

VEP NEWS

• VEP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION •

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



NOVEMBER 2016

Table of Contents

November Meeting Preview	page 2
October Meeting Synopsis	page 2
Community News & Updates	page 3 - 4
Honoring Veterans in the VEP	page 5 - 6
VEP Photographs: Images of Fall	page 7 - 9
Local Officials' Columns	page 10
VEP Community Calendar	page 11

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 - *Position Open*
Director - Helen Castillo
Director - Rich Giammona

Director & VEP News Editor - Rachel Witmeyer

VEP COMMUNITY MEETING

7:30pm ~ Tuesday

▶ November 29th, 2016 ◀

Vista Park Community Room
475 Hyde Park Dr.

Everyone is welcome. Invite your neighbors!

AGENDA

★ **Santa Clara County: Overview of the County's Income, Budget & Priorities** ★

Presentation By
Mike Wasserman
Supervisor, District 1
Santa Clara County
Board of Supervisors



★ **VEP Business Meeting** ★

Announcements & Updates

Updates from Councilmember Khamis & Staff

Upcoming Events

Happy Thanksgiving!
Thursday, November 24, 2016

"Santa in the Park"
Vista Park Community Room
Sunday, November 27, 2016; 2-4pm

"Holiday Decorations Contest 2016"
VEP Neighborhoods
Beginning with the Week of December 11th
Judging: December 16th-18th, 2016

VEP's Next Meeting - Tuesday, January 31st, 2017

★ **Your Concerns and Ideas** ★

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

◆ **2016 is VEP's 47th Year!** ◆

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I WANT YOU TO



VOLUNTEER WITH VEP!

VEP Wants to Know? Can You Spare Few Hours!

VEP is seeking a few people to donate a few hours of their time each month to help with ongoing projects and to possibly help us start some new ones!

**Are you interested in Neighborhood Beautification?
Coordinating Neighborhood Events? Let us know!**

Please Email VEP President Rodgers: mrodgersrn@aol.com

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Santa in the Park

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

Don't forget! Plan to attend this fun event and have a picture taken with Santa Claus! It's such a nice way to finish up the Thanksgiving Weekend and begin thinking about the Christmas holiday season. Mark your calendar for **Sunday, Nov. 27; 2-4pm.**

This year, all of the previously included fun activities will still be provided: crafts for youngsters, a cup of hot cider for all to enjoy, and of course - the main event - Santa! Again this year we will also host a "canned food and blanket drive." This part of the program will have extended hours of 12noon to 4pm! All donations will go to local charities.

Volunteers are welcome. High School students can earn Community Service hours for graduation as well. All of these fun activities will take place at the Vista Park Community Room, 475 Hyde Park Drive; San Jose, 95136. For questions or to volunteer, please contact Helen Castillo at 408-981-5902, or by email at hcastillo@vbprop.com

New Parkview Sign Now Goes Dark At Night!

By Rachel Witmeyer

After all the construction at Parkview Elementary School over the summer, the crowning touch was added: a brand-new, high-tech LED sign! It looks great and is an additional way to keep Parkview's families informed. However, the closest neighbors on Bluefield Drive quickly realized that the sign was sending a lot of light pollution into their homes at night, as it was automatically set to run 24 hours a day.

On October 21st, I personally sent an email to Ms. Boles, Parkview's Principal, to inquire if it was possible to put the sign on a "timer," so that it would turn-off at night. Ms. Boles promptly replied the same day and contacted the OGUSD Maintenance Staff to enlist their assistance. With additional help from the company that manufactures the signs, the Parkview staff were able to set-up the timer system and "turn out the lights" promptly at 7pm on October 26th. From now on, the sign will come on at 7am, and go dark at 7pm.

We neighbors on Bluefield East would like to gratefully acknowledge Parkview's Staff, Ms. Amy Boles (Principal) and Ms. Karen Somrak-Marquez (Secretary), as well as OGUSD's Construction Coordinator, Mr. Michael Thomas, for both their quick responses and action on this matter and their willingness to work with the neighborhood to find common solutions. Great work, Parkview! We truly appreciate it!



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Honoring Our Neighbors Who Are Veterans

By Marilyn Rodgers

Even though Veteran's Day was November 11th (as this newsletter was being written), please join us in honoring our neighbors who are Veterans!

