concern. Residents are calling to say that the trucks are leaving a mess behind on the str-



-eet. This is often a result of residents overfilling the collection carts. Do not overfill your carts – be sure the lid will stay closed. Place extra recyclables in clear plastic bags – so it can be seen that it is not trash/garbage. Flatten cardboard boxes so they fit in cart. Lean extra cardboard against your recycling cart.

Anything with food, is garbage. However, you do not have to "wash" cans and containers before putting in recycle container. They do appreciate, just wiping out excess from items such as peanut butter jar.

Car Oil and/or Filter – these can be disposed of, but.....**must be in a free jug (with green cap) and/or filter bag – both are provided free from California Waste Solutions** – just call above number for information on how to obtain either or both of these. (Note – several questions were asked about **Household Hazardous Waste** materials – that is a separate office/contract with the County of Santa Clara – **please note – speaker from this group will be a speaker at the April VEP meeting.**)

Residents are also provided one new garbage and one new recycle cart (if others are damaged) free per year. Again, call number listed above.

Several very helpful fliers were provided to the meeting attendees. (VEP does have a few extra copies – or call the above reference number.) Ms Rodgers thanked them for their very helpful presentation and asked that they return again next year to keep all of us and our neighbors updated.

Ms. Rodgers reminded everyone of the three functions that are scheduled for April. She apologized as VEP was not given much advance notice for two of the activities, but believed everyone would want to participate in them. On Saturday, April 2nd the City of San Jose is providing a neighborhood cleanup – or as we are fond of calling this activity – "dumpster day." All of the VEP neighborhoods should have received notification cards in the mail. If you lost yours, or mistakenly through it away, we have a couple of cards for anyone who might need them. Remember to get in line early, as typically the dumpster bin fill up early. Also refer to the card, to be sure you are going to the correct dumpster.

On Saturday, April 9th, we are pleased that a local church has volunteered to come help the VEP neighborhood in spreading fibar around the kids play area and community room at Vista Park. So please plan to come and help!

On Saturday, April 23rd, as Ms. Gonzalez has already reviewed with us – come help with litter pickup. This activity is also available for Community Service hours for High School students. Hope to see you all there.

The next VEP meeting is Tuesday, April 26th.

July 4th Fireworks & Festival at Lake Almaden Sponsors, Vendors, and Volunteers Needed!

By Marilyn Rodgers

An article about 4th of July in April??? It's hard to believe, but the 4th of July is only a little over 2 months away. Planning is underway for this very popular event sponsored by District 10. **Put it on your calendar and plan now for your family and friends to attend!**

We are currently looking for **sponsors, for vendors – businesses small or large, who would like to have a booth at this event**, and for the **many volunteers** needed to put on this “family friendly” and very fun – event!!

So if you have your own business (or work for a business) who might be interested, please contact VEP or the Office of Councilmember Khamis as soon as possible. Note: There is a discounted rate for non-profit organizations.

Volunteers: *Are you involved with a volunteer group* that might be interested in participating with this event? We are looking for individuals and/or groups – such as Girl Scouts, Church groups, High School students – especially Juniors who need Community Service Hours for graduation, and **adults** who would be interested in volunteering! (Note: There may be a perk for volunteers who volunteer for 4 hours or more for this event!!)

Volunteers are needed the evening of July 3rd, the morning, afternoon, and evening of July 4th, and the morning of July 5th. If you can volunteer, or if you have suggestions/names of individuals or groups who may be interested, please let us know. Thanks!

VEP Contact: Marilyn Rodgers

PHONE: 408-225-7553

EMAIL: MRodgersRN@aol.com

Office of District 10 Councilmember Johnny Khamis

PHONE: 408-535-4910

Crime and Safety in the VEP Neighborhoods

By Marilyn Rodgers

Home burglaries and vehicle breakins are down somewhat from last month – when VEP suffered a spike in both. This does not mean neighbors should let down their guard – continue to be aware and look out for yourself and your neighbors. Report any incidents to SJPD and to VEP.

1. Scams!! – Robo-Phone Calls and E-mails

The news media is helping to alert residents of possible scams especially those regarding the IRS. VEP residents have had these types of calls and/or e-mails for over a year, but as we have new residents moving in, they are often not aware. **Do not open these e-mails and/or click on a link. Robo calls – hang up and/or if a message is left – do not call back. And under no circumstances should you send money!!**

In addition to variations on the IRS “initiating an arrest warrant in your name” (this is SCAM); and/or “Grandmother” calls – i.e. Grandson in a foreign country in jail – needs money sent (another popular scam).

