

VEP NEWS

• VEP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION •

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

And Spring arose on the garden fair,
Like the Spirit of Love felt everywhere;
And each flower and herb on Earth's dark breast
rose from the dreams of its wintry rest.
- Percy Bysshe Shelley

MARCH 2017

Table of Contents

March Meeting Preview	page 2
February Meeting Synopsis	page 2
Community News & Updates	page 3-4
Feature: Dave Fadness' Bench	page 5-9
Guest Columns: Local Officials	page 10
VEP Membership Drive 2017	page 11
Community Events & Calendar	page 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 18037; 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
▶ March 28th, 2017 ◀

Vista Park Community Room
475 Hyde Park Dr.

Everyone is welcome. Invite your neighbors!

AGENDA

★ San Jose Development ★

Presentation by

Nancy Klein, Director of Real Estate
Assistant Director, Office of Economic Development
City of San Jose

★ Caring for Our Pets ★

"During Times of Special Circumstances"

Presentation by

Staff, San Jose Animal Care Center

★ VEP Business Meeting ★

Updates from Councilmember Khamis & Staff

Upcoming Events and Announcements

Annual Great American Litter Pickup
Saturday, April 22nd

VEP Annual Neighborhood-Wide
Garage Sale, Saturday, May 6th, 2017

Annual VEP Membership Drive Continues

VEP's Next Meeting - Tuesday, April 25th, 2017

★ Your Concerns and Ideas ★

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

◆ **2017 is VEP's 48th Year!** ◆

VEP's March Meeting Preview

By Marilyn Rodgers

► **Featured Presentations:** Nancy Klein, Director of Real Estate and Asst. Director, Office of Economic Development for the City of San Jose will provide information how real estate development (housing and business) add to the economic engine of San Jose. The second presentation will be provided by the Staff of the San Jose Animal Care Center on how to care for our pets during times of emergencies or other unusual times in our lives.

► **VEP Business Meeting / Updates/Announcements.** Several updates and announcements will be given, as well as information provided by District 10 Councilmember, Johnny Khamis and/or Staff. (See Agenda on Page 1.)

► 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 **Tuesday, March 28th!**

Febuary Meeting Synopsis

By Marilyn Rodgers

President Rodgers called the meeting to order. Everyone had been enjoying networking with old friends and meeting several new neighbors who were attending the VEP meeting for the first time. Additionally, it was enjoyable for many long time VEP members to greet and chat with several acquaintances who were attending as part of the group, Citizens for Fiscal Responsibility – a group Dave Fadness helped to co-found several years ago, and who were scheduled to honor the memory of Dave with a presentation of a plaque and picture. President Rodgers started the meeting by introducing VEP Vice President Katherine Decker and VEP Board Member Rich Giammona, as well as several Past Presidents in attendance: Bob Aquino, Stephen Kinsey, Greg West and Dave Noel.

After a few brief remarks about the event to Dedicate the Memorial Bench for Dave, held on Saturday, February 18th, she then introduced both Dora Gonzalez, District 10 Council Assistant, and Councilmember Johnny Khamis, who had just arrived. Johnny warned everyone that he was ill, but did want to attend our VEP meeting (as he usually does) to especially help honor Dave, and he did have a few announcements. He provided a flyer for attendees, announcing that the Annual Great American Litter Pickup was scheduled for Saturday, April 22nd, beginning at 8:30am. One of the gathering sites for sign-in and snacks would once again be at Vista Park. He also provided brief information on the recent series of storms - both wind and rain - the damage incurred, and of course some brief information on the San Jose Coyote Creek Flood. He also briefly spoke about the impact on San Jose residents who were flood victims, and the opportunity and need for volunteers. As he was having some difficulty speaking (due to cough), his remarks were brief.

Ms. Rodgers then invited Rich Crowley, President of CFR (Citizens for Fiscal Responsibility) to the front of the room. Marilyn mentioned that Rich was also a member of the District 10 Leadership Coalition (all volunteer leaders), and that Rich very nicely "puts up with VEP members" of that group – Marilyn Rodgers, Katherine Decker, and Rich Giammona. Mr. Crowley took the



opportunity to talk about how he had met Dave; Dave's influence on him, and, like several others in the room, appreciated Dave's mentorship. He then introduced Pat Waite, who would present the plaque from the CFR group. Ms. Rodgers asked all of the CFR members to stand for a moment and be recognized. President Rodgers asked Aiko Fadnes to come up to the front of the room with she and Mr. Waite, while he presented/read the plaque. (Note: Please, see article with pictures, and actual inscription on the plaque, on Page 4.) Ms. Rodgers thanked both Mr. Waite and the CFR group for their wonderful gift to honor Dave. A couple of pictures were quickly taken. She informed everyone in attendance that the plaques would be placed in one of the VEP cabinets in the back of the room, some time in the near future (but not that night). Anyone who wanted to see the plaque and picture and/or take pictures were welcome to do so, at the end of the meeting.