The VEP Board of Directors would sincerely like to honor all the Veterans in our community. If you are a Veteran, have a Veteran in your family, or know a neighbor who served, and you don't see their name in our list, please contact Marilyn Rodgers at mroddersm@aol.com

Please include the following information in your message:

1. Veteran's name
2. Military Branch(es) Served-In
3. Years of Service
4. Major Conflicts or Additional Details



* U.S. AIR FORCE *

Don Ferguson

U.S. Air Force – Vietnam – 1963-1967

Linda Ferguson

U.S. Air Force – 1963-1965 Vietnam (Nurse)

Tony Fischer

U.S. Air Force – 1962-1966 – Cold War
Stationed at Almaden Air Force Station
Mt. Umunhum

Arthur (Bud) Sliger

U.S. Air Force - 1962-1966
Vietnam War

Jerry Ryan

U.S. Air Force, 1947-1967

David J. Sharkey, Sr.

U.S. Air Force, 1966-1986

* U.S. ARMY *

Bob Shoberg

U.S. Army – 1963-1966

Craig Ash

U.S. Army - Vietnam era

Gary Johnson

U.S. Army, 1964-1966

Mario Zapata

U.S. Army, 1965-1967

Micheal (Mike) Reppas

U.S. Army – Vietnam

Dave Pfaff

U.S. Army, 1967-1990 - Vietnam

Omar Villa

U.S. Army, 2013-2016

John Poffenroth

U.S. Army, 1966-1968 Vietnam





*** U.S. MARINE CORPS ***

Bob Olsen

U.S. Marine Corps – 1969-1975

Quan Nguyen

U.S. Marine Corps – 1990-2004
Operation Enduring Freedom
Operation Iraqi Freedom

Ron Stuart

U.S. Marine Corps, 1966-1970
Vietnam

*** U.S. NAVY ***

Pat Hanna

U.S. Navy – Security Group – Vietnam War
1969-1976

Dave Rodarte

U.S. Navy, 1966-1968
Vietnam

Gary Bloomfield

U.S. Navy, 1966-1970

Mike O’Connell

U.S. Navy, Desert Storm

Frank Kistler

U.S. Navy - 1948-1952
Berlin Airlift & Korean War

Gerald (Jerry) Bradley

U.S. Navy - 1956-1980

*** NATIONAL GUARD ***

Stuart Scott

Ca. Army National Guard – 1964-1970

*** RESERVES ***

Jeff Poffenroth

Ca. State Military Reserve, 2012 – Current

David Heinrichsen

U.S. Army Reserve, 1969-1975

*** FOREIGN SERVICE ***

Ian Sharkey

British Army, 1987-1995
Gulf War

*** MULTIPLE BRANCHES ***

Rey L. Call

U.S. Navy – World War II – July 1942-Sept 1945
Army National Guard (Lt.) – June 1950-July 1952

George L. Prior

U.S. Navy – Pacific Theatre, WWII – 1944-1947
U.S. Army – 1949-1951

Don R. Rodgers, Jr.

U.S. Navy/Marines, 1965-1969 Vietnam





2nd Annual Dave Fadness Memorial Beautification Day

By M. Rodgers and R. Witmeyer

On a beautiful Saturday morning in November, VEP sponsored the **2nd Annual Dave Fadness Memorial Beautification Day**, in honor of long-time community leader and consummate volunteer, Dave Fadness. As Mrs. Aiko Fadness stated, it was a “perfect day” for volunteering and Dave made sure we all had a beautiful November Saturday morning to come together in volunteering for our community!

A group of approximately 60 volunteers met just before 9am at Vista Park to sign-in, have snacks, and network with others who came to help honor Dave, and to take part in an activity very “near and dear” to Dave’s heart: “volunteering” to care for and improve Vista Park, one of San Jose’s special city/neighborhood parks.

Of course, a very serious and important activity prior to starting the real work was taking lots of pictures! **(Be sure to see our photos on pages 8 and 9 of this newsletter.)**

Special thanks to **Mollie Tobias, San Jose Parks Program Manager and Volunteer Coordinator and her team**, as well as the **San Jose Parks Staff** for arranging for a VERY Large Load of new fibar (which was to be moved from the parking lot to the children’s play areas). Also, previously arranged for by Parks Staff, was a tree and several plants which would be planted in the front of the Vista Park Community Room (replacements for those that had died). Other activities included painting selected items in the Park, as well as general cleanup, and of course - litter pickup. (By the way... Did anyone count how many wheelbarrow-loads it took to move that entire mountain of fibar over to the children’s playgrounds?!?! Wow!!)