Unfortunately, neighbors have recently reported SCAMs that appear to be escalating in terms of **threatening violence**. One was that of a grandchild who had been kidnapped by the Mexican Drug Cartel in Mexico and they wanted \$15,000 sent immediately. (A scam!) Another was a threat that the resident would be killed

by a Mideast terror group if \$8,000 was not sent immediately (A scam!).

While these calls are certainly unnerving/frightening, do not ever send money!

Note: However if you, a friend, or a relative should be initially concerned that they are legitimate and it **results in you losing an amount of money** (before realizing it is a Scam), **be sure to report it!** Many people are embarrassed and don't report it when money is scammed from them. Please, always report these kinds of crimes, and encourage others to report if they ever realize they have been the victims of a scam.

Should you ever become a victim of a scam in which you lose money, please be sure contact the Santa Clara County District Attorney's office:

Deputy District Attorney Vishal Bathija

PHONE: 408-783-2970

EMAIL: vbathiji@da.sccgov.org

Thankfully, there may be help on the horizon. U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer from the State of New York is planning to initiate federal legislation to require phone companies to initiate means to stop robo calls. Currently many of these calls are generated overseas, then through multiple forwarding numbers/lines, and cannot be traced. Senator Schumer is angry as apparently the technology is available to major communication providers to be able to stop these calls, both for landlines and cellphones, but the technology has not been utilized by these companies due to the expense.

2. CHP to Initiate Immediate Tickets for Texting

Apparently the California Highway Patrol has alerted the media that they intend to immediately begin initiating tickets for drivers who are texting (or otherwise “driving while distracted”). They have been stopping drivers and giving them “warnings.” CHP says “no more warnings” – will initiate a ticket that will **cost at least \$161.00.**

3. San Jose City Council Authorizes Fines of \$500 for Illegal Fireworks (Note: All fireworks are illegal in city of San Jose.)

The San Jose City Council recently authorized fines for “first offense” setting-off of illegal fireworks. First-time offenders will earn a \$500.00 fine and the fine for each subsequent offense increases by \$300: 2nd offense = \$700, 3rd offense = \$1,000, and so on. This ordinance takes effect on May 26th. Additionally, **residents can now report their neighbors.** It is no longer a requirement that SJPD officers have to see/verify the incident. Additional categories of staff can write citations/fines, such as Code Enforcement Officers.

Watch www.sanjose.gov for more details!



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Renaming and Dedication of Highway 87 To Honor SJPD Officer Michael Johnson

By Marilyn Rodgers

On March 24th, Highway 87 was rededicated and renamed in honor of **SJPD Officer Michael Johnson**, who was killed in the line of duty exactly one year ago, on March 24, 2015. Officer Johnson was the son of VEP Vice President Katherine Decker.

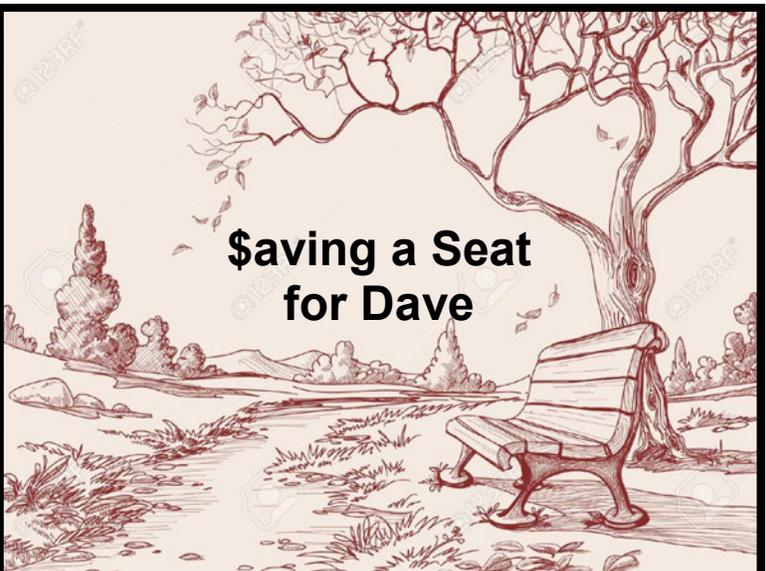
Katherine was especially pleased and appreciative of this project to honor her son, as she and Michael had enjoyed riding bicycles together on a portion of Highway 87, when the highway was first under construction. At that time Michael was a teenager.