President Rodgers then explained that the next scheduled speaker, SJPD Captain Fong, was unfortunately unable to attend, due to his responsibilities in assisting in the San Jose Command Center site for Office of Emergency Services in



overseeing assistance to flood victims. She was pleased to welcome, one more time, Lieutenant Storlie. Ms. Rodgers had sent information to him regarding some recent incidents in the neighborhoods so that Lt. Storlie could provide additional information as well as advising neighbors on how to protect themselves. Additionally, she had provided brief information to Lt. Storlie on the previous efforts of VEP to provide information to neighbors about a wide variety of options which could/should be taken to protect themselves and their neighbors. Once again, several neighbors who own older models of Hondas (and Toyotas) have had their vehicles broken into and/or stolen. Lt. Storlie stated that one option to consider buying is a tool that blocks/locks the steering wheel, thus the car cannot be driven and will not be stolen. Another issue was a house that was for sale, with no one currently living in it, and of course had a "For Sale Sign" in front yard. The house (located close to Vista Park) was broken into and vandalized by a large group of (estimated at 75) young people. Alert neighbors called SJPD who quickly responded with several squad cars arriving with lights and sirens. Lt. Storlie praised neighbors for their quick action, and strongly encouraged neighbors to continuing being alert to these type of incidents, and to not hesitate in quickly reporting them to SJPD. Attendees really appreciated all of the information Lt Storlie provided. Ms. Rodgers also strongly encouraged anyone who had not had a Crime Prevention Specialist come and do a Crime Prevention /Neighborhood Watch presentation for them, to do so! She also stated that VEP would assist in providing a meeting place for anyone who wanted to help host a Neighborhood Watch presentation for their street or area.

President Rodgers thanked everyone for coming.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: VEP's New Post Office Box Number Was Incorrectly Listed

By Marilyn Rodgers

Please Note:

In the January VEP Newsletter, the new VEP P.O. Box Number listed was incorrect. The numbers were inadvertently transposed.

The Correct Number is: P.O Box 18037

My sincere apologies for any confusion and/or inconvenience to our members.

San Jose Neighborhoods Commission Update

By Rich Giammona

My name is Rich Giammona. In 2014, I was appointed to be one of two City of San Jose Neighborhood Commissioners for District 10. In 2016, I was elected by community leaders to serve a four-year term.

At the March 8th Neighborhoods Commission meeting, many items were discussed. One item which I would like to bring to your attention is CA AB 342. The coauthors of the bill are California Senator Scott Wiener, California Assembly Member David Chiu and California Senator Jim Beall. This program will be implemented in San Jose and San Francisco. This is an automated speed enforcement (ASE) bill. An ASE system will be installed on certain streets throughout the city. The enforcement program will be a five year pilot program. If a resident is caught speeding by the system, a \$100 fine will be given.

If you would like further information regarding the bill, I encourage you to look at the bill online:

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB342



Save the Date! – Saturday, May 6th 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!

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 6th – and then sit back and let the cash register ring!!

VEP is currently working to coordinate with the Salvation Army to provide a pick-up location on May 6th, so that neighbors can donate whatever they cannot sell. Please watch for updates in the April edition of the VEP News, as well as in VEP Email Alerts.

A message from the VTA:

VTA Seeking Applicants for its 2016 Measure B Citizens' Oversight Committee

VTA is beginning the public process of recruiting applicants for its 2016 Measure B Citizens' Oversight Committee. VTA is actively seeking individuals who bring important relevant experience to the 8-member committee.

In November 2016, Santa Clara County voters overwhelmingly approved Measure B that enacted a thirty year ½ cent sales tax for transit and transportation improvements. The ballot measure specified that the revenues and expenditures would be reviewed by an independent citizens' oversight committee appointed by VTA.