Special guests included **Mrs. Aiko Fadness, VEP resident** and widow of Dave Fadness, **District 10 Councilmember Johnny Khamis**, and **Rich Crowley of the District 10 Leadership Coalition**. All three “dignitaries” pitched-in and participated as very active volunteers, along side our numerous other hard working volunteers. Many long time friends and VEP members donated their time and energy. Additionally, we were very fortunate to have many young “volunteers” from outside our immediate community who had “volunteered” online to participate and receive Community Service Hours toward high school graduation credit.

Volunteers at Vista Park:

- **VEP Board members** Marilyn Rodgers, Katherine Decker, Rachel Witmeyer, and Ginger Cardona. Board member Helen Castillo assisted with water, coffee, and supplies; Rachel Witmeyer provided water; In addition, long-time VEP member, Josie Supencheck, provided yummy breakfast snacks.

- **VEP members who helped move fibar, plant plants, and other activities included:** Bob Aquino (who also brought his grandchildren to volunteer), Bob Shoberg, Joyce Chesnos, Marianne Damon, Debbie & Gabi Danitz, Chris & Andy Gray, Rafael & Isabella Salcedo, Rob Giannoccaro, and Ricky & Chris Bang.

- Long-time friends of Dave, and members of the volunteer-based “D10 Leadership Coalition” Rich Crowley and Bob Strain.

Volunteers in the Chynoweth Area:

- In addition to all of the fabulous work accomplished at Vista Park, a few very dedicated volunteers took on the awesome task of working along Chynoweth; from Gunderson High School to and past, Pearl Ave. Long time volunteer in the VEP area and “super” litter picker-upper, **Josie Supencheck, and her grandson, Dyl-**

an, picked-up several bags of litter, as well as completing pruning, raking, and the sweeping of street gutters! It was very obvious that they had done this before! Thank you, both!

- Of special note was a group of volunteers from our neighbors in the **Erikson Neighborhood Association**: Past President of VEP and current President of ENA, Dave Noel, and ENA members, the Olsens. With some assistance from 3 high school students, these friends transformed a portion of Chynoweth by pruning bushes and trees, cleaning up weeds and brush, then organizing it all into several piles. They also filled several bags of litter! Wow! (*You all can come and volunteer with us anytime! Thank you!*)

- Thanks are also due to the **San Jose Department of Transportation staff under the supervision of Max Rodriquez** for miraculously having all of the accumulated vegetation picked up early Monday morning! Thanks so much for your assistance!

A Job Well Done!

Everyone who knew Dave knows that he would certainly have been pleased with all that was accomplished! Thanks again everyone, and we’ll see you again *next year!*

6th Annual VEP Holiday Decorations Contest

By Marilyn Rodgers and Katherine Decker

Do you and/or your neighbors really enjoy decorating the exterior of your houses and/or yards 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 – Vistapark, Carson, and Parkview. Decorations will be judged over the weekend of December 16th through 18th.

Categories: 1) Spectacular (this one puts everyone in awe), 2) Religious theme, 3) Fantasy theme, and 4) Best use of Animation and/or Inflatables. The Grand Prize Winner wins a year of membership, as well as a yard sign and a gift certificate! The 3 Runners-Up win membership in VEP Community Association for 2017 (\$20.00 value each), and bragging rights of course!

In addition to the winners, there a 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 VEP Board of Directors functions as the judges for the contest. However, member and resident participation is greatly encouraged. Help-out by notifying the Board of houses/yards to consider (Please see the contact list on the outer cover of the newsletter.). Nominate your house/yard, and/or nominate a neighbor for consideration! After the judging is completed, a VEP e-mail alert will be sent to announce the winners, so that your family can drive (or walk) around the VEP neighborhoods to view the most spectacular decorations our neighbors put up for all to enjoy!

Leigh Moore GEN LIC 606322

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Santa is Coming!