Katherine expressed her thanks to the many people who helped make this honor a reality, including the San Jose City Council and the San Jose Police Department. However, special appreciation and thanks are reserved for Assemblymember Nora Campos, whom Katherine communicated with to see this honor become a reality. Ms. Campos worked diligently to have Hwy 87 renamed in Michael's honor. This project is somewhat unusual, in that naming state highways/freeways are generally reserved for honoring of state law enforcement officers, i.e. California Highway Patrol Officers, rather than City police officers.

The ceremony to honor Michael began late morning on March 24th at the new SJPD Police substation, on Great Oaks Blvd. in South San Jose. In addition to family members in attendance at this ceremony, several police and elected officials were also present. Those included Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, Assemblywoman Nora Campos, Mayor Sam Liccardo, and Councilmembers Johnny Khamis, Ash Kalra, and Raul Peralez. San Jose Police were represented by recently retired Chief Larry Esquivel, current Chief Eddie Garcia, several other command staff, representatives of the Police Officers Association, as well as officers and civilian employees who knew and worked with Michael. The local media was very well represented. A few close friends were also invited to participate. Representing VEP Community Association was Marilyn Rodgers, Ginger Cardona, and Adina Pierce.

Following the ceremony at the substation, a few people were invited to go by van to the site of the first of two signs to be placed along Highway 87 - close to downtown San Jose at the 280 interchange. The California Highway Patrol closed Highway 87 south, for just a few minutes, while the sign was unveiled and the media had an opportunity to take pictures. In attendance were Katherine and other family members, San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo and Assemblywoman Nora Campos.

It was a beautiful sunny day, and we agreed that Michael would have approved of this very special honor.



VEP Plans for a Memorial Bench / Plaque at Vista Park in Honor of Dave Fadness

By Marilyn Rodgers and Rachel Witmeyer

In November, VEP sponsored the 1st Annual Dave Fadness Memorial Beautification Event. Prior to that, several people had made recommendations as to ways that Dave Fadness might be honored for his volunteerism and dedication to the Community. Several of these ideas however, cannot be implemented for another 5 to 7 years, due to restrictions and/or requirements by a variety of governmental agencies.

Along with the annual Beautification event, an additional option which can be initiated immediately is a Memorial Bench and Plaque in Dave's honor. This idea, as was the annual Beautification event, has been discussed with, and approved by, the Fadness family. With research and assistance from San Jose Parks and Recreation staff, VEP is initiating this project. The cost for a memorial bench and plaque to be placed in Vista Park will be approximately between \$2,400 and \$3,000. We know that several friends of Dave's have already made donations in his honor: to VEP, to Our City Forest, and to other worthy organizations of their choice. We all appreciate that very much. However, we felt this would be one more option for people to consider and participate in, if they wish. We are hoping to have the funds collected, the bench and plaque ordered and ready for dedication as part of the 2nd Annual Dave Fadness Beautification Event in the fall of 2016.

Should you wish to participate, there are two options:

- 1.) You can send checks to VEP – Please include a note on the "memo" line that says: "Dave Fadness Memorial Bench & Plaque"
- 2.) Should you appreciate having this donation qualify as a tax deduction, that can be done through **San Jose Parks Foundation**. **GO TO:** <http://sanjoseparks.org>
 - a.) On left side of page - choose: **"Donate 3 Easy Ways"**
 - b.) Select **"Donate Directly to Programs & Services"** then scroll down to bottom of page - you will see **VEP**, however, you **cannot donate here**. Go to the right side of page...
 - c.) Select **Donate Now box** (on right side of page)
 - d.) Select **amount** to donate - and **frequency** (ie. once)
 - e.) Bottom of page - **"I want my donation to be dedicated:..."**
 - f.) Type in **"VEP - in honor of Dave Fadness"**
 - g.) Check the box on right side of page to send an acknowledgment to Organization, etc.

OUR CITY FOREST



We're Hiring!

Our City Forest is interviewing now for a full-time Program Manager as well as summer-term AmeriCorps Service Members.