To be eligible for the 2016 Measure B Citizens' Oversight Committee, members must be citizens of Santa Clara County and eligible to vote. The committee should include members with the following experience:

- A retired federal or state judge or administrative law judge or an individual with experience as a mediator or arbitrator.
- A professional from the field of municipal/public finance with a minimum of four years relevant experience.
- A professional with a minimum of four years of experience in management and administration of financial policies, performance measurement and reviews.
- A professional with demonstrated experience of four years or more in the management of large scale construction projects.
- A regional community organization representative with at least one year of decision making experience.
- A regional business organization representative with at least one year of decision making experience.
- A professional with four years of experience in organized labor.
- A professional with a minimum of four years of experience in educational administration at the high school or college level.

Membership will be limited to two consecutive terms only. For additional details about the application process and requirements, please visit <http://www.vta.org/measure-b-2016>.

The applicant submission deadline is Friday, April 21, 2017. Those interested in applying can do so online at, <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2016MeasureBApplication>. Hard copies of the application are available by requests only.

VTA will be reviewing applicant submissions throughout May and a staff recommendation will be made to the VTA Board of Directors in June. The first meeting of the 2016 Measure B Citizens' Oversight Committee is scheduled in September.



“Citizens for Fiscal Responsibility” Honor Dave Fadness with Plaque at VEP’s Meeting

*By Marilyn Rodgers and Rachel Witmeyer
Photographs by Katherine Decker*

At VEP’s February Community Meeting, a group of volunteer members of the “Citizens for Fiscal Responsibility” made a special presentation to honor Dave Fadness. Dave Fadness was a co-founder of “Citizens for Fiscal Responsibility.” This group believes in the importance of interacting with elected officials: to encourage them, to educate them by providing information, and in holding them accountable for how taxpayers’ dollars are spent.

Ms. Rodgers began the presentation by announcing the CFR group, and asking all the members who were present to stand and be publicly acknowledged by the rest of the audience. Next, she invited Rich Crowley, President of the “Citizens for Fiscal Responsibility” to the front of the room. Ms. Rodgers mentioned that Rich is also a member of the District 10 Leadership Coalition (all volunteer leaders), and that he seems to enjoy having multiple opportunities to interact with, and also very nicely “puts up with,” VEP members who also are members of the Coalition: Marilyn Rodgers, Katherine Decker, and Rich Giammona.



Rich Crowley

Mr. Crowley first spent a few minutes talking about Dave: how he had met Dave, his influence on him, and, like many others in the room, how much he appreciated Dave’s mentorship. He then introduced Pat Waite, who would be present the plaque. President Rodgers asked Aiko Fadness to come up to the front of the room to join her and Mr. Waite for the presentation of the plaque.



ABOVE: Mrs. Aiko Fadness, Pat Waite of CFR, and Marilyn Rodgers

The inscription on the honorary plaque reads as follows:

***Citizens for Fiscal Responsibility
Remembers
David Fadness
The consummate volunteer
who unselfishly donated his
time and talents for the
betterment of the community.
As a taxpayer advocate and
a founder of Citizens for
Fiscal Responsibility, he
tirelessly worked with San Jose
leaders to identify the most
cost-effective methods to
deliver core services
for the residents of the city.***

Ms. Rodgers thanked both Mr. Waite and the CFR group for their wonderful gifts to honor Dave. CFR provided both the honorary plaque with the inscription, as well as another, smaller plaque which includes a picture of Dave. Both items are being placed in the glass VEP display-case in the Vista Park Community Room.