...to the Vista Park Community Room
475 Hyde Park Drive

Sunday, November 27th

Santa Hours: 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Food & Blanket Drive Hours: Noon to 4:00pm

Bring the kids or the whole family for a free photo with Santa!
A VEP Photographer will be on-duty, or bring your own camera.

Fun for the whole family!

*** Crafts! * Refreshments * Food & Blanket Drive! ***

Join your neighbors for this VEP neighborhood tradition!

We are Collecting Canned Food and Non-Perishable Food Items,
as well as New or Gently-Used, Clean Blankets & Sleeping Bags.
~ No Glass Please - Thank You! ~

Event Hosted by VEP Board Member, Helen Castillo.
For questions, please call Mrs. Castillo at 408-981-5902



2nd Annual Dave Fadness Memorial Beautification Day ~ Nov. 12th, 2016; Vista Park



** Thank You to the City of San Jose Parks Department and to All our Wonderful Volunteers **



Below: Mollie Tobias (S.J. Parks Program Manager & Volunteer Coordinator) with Katherine Decker (VEP Vice President)





Local Leaders At Work, Too! (Rich Crowley & Johnny Khamis)



Katherine Decker (VEP Vice President), Johnny Khamis (D10 Councilmember), Marilyn Rodgers (VEP President), Rich Crowley (D10 Leadership Coalition), Mrs. Aiko Fadness (VEP Member), Ginger Cardona (VEP Treasurer)



A Very "VEP" Affair! Below (Left to Right): Marianne Damon & Josie Supencheck (VEP Members), Marilyn Rodgers (VEP President), Ginger Cardona (VEP Treasurer), Mrs. Aiko Fadness, Rachel Witmeyer (VEP Editor & Board Member), Dave Noel (ENA President), Bob Strain (D10 Leadership Coalition)



Photos: Katherine Decker and Rachel Witmeyer

FROM THE OFFICE OF



The San Jose Police Department, with the support of our office, other local government offices, and nonprofit organizations, will be offering an opportunity for anyone who would like to legally dispose of unwanted guns at the 2016 San Jose Gun Buyback event. The Gun Buy Back event allows individuals who would like to voluntarily turn in a fully functional gun to do so. \$100 gift cards will be traded for handguns, rifles, and shotguns while \$200 gift cards will be traded for assault weapons. More importantly, this event will allow people to remain anonymous when trading in their guns.

The San Jose Police Department requests that everyone transport their weapons unloaded in the trunks of their cars and that all guns remain unloaded. Walking up to the trading station will **NOT** be allowed. This event will run from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 3rd, 2016 at the San Jose Police Department Substation at 6087 Great Oaks Parkway in San Jose. Remember, drive safely and follow the officers' instructions upon entering the drop-off site.

For more information, or to make a donation to support the event, please visit www.sanjosepolicefoundation.org or contact my office at (408) 299-5010.

SAN JOSE GUN BUYBACK



Turn in your gun and receive a gift card up to \$200.
Choose to remain anonymous. No questions asked.



\$100
GIFT CARD
For handguns, rifles, and shotguns

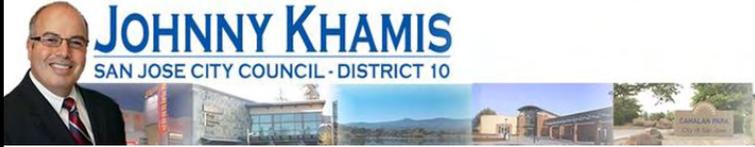
\$200
GIFT CARD
For assault weapons

Saturday, December 3rd, 2016, 9am-1pm
San Jose Police Department Training Substation
6087 Great Oaks Parkway, San Jose

Transport unloaded weapons in trunk of car. No ammunition in gun allowed. NO walk-ups allowed. Funds are limited. We reserve the right to limit cards given to an individual, regardless of the number of weapons surrendered. Weapons must be functional. For more information contact: Mindy Nguyen at mindy.nguyen@sanjoseca.gov or call 408-535-4902.



FROM THE OFFICE OF



San Jose Clean Energy Update

On Friday October 28, 2016 the San Jose City Council held a Study Session to better understand if Community Choice Aggregation (CCA), also known as Community Choice Energy (CCE), makes sense for our City.