Job Title: Community Forestry Program Manager

Description: The Community Forestry Program Manager oversees the development and implementation of several community tree-planting projects each week, including daily management of AmeriCorps service members. The Project Manager will correspond with City staff and the public on a regular basis, and will provide training to groups. Project manager will need to be able to engage, direct, and coach, service-members and volunteers, and serve a diverse public. While a certified arborist would be a strong candidate for this position, others who meet the required qualifications listed below are also welcome to apply.

Start Date: As early as April 12; applications taken until position is filled.

Job Title: AmeriCorps Service Team Member

Description: We are seeking about 20 enthusiastic service-oriented people wanting to be Urban Forestry or Drought Specialists. The positions are full-time (40 hrs./wk) and last for either 8-weeks or 12-weeks this summer. Service Members receive a living stipend and qualify for an education award upon completion of their term.

Start dates: June 14 (12-week commitment) OR June 28 (8-week commitment)

Interested?: Visit www.ourcityforest.org/careers to learn more about each position's qualifications and how to apply.



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WHAT A DEAL

Contact VEP Treasurer
Ginger Cardona
408-227-0222
cardona@sbcglobal.net



I Support Keeping Mom-and-Pop-owned Affordable Housing Stock in San Jose

By District 10 Councilmember Johnny Khamis



Many of you know my story; I am an immigrant. In 1976 my family left war-torn Lebanon and immigrated to San José where my mother, father, grandmother, two sisters, and I lived in a three-bedroom, low-income housing complex at Lean Avenue and Blossom Hill Road. I know how important low income housing is for struggling families.

However, what is currently being proposed to reduce costs for existing renters of privately-owned, already-rent-controlled units, will end up reducing the number of rent-controlled units from the 44,000 units that are available today. We must be careful what we wish for, because the current proposal will be a gift to big corporate developers. "Mom-and-pop" owners – people like you and me - won't be able to make a fair return on their investment. They will be forced to sell to the big corporate developers who will buy up these properties and bulldoze rent-controlled units to create new, higher-density, high-end dwellings.

Currently, any apartments built before 1979 must comply with San Jose's Apartment Rent Ordinance (ARO) which places an 8% cap on maximum annual rent increases, restricts pass-through of the costs of improvements via rental increases without City approval, and more. The Housing Department wants to cap the annual rent increases for these rent-controlled units at the change in the CPI (i.e. cost of living increase), which has averaged about 2.3% in recent years, and disallows most pass-through charges. These changes will squeeze profit margins and bring down the resale value of these mom-and-pop-owned rental units.

Only 33% of apartment rental units are subject to rent control in San Jose. It is these rental units that would be affected by changes to the ARO program. These are not the high-rent units with the huge annual rent increases that we have seen written about in the newspapers and talked about in television news reports. In fact, most of the rent-controlled units already have lower rents than the average rents in San Jose.

Let's look at the numbers: Property taxes increase about 2.0% each year, garbage rates increased 5.0% each of the past two years, sewer rates increased 16.9% in 2015, and water rates increased as much as 29.0% last year. The owner is typically responsible for these costs - not the renter. Also, maintenance costs for these older buildings subject to ARO (1979 or before - 37+ years old) require more extensive and more costly maintenance work than newer buildings.

One illustration was provided to me by a mom-and-pop owner who invested in a four-plex of two-bedroom apartments for their

retirement: They charge \$1800 per month, per apartment, for rent. After all their costs, they net about \$691 in profit at the end of the year on the entire four-plex. That equates to less than 1% of the gross revenue, and an even lower return on investment. This profit equals only two months of groceries or about twenty tanks of gas. It's not even enough money to pay their typical annual cell phone bills. Meanwhile, our own City pension funds are expected to deliver a 7% return on investment each year. Why would we want to cap our small business owners' retirement at CPI which averages around 2.3%?

Faced with even lower incomes, these small business owners may be enticed by the big money land developers who will pay to redevelop these unsubsidized rent-controlled units. This is already happening in San Francisco where strict rent controls and just cause rules are in place.

Last year alone, more than 5,000 rent controlled units were bulldozed there to make way for corporate-owned high rises. It's beginning to happen here, as well, where 200 older units on Winchester Boulevard are being demolished to make way for 600 units of market-rate housing. As a result, 200 families are now looking for new places to live.