Roberto Ruiz

Intero Broker Associate
BRE Lic. #01270734

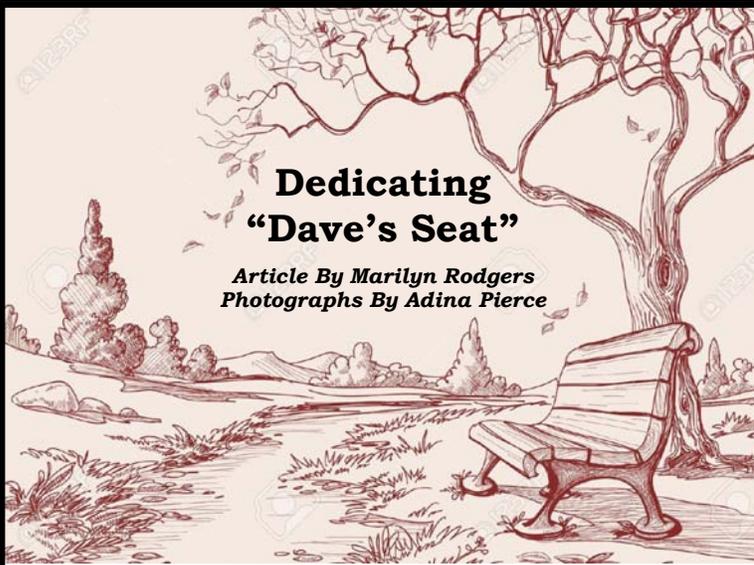
- VEP Member
- Marine Corps Veteran

5580 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118
Cell: 408-234-7249
www.RobertoRuiz.info
Ruiz@interorealestate.com



Dedicating "Dave's Seat"

Article By Marilyn Rodgers
Photographs By Adina Pierce



The dedication event for the Dave Fadness Memorial Bench and Plaque took place on the morning of Saturday, February 18th. This event to honor Dave had long been anticipated. Vista Park was groomed and looked almost new, thanks to the special care and diligence of the San Jose Parks maintenance staff, under the direction of Paul Formico, Supervising Parks Manager. Of special note: new wood chips had been placed in the areas immediately surrounding the Vista Park Community Room, the "Dave & Aiko Fadness 50th Anniversary Tree," and the area where the Memorial Bench was placed.

Below: The bench delivery and installation were fortuitously captured by VEP Board Member Adina Pierce!



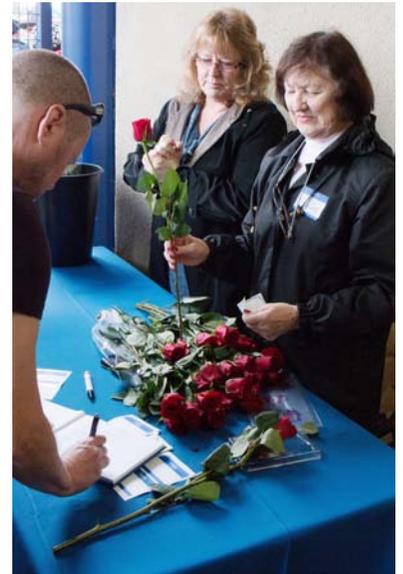
The Bench, which had been previously covered, was unveiled just as guests were starting to arrive for the event. Thanks are due also to Michele Dexter, D10 Council Assistant in Councilmember Khamis' office, who facilitated the Community Room floor receiving an unscheduled cleaning and waxing, which added to all attendees' enjoyment during the "after dedication" luncheon.

The week prior to the dedication had been eventful due to both rain and wind storms. Everyone was appreciative that while the temperature was cool and skies partially overcast, the weather was certainly tolerable. VEP President Marilyn Rodgers had been concerned about the status of the weather, as Aiko Fadness had planned for the dedication to take place outside – with everyone standing surrounding the bench. Following last minute requests

from Ms. Rodgers, Councilmember Johnny Khamis and staff – Shane Connelly and Dora Gonzalez - brought canopies to the event, as did friend and Past President of VEP, Dave Noel. The canopies were placed to provide cover for guests around the Memorial Bench. Several guests jokingly made comments that "Dave must have been looking out for the comfort of the guests, as he obviously had "arranged" to have a respite from the bad weather, allowing us all to enjoy the event!

Aiko Fadness, and son Matthew, were very gracious hosts. Aiko had previously enlisted the assistance of James Reber, Executive Director, San Jose Parks Foundation in the planning of the formal portion of the dedication event. Additionally, Mr. Reber functioned as Master of Ceremonies for the dedication.

As guests arrived at the Community Room, they were greeted by VEP Board Members and close friends of the Fadnesses, Ginger Cardona and Josie Supencheck. Each guest was asked to sign a Guest Book, make out a name tag, and take a long-stem red rose. The roses would be placed in vases, on and around the bench, at the close of the dedication.



Several people had been invited to speak briefly at the dedication, with the plan being that Mr. Reber would call on them one at a time to speak. As sometimes happens at events, even with good advance-planning, additional special guests often arrive, with the need for planning to quickly change to accommodate. The total number of speakers grew to nine!