CCA is an energy procurement model that allows local governments to pool or aggregate the electric load of their residents, businesses, and institutions to purchase electricity on their behalf. The CCA program is able to determine the source of electricity and sets the customer rates, while the existing investor-owned utility (PG&E) continues to provide transmission, distribution, and electricity billing. CCAs will often offer various energy choices, including a green energy option, where consumers could pay a premium to obtain energy produced from 100% renewable sources. San Jose residents and entities would have the option to join the CCA or to continue with their current energy provider.



You can read Environmental Services Department's (ESD) full memo on how CCA could potentially work in the City of San Jose: http://sanjose.granicus.com/MetaViewer.phpview_id=&event_id=2290&meta_id=598249

Supplemental Memo: http://sanjose.granicus.com/MetaViewer.phpview_id=&event_id=2290&meta_id=598249

You can also view the study session PowerPoint Presentation: <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/62048>

We are currently in Phase 1 (Fall/Winter 2016) of San Jose Clean Energy Timeline which includes outreach, the Council Study Session, and development of the business plan. ESD's goal is to bring their full recommendation on whether to proceed to further phases and, if so, what operational model should be used, by early 2017.

As our City continues to consider this alternative line of business, I want to make sure that we fully understand the costs and benefits of moving forward. Before I vote to approve any CCA model, I will need to have a high level of confidence that any CCA model that we might pursue will offer rates that are competitive, if not cheaper, than those currently offered by PG&E. ESD will continue to research the feasibility of offering this to our residents and the Council will discuss CCA in early 2017.



VEP Community Calendar



November / December



2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
20	21	22	23	24 <i>Happy Thanksgiving</i> 	25 SJUSD SCHOOLS CLOSED	26
OGUSD Schools on Break No School This Week!						
27 VEP's SANTA IN THE PARK <i>(See p.5 for Info.)</i>	28	29 VEP Community Meeting & ~ 7:30 PM ~ @Vista Park Community Room	30	1	2	3 San Jose Gun Buyback <i>(See p.10 for Info.)</i>
4	5	6 HOLIDAY BOOK SALE! ~ 10am - 7pm ~ Vineland Branch Library	7 District 10 Office Hours 8:30-9:30am @Almaden Valley Community Center (6445 Camden Ave.)	8	9	10 District 10 Office Hours 10:30-11:30am @Hub's Coffee (630 Blossom Hill Rd.)
11	12	13	14	15	16th - 18th VEP Community Association Christmas Decorations Contest	17 Santa Visits The Library ~ 2:30-5:00pm ~ Edenvale Library
* Nov. 25th through Jan. 1st *				22	23	HAPPY KWANZCHRISTMAKKAH
 NOV. 16 - JAN. 16 CIRCLE OF PALMS DOWNTOWN SAN JOSE				 a San Jose' Community Tradition		

★ Coming Soon in the VEP Neighborhoods ★

VEP's Meetings

DECEMBER
No Meeting

JANUARY
Tuesday, January 31st

FEBRUARY
Tuesday, February 28th

Everyone is Welcome! Invite a Neighbor!



Reach Thousands of
Local People Through:

VEP's Website & News (print & digital)

Reasonable Rates!

Contact the "VEP News" Editor
vepeditor@gmail.com

VEP Community Events

Santa In the Park (Vista Park)
Sunday, November 27th

Holiday Decorations Contest
Judging: December 16th-18th, 2016

Community-Wide Garage Sale
First Saturday in May! (May 6th)



THE VEP NEWS

A Publication of

VEP Community Association

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

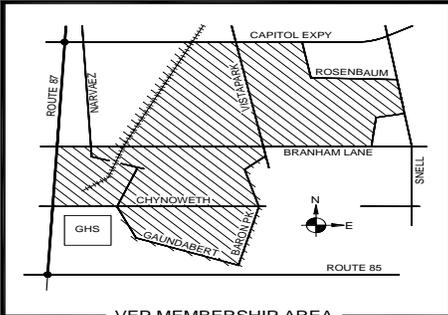
Email: vepca@vepca.net
Website: www.vepca.net

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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VEP MEMBERSHIP AREA

Would you prefer to receive your newsletters via email?

Please, let us know at vep@vepca.net



VEP
Community Meeting
Tues., Nov. 29th
7:30pm

Check our website: www.vepca.net

Community Room
in the Vista Park



Tuesday, November 29th @ 7:30pm

Be sure to attend VEP's
Community Meeting!