The majority of the rent-controlled properties are mom-and-pop owned. Some are long-standing owners who invested to have a steady stream of income in their retirement or an asset to pass on to their children. Others are owned by first-generation immigrants who are trying to build the American dream, send their children to college, and put aside a little savings.

When owners spoke at the public meetings, they shared their concerns that if the ordinance is changed to allow for a lower cap, such as one based upon CPI, then they—the small business owners—will really have no other choice but to sell their properties. Under the proposed CPI-based rent increase proposal, they will quickly go from making a small profit to losing money.

At best, the staff recommendations will be a bandage for the lucky few who currently live in units subject to ARO. In the end, however, large developers will be the biggest beneficiaries and San Jose will end up with more gentrification, fewer rent-controlled units, and an even greater need for government-subsidized housing. We need to be careful what we wish for. The staff proposal will not make it better for renters, it will make it worse, as rent-controlled units disappear from the marketplace.

Decreasing the 8% cap will have unprecedented repercussions for tenants and small business owners. I encourage you to stay informed. This issue will be heard by the City Council on Tuesday, April 19th, at the 1:30 PM meeting.

I have provided the following link, so that you can review the report from City staff and other materials:
<http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?nid=4744>.



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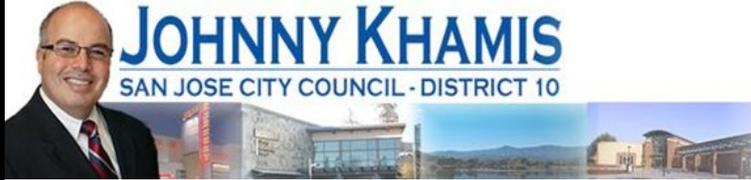
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FROM THE OFFICE OF



JOHNNY KHAMIS
SAN JOSE CITY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 10

SJPD IMPLEMENTS NEW POLICY FOR MILITARY RECRUIT CANDIDATES

I congratulate San Jose Police Department (SJPD) Chief Eddie Garcia and his team for recognizing the huge benefit a military veteran can bring to the job when they decide to pursue a law enforcement career. Effective immediately, the SJPD will allow potential recruit candidates with an honorable discharge from the United States military to substitute four years of active military service for the Department's education requirements of 40 semester college credits or 60 quarter college credits.

I am hopeful that this change in policy will encourage military veterans to consider working for one of the most professional police departments in the nation. The SJPD continues to offer myriad experiences in specialized units and a rotation system that produces well-rounded peace officers who serve their community with honor.

I encourage District 10 residents to spread the word on this change and encourage family and friends who have completed military service to consider applying to become part of the SJPD Blue.

Here is the link to their recruiting website:
<http://www.sjpd.org/JoinSJPDBlue/RecruitApplicants.html>



SAT., APRIL 23rd: GREAT AMERICAN LITTER PICK UP
In the VEP Area - VISTA PARK ~ Starting at 8:00am

Please contact our office for Pre-Registration

PHONE: 408-535-4910
EMAIL: district10@sanjoseca.gov
WEB: <http://www.sjd10.com/contact.html>

Pre-Registration is Preferred, But Not Required to Participate



Sign Up, Pick Up and Clean Up Your Community!

FROM THE OFFICE OF



DISTRICT ONE
SUPERVISOR MIKE WASSERMAN

HELP REDUCE THE MOSQUITO POPULATION

Spring is here and so is mosquito season. Keep your family safe from West Nile virus by reducing areas where mosquitoes might breed. Dump or drain any standing water weekly, use mosquito repellent, and wear protective clothing especially at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active. Help vector control keep our county healthy; report dead birds, neglected pools, and other mosquito breeding sources. You can call (408) 918-4770, or go online www.sccvector.org or download the County SCC Vector App. With the SCC Vector App you can report sources of mosquitos, upload pictures, receive fogging notifications and access vector related resources.



UPDATE: COONEY RANCH TRAIL (MARTIAL COTTLE)

The Cooney Ranch Trail which connects Martial Cottle Park to the Blossom Hill Road neighborhoods adjacent to Highway 85 will remain closed until repair work to the trail can be completed to make the trail safe to use and the area safe to enter. The time frame for completion of the repair work has not been established.

Large portions of the paved trail just north of Highway 85 and continuing to the western Chynoweth entrance require extensive repairs, and, as these portions of the trail are the subject of dispute between the County and the County's construction contractor, have not been accepted by the County. Until the trail is repaired and accepted by the County, it cannot be opened for public use.