The first speaker was Marla Lenz, close friend of the Fadnesses. Aiko Fadness, in planning the dedication ceremony wanted to share with guests the history of how the idea of a bench and plaque came into being. Ms. Lenz, and a group of friends, had previously initiated a plan for the planting of a Tree in Vista Park. This was to honor both Dave and Aiko Fadness on the celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary. That tree was eventually planted on the west side of the Vista Park Community Room during the 1st Annual Dave Fadness Memorial Beautification Day in November of 2015. In addition to the tree, the group had intended to have a "plaque" for the tree. They subsequently learned that plaques for trees in parks were not allowed. Understandably disappointed, they were eager to find another way to have a plaque that would honor Dave.



James Reber

Continues on Page 6

The second speaker was VEP Board Member Ginger Cardona, who continued with the story. (Note: Ginger is a VEP Board Member and has a "family connection" to Ms. Lenz, who is the godmother of Ginger's husband, Alan). Ginger had been a very active VEP



volunteer and close friend of Dave's for many years. Like many others, she wanted to find ways to honor Dave's memory and legacy of volunteerism in our community.

Ginger learned of the concern and disappointment about the "no plaque" policy for the "Anniversary Tree." She took the issue to the other members of the VEP Board of Directors, for suggestions of possible alternatives.

(Note: A Little History: The year before, shortly after Dave's passing in September 2015, the VEP Board of Directors wanted to initiate honors for Dave and his many volunteer contributions to our community. Suggestions from the community were requested and several were provided. However, while many of the suggestions were noteworthy, the Board quickly learned that the City of San Jose, as well as many other public/governmental agencies have policies in place that do not allow for the naming of parks, buildings, and/or roads of individuals until at least 5 years have past following their deaths. As a result, the VEP Board decided to move forward with those activities which would not be affected and/or limited by the policies. The first event undertaken had the whole-hearted support and approval of the Fadness family, as it was something that Dave especially would have wanted to take place: a way for friends to "volunteer their time and talents" back to the community. That event was dubbed the "1st Annual Dave Fadness Memorial Beautification Day," which was held in November 2015. Mrs. Cardona brought the concern regarding the policy of 'no plaques for trees' to the VEP Board of Directors, who were still searching for additional ways to honor Dave in a timely fashion.)

In the course of this new discussion, the fact was brought up that other VEP Board Members and Community members were initiating plans, for a "Memorial Bench and Plaque" for one of their own loved ones. Naturally, the Board Members quickly realized that this was a great idea for honoring Dave and for finally getting the honorary plaque that the community wanted.

The third speaker, Marilyn Rodgers, President of VEP was introduced by Mr. Reber. She commented (humorously) that while Ginger had more than graciously and adequately covered the important components of the story about the evolution of initiating the project for a Memorial Bench and Plaque, that for those who knew her, and knew how she liked to talk, this would not preclude her from doing so. Ms. Rodgers began by explaining that VEP initiated the project to plan for and raise the necessary funds for a Memorial Bench and Plaque to honor the memory, and contributions that Dave had made, not only to the VEP Community, but also to the many years of dedicated volunteerism to task forces and commissions for both the City of San Jose and County of Santa Clara as well. The VEP Board embraced the idea of a Memorial Bench as one that could also be accomplished in a relatively short period of time.

Ms. Rodgers went on to briefly describe how much Dave Fadness meant to her personally as a friend, and as a mentor. Even though she have been a very active volunteer in organizations at both the state and national level, she felt Dave helped her reach new goals at the community or local level, as he did with mentor-

ing several others in the community. She continues to be in awe of Dave in terms of both the amount of hours he volunteered on a monthly basis, as well as his long time leadership. That leadership was not only in this community, but for the City of San Jose and County of Santa Clara. Ms. Rodgers briefly talked about the history of Vista Park, and stated that Dave Noel would provide additional information. Ms. Rodgers also wanted to acknowledge and introduce a dear friend of Dave's, and one who shared Dave's commitment to Parks – Mr. William Cilker. She thanked Mr. Cilker (who just turned 98 years old) for coming to honor Dave, and described to guests how Mr. Cilker had purchased property several years ago – property that was very close to this neighborhood – on the edge of the now Erikson Neighborhood Association. Mr. Cilker wanted to donate the property as a park. He had also hoped to have the park carry his name. As previously mentioned, the City had a policy against naming a Park after a "still living" person. Dave worked with Mr. Cilker, and they were able to accomplish the goal of the park being named after Mr. Cilker – due to the fact that Mr. Cilker's father, who was deceased, had the same name. Ms. Rodgers finished by inviting Dave Noel to speak and provide additional information on the history of Vista Park.



Dave Noel was the fourth speaker. He has been a long time VEP member and very active volunteer. In addition to being a Past President of VEP, he also co-founded another neighborhood



association: Erikson (ENA). Dave Noel reiterated how Dave Fadness had been a very close friend and also a mentor to him. He then gave a very thorough history of Dave Fadness' involvement in the evolution and development into what is

now Vista Park, beginning with the closing of Belden School. (Note: You can read Dave Noel's remarks on Page 9.)

The next speaker introduced was San Jose Parks Foundation Board President, Kathy Sutherland. Kathy also had known Dave



for many years. She spoke of how she appreciated his strong commitment to Parks in San Jose, and valued his outstanding volunteer activities on behalf of the VEP community and San Jose.

Continues on P. 7

Continued from Page 6

Mr. Reber then introduced Santa Clara County Supervisor Mike Wasserman. Supervisor Wasserman shared how he had met Dave. Dave told him he wanted to interview him, as he understood that Mike intended to run for the Supervisor seat. He also shared how much he valued Dave's guidance and knowledge, as well as his friendship.



Mr. Reber next introduced Councilmember Johnny Khamis. Johnny commented on the fact that he had a similar experience as Supervisor Wasserman, with Dave also "interviewing" him, as he was one of two final candidates running for District 10 City Council seat. They subsequently became very close friends, and once again, Johnny stated how much he valued Dave's friendship, expertise and opinions.



The next speaker was a wonderful surprise: long time friend and former District 10 Councilperson, Ms. Pat Dando. She iterated the familiar theme of knowing and respecting Dave.

Ms. Dando talked about how she had been given a "tour" by Dave and other VEP Board members around the VEP neighborhoods – with specific areas of issues and concerns pointed out to her during her first few weeks in office. She acknowledged Dave's vast knowledge and many years of community service, not only to the City of San Jose, but also to the County, with many years serving on the Roads Commission. She also thanked Mr. Cilker and acknowledged him as another San Jose "icon." She then thanked the many long time residents and volunteers who were in attendance and honoring Dave, identifying a few of them by name such, as Josie Supencheck. She stated that the VEP organization and neighborhood was very special, and she hoped that everyone realizes this, and will continue the legacy of volunteerism that Dave had initiated.



The final speaker before the "unveiling" of the bench was Mrs. Aiko Fadness. She thanked everyone for coming, and stated how Dave would be so appreciative of this honor. She also provided the attendees with information on how Aiko and Dave met, their marriage, and move to San Jose after Dave was hired by FMC. That move brought them to the VEP neighborhood. This was the beginning of Dave's many years of volunteer commitment to VEP and to San Jose. Dave felt very strongly on the importance of volunteering his time toward making the community he loved, a better place to live. In addition to thanking their many friends for coming, Aiko was especially pleased to be able to share this event with several family members who had travelled long distances to attend.



She ended by inviting everyone to place their roses in the vases on, and around the Bench, to take pictures, and to continue enjoying the event together. She also invited everyone to go into the Community Room to visit with friends and to enjoy the food that was available.



Another long time friend of Dave, Aiko, and Matthew Fadness was Derek Umemoto. Derek had asked Aiko to be allowed the honor of being the Caterer for the event. He wanted to do something extra special to honor Dave. Derek Umemoto works for the Andro's Rostilj Catering Company.

Everyone seemed especially pleased with the very special food options – everything from appetizers to desserts. All the items could easily be consumed as "finger food," while visiting with old friends and new acquaintances - everyone there to honor their friend, Dave!



Matthew & Aiko Fadness

IN LOVING MEMORY
DAVID R. FADNESS
 APRIL 17, 1942 - SEPTEMBER 29, 2015
 WITH APPRECIATION FROM
 THE COMMUNITY FOR 40 YEARS
 OF VOLUNTEER WORK TO MAKE
 SAN JOSE BETTER FOR ALL



Thank You!
 Paul Formico & Team
 Supervising Parks Manager
 Park Maintenance Dept.

Tribute to Dave Fadness and Brief History of Vista Park
Presented By Dave Noel at the Memorial Bench Dedication Ceremony

Hi! I'm Dave Noel, past president of VEP, and current president of Erikson Neighborhood Association. I'm so happy I could be here today to say a few words about my great friend and mentor Dave Fadness and Vista Park. First, I'd like to thank everyone who made this event possible, with special thanks to the San Jose Parks Foundation, all the bench donors, Marilyn Rodgers and Aiko Fadness.