Both the eastern Chynoweth and Snell entrances are open and accessible to the Blossom Hill Road neighborhoods. The County understands the neighborhood's frustration and is working diligently to resolve the situation and safely open the trail. We thank you for your continued patience.



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VEP Membership Drive 2016

VEP membership is based on a calendar year, January through December, so if you haven't done so already, it's time to renew your membership. Please be sure to fill in the information requested, enclose your \$20 check made payable to VEP, and mail it back to us as soon as possible--while it's still fresh in your mind. That's all there is to it!

In a very real sense, renewing VEP membership is your vote of confidence and support for the work we do as VEP volunteers. Yes, we get an occasional "thank you," but proof positive of your appreciation is your willingness to renew membership each year. We also appreciate the nice comments many of you offer along with your renewal—for that, we offer our thanks!

VEP membership is the best value you'll ever experience. Renew today and ask your neighbors to join our growing family.

New to VEP?

If you are new to VEP, you may have some questions. Here are some answers!

What is VEP Community Association?

- VEP is an all-volunteer organization of your neighbors working to improve our neighborhoods.
- VEP sponsors many projects and events that improve the safety of our neighborhoods, our quality of life, and the appearance of our community.
- VEP volunteers make our neighborhood's needs, views, and concerns known to government at all levels.
- VEP was founded in 1969. We are one of the largest, most successful, and most continuously active and enduring grass roots volunteer organizations in Santa Clara County.

Why join VEP?

- To receive our newsletter nine times a year.
- To receive monthly email alerts.
- To help keep our neighborhoods beautiful, safe, strong, and prepared.
- To participate in and support effective neighborhood activities and representation.
- To support VEP's annual *Community Service Awards* for local high school graduates.
- To be part of an outstanding volunteer community organization with 46 years of success in our neighborhoods.



Reach Thousands of Local People Through:

VEP News (in-print & digital)
VEP's Website

Contact VEP Treasurer
Ginger Cardona

408-227-0222 / cardona@sbcglobal.net

** VEP Membership Application **

- PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY -

VEP NEVER SHARES OR SELLS YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION

Last name(s): _____

First name(s): _____

Street address: _____

Telephone # _____

Email address(es): _____

Please let us know:

I prefer getting my newsletters by email.

Can you give VEP a few volunteer hours? Yes No

I am willing to volunteer for:

- Beautification/clean-up projects
- VEP News/ mailing prep.
- Large Events / Fireworks & Festival (July 4th)
- Distribute flyers to neighborhood homes
- Serve on a committee
- Serve as a VEP officer or committee chair

Other: _____

Comment(s):

Please mail this form and your \$20 check to:

VEP Community Association
P.O. Box 18111
San Jose, CA 95158

Thank You!

GARAGE SALE



Save the Date! – Saturday, May 7th VEP's Annual Community-wide Garage Sale!

By G. Cardona, H. Castillo, M. Rodgers and R. Witmeyer

Are you ready for the big garage sale? This is a great opportunity for everyone in the VEP neighborhoods to sell their stored "treasures" – and make room for some needed space in your house and/or garage.

Encourage neighbors to join in with you – and make it a really big and fun event for your street or cul-du-sac.

Remember VEP pays for the advertising – the banners and posters, advertising in both print and online. Contact VEP Newsletter Editor Rachel Witmeyer if you plan to participate and would like to have your street specifically listed on Craigslist, please e-mail just the street name to vepeditor@gmail.com.

Don't delay in your planning! Unfortunately many of our VEP residents haven't planned quickly enough in the past, and were disappointed that they missed this great opportunity to be included in a large neighborhood-wide garage sale event. Because of the publicity, this event attracts many people and encourages a lot of "traffic" coming into the VEP neighborhoods – so be sure to take advantage of it on **May 7th** – and then sit back and let the cash register ring!!

As in past years, we have arranged for a **Salvation Army donation truck** to be present and available in our neighborhood. This makes it convenient for people to donate unsold items from their garage sales and/or for those who just want to donate without participating in the garage sale. The Truck will be parked at the end of Chynoweth (down from Gunderson High School) at the intersection of Barron Park Drive – close to the Martial Cottle Park pedestrian entrance.