If I were to present a list of all the great things Dave did for Vista Park, and beyond to the VEP community, to District 10, to the city of San Jose, and beyond to all of Santa Clara County, we'd still be here tomorrow morning. So, in the interest of time, I'll limit my remarks to Vista Park. But even then, we could still be here for hours if I listed them all.

I'd like to think of this bench as the symbolic epicenter of Dave's volunteer achievements and love for San Jose. Like dropping a pebble in a lake, the ripples extend in all directions from here. Dave rolled up his sleeves and did more volunteer work than any of us could ever imagine, probably even Aiko. Perhaps even more importantly, Dave recruited and mentored new leadership, leveraging his work, and allowing his legacy to continue.

The impact that Dave had right here in Vista Park can't be understated. If not for Dave and VEP's leadership, Vista Park would be just 1.5 acres way over there, not the 9.8 acres we enjoy today. The land we are standing on was the site of Belden Elementary School. When SJUSD closed Belden School they really wanted to sell the land for housing. But Dave Fadness and VEP leaders proved that yes, you can fight City Hall, and the school district, and win!

So now the land was secured. But it sat undeveloped for over 5 years because the city wouldn't develop a master plan. If you were Dave, what would you do? Gather some volunteers and propose your own master plan! I have that hand-drawn plan from 1989 here. To put it nicely, the city didn't appreciate this vigilante approach... but it worked! Before long, we had a formally approved master plan. That master plan was split into 4 phases, to be completed slowly over the years as funds became available. Well, that wasn't nearly fast enough for the neighborhood, so neighbors raised \$15,000 with bake sales and such, and built the first playground.

Fast forward to 2003. Phases 1, 2 and 3 were now complete. SummerHill Homes proposed to build about 78 homes on what was affectionately called the walnut grove at Branham Lane and Vistapark Drive. That development generated enough funding for Phase 4 of the master plan. The city showed us the types of amenities that could be built, such as horseshoe pits and such. The community's highest priority was a bathroom, and there was enough funding for that.

VEP's leadership seized a moonshot opportunity. What if SummerHill Homes could build a turnkey building that included not only a bathroom, but also a snack shack and a community room, which could serve as VEP's new home? SummerHill said yes! But like the vigilante master plan before, this didn't fit city processes at all. Luckily, we had a strong ally in our corner. City Councilmember Pat Dando worked miracles behind the scenes, and here are the results! [the Vista Park Community Room]

In closing, Vista Park and the Community Room are true testaments to what communities can accomplish with great leaders like Dave, and lots of perseverance. We should all feel a strong pride of ownership of this beautiful park and everything it has to offer. Take the opportunity to sit on this bench, and feel as one with Dave as you look over this place that was so very special to him.

As you sit on the bench, you may feel Dave's spirit compelling you to get up and pull some weeds, pick up some trash, plant some trees, report some maintenance issues to the city, and invite some park goers to attend VEP meetings and become volunteers. And that'll be the ultimate tribute to my friend Dave Fadness, the Father of Vista Park.

Thank You for "Saving A Seat" for Dave!

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to everyone who made a donation for a memorial bench and plaque for David Fadness through the VEP Community Association or the San Jose Parks Foundation. MANY THANKS to both organizations for spearheading the fundraising drive. A special note of gratitude is expressed to the anonymous donor of the largest gift received of \$2000. Each donor's kindness and generosity culminated in a heartwarming Bench Dedication at Vista Park on February 18, 2017.

Much appreciation is expressed to each person who braved the cold weather to attend and participate in the ceremony. Miraculously, it stopped raining mid-morning so the ceremony was held outdoors under the capable leadership of James Reber, Executive Director of the San Jose Parks Foundation.

It would take several pages of the VEP News to thank all the individuals who contributed to the success and enjoyment of the dedication. Please know that everyone's efforts have been acknowledged. Mention must be made here of the Parks Maintenance staff who worked long and hard to prepare the park for the dedication: Supervisor Paul Formico and his diligent crew of Melody Goodwin, Gary Patellaro, Nasario Florez, Jr., Steve Castillo, John Dixon, and Demetrius Johnson.