Please Note:

The Salvation Army Truck will only be available from NOON until 4:00pm! Plan to take advantage of this opportunity!



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VEP Ice Cream Social - Tuesday, May 31st

By Ginger Cardona, Marilyn Rodgers and Rachel Witmeyer

Please join us at the VEP Community Ice Cream Social on Tuesday, May 31st! Enjoy a complimentary treat with your family and neighbors, then stay for our May Community Meeting. We hope to see you there!



July 4th Festival & Fireworks, Lake Almaden: Calling for Volunteers to Help Make it Great!

By Rachel Witmeyer

July 4th will be here soon for all to enjoy, and the Festival & Fireworks at Lake Almaden will be one of the local, safe options for our community to attend. This festival is a combined effort of community officials and organizations from District 10, including the VEP, and is staffed by community volunteers.

All community members are invited and encouraged to participate in the festival by volunteering. There are many ways you can help-out at the event, including set-up, helping at a booth, tear-down and the "day-after" clean-up.

If you are a high school student, or you know someone who is, this is a great opportunity to earn community service hours. This event is also great for Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops to volunteer for, because it's a family affair.

If you are available to help, please contact the Office of District 10 Councilmember Johnny Khamis: 408-535-4910

July 4th Festival & Fireworks at Almaden Lake

Picture your family and friends here!



VEP Community Calendar

🌱 April / May ☀ 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
17 Blossom Hill Farmers Market Every Sunday ~ 9am - 1:30pm ~ Ohlone/Chynoweth VTA - Santa Teresa Blvd. & Hwy 85/87	18	19	20 JMMS Falcon Feeding Frenzy Bogey's Pizza & Yogurtland (Almaden Expwy)	21	22 Gunderson's Got Talent! 6-7pm @GHS BINGO NIGHT! 6-7pm @Carson	23 Great American Litter Pick-Up & VEP Spring Beautification Day  
24 \$5/Bag Book Sale ~ 1:00-5:00pm ~ @Martin Luther King, Jr. Library	25	 26 VEP Community Meeting ~ 7:30 PM ~ @Vista Park Community Room	27 Early Dismissal ~ NOON ~ @John Muir M.S.	28	29	30
1 	2	3	4 District 10 Office Hours 8:30-9:30am @Almaden Valley Community Center (6445 Camden Ave.)	5	6	7 VEP GARAGE SALE 
8 	9	10	11	12	13	14 District 10 Office Hours 10:30-11:30am @City Espresso (630 Blossom Hill Rd.)
15 	16	20 JMMS Falcon Feeding Frenzy ~ 4:00-9:00pm ~ @Aqui's (Snell Ave. & Blossom Hill)	18	19 Multimedia Festival 5-8pm @GHS Talent Show 6pm @JMMS	20	21 Book Sale \$1 hardbacks 50¢ softcovers ~ 10am-5pm ~ @MLK, Jr. Library

★ Coming Soon in the VEP Neighborhoods ★

VEP's Meetings

Tuesday, May 31st
Ice Cream Social @7:15pm



Everyone is Welcome!
 Invite a Neighbor!



Reach Thousands of
 Local People Through:
 VEP's Website & News (print & digital)

Rea\$onable Rate\$!

Contact VEP Treasurer, Ginger Cardona
 408-227-0222 / cardona@sbcglobal.net

VEP Community Events

4th of July

🎆 Festival & Fireworks 🎆

@Almaden Lake



THE VEP NEWS

VEP Community Association

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

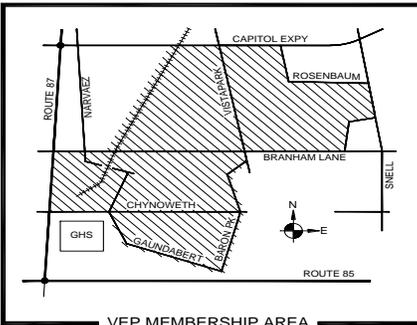
Email: vepca@vepca.net
Website: www.vepca.net

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

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Would you prefer to receive your newsletters via email?

Please, let us know at vep@vepca.net



VEP
Community Meeting
7:30 pm Tuesday,
April 26th!

Be sure to attend
VEP's Community Meeting
Tuesday, April 26th!
7:30 pm in the
Vista Park Community Room
Check our website: www.vepca.net

VEP Community Garage Sale ~ Coming May 7th!