Although David did not desire recognition for his volunteer work, the overwhelming honor bestowed on him by the community he loved will be a cherished memory for me and our son Matt for a lifetime. The beautiful bench will be available for park users for many lifetimes. I have already witnessed people sitting on it!

At this time, we would also like to thank the Citizens for Fiscal Responsibility for the February 28 presentation to VEP of a plaque and photograph honoring David to be displayed in the Vista Park Community Room. We are pleased with CFR's endeavors to keep alive the spirit and objectives of an organization that meant so much to David.

Once again, with gratitude and appreciation,
Aiko Fadness

"Thank You to All Our Donors"
Memorial Bench & Plaque to Honor Dave Fadness

The VEP Board of Directors want to publicly thank the many donors who have made the dream of a Memorial Bench and Plaque for Dave Fadness a reality!

Aiko & Matthew Fadness
Ed & Lupe Morishige

Bob & Barbara Aquino
Bob & Joyce Chesnos
Dave & Debbie Danitz
Roger & Lee Eckstrom
Vic & Jane Kawasaki

Don & Joan Marske
David Pfaff & Marianne Damon
Marilyn Rodgers
Josie Supencheck
Debra Suydam
Patrick Waite

Anonymous

Larry & Darlene Chickos
Jim & Linda Dumanowski
Andy & Chris Gray
Martin & Elisha Henson
Steve & Pam Levin
Dennis & Deanna Peters
Bob & Irene Shoberg

Charles & Carolyn Adams
Sherry Bonaccorso
Barbara Erling
Paul & Verna Fuentesbro
Steven & Lynne Kinsey
Grace Masuda
Annie Nagashima

VEP also extends a very special "Thank You" to **James Reber, Executive Director, and the Staff of the San Jose Parks Foundation**, for their assistance and facilitation of the collection of funds for this project!

FROM THE OFFICE OF

D I S T R I C T O N E



**SUPERVISOR
MIKE WASSERMAN**

All Hands on Deck for Rainstorm Recovery

I thought the start of the new year was supposed to bring little more than the continuation of County business and services; boy was I wrong. While the promise of rain was a welcoming sign of an end to the Bay Area drought, we were certainly not hoping for a downpour of problems. The January and February rainstorms impacted many of our County residents in ways they may not have experienced in their lifetimes. People were evacuated from their homes due to flooding, others were impacted by landslides, many faced contaminated water reserves, and our water reservoirs were at or over the recommended carrying capacity. While this was not our usual day at work, our County departments were there to offer help to people in need. The Office of Emergency Services was maintaining communications with other emergency services like police and fire departments and collecting information from the National Weather Service.

One of the most important things encompassing emergency response plans is multi-jurisdictional and multi-agency coordination. An example of this coordination was through a recent community meeting I convened at the Santa Cruz hills. I believed that it was imperative to include the Santa Clara County Roads and Airports Department, the Office of Emergency Services, Santa Cruz County Supervisors, the Santa Cruz County Dept. of Public Works, and Caltrans and State representatives, all of whom were involved in this process. This type of effort and collaboration is bound to save lives in the future and will continue to improve as time goes on. In addition to the gratitude I have for our response teams, I am also thankful for the input regarding the road reparations, water decontamination, and outreach efforts from our residents. Our goal going forward is to maintain the public's safety and to offer feasible and long-lasting solutions for our roads and water sources. Furthermore, we remain committed to fixing the damages that were caused by the storms to the best of our abilities.

We wish you all a safe spring season ahead and we hope that you trust our County, local, and State services to bring relief to the people affected by the rainstorms.

As always, you can reach my office at (408) 299-5010, or email me (district1@bos.sccgov.org) with your comments and concerns.

Mike Wasserman

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, District 1
www.supervisorwasserman.org

FROM THE OFFICE OF

JOHNNY KHAMIS

SAN JOSE CITY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 10



Save-the-Date: April, 22, 2017!

* GREAT AMERICAN LITTER PICK UP *

Join Councilmember Johnny Khamis for the 2017 GREAT AMERICAN LITTER PICK UP event on April 22nd. Participate in a national beautification service day, in celebration of Earth Day, by volunteering!

THIS EVENT IS RAIN OR SHINE

We will have 3 locations!

1. Pioneer High School - 1290 Blossom Hill Road (Meet at back school parking lot)
2. Vista Park - 475 Hyde Park Drive (Meet at parking lot)
3. Comanche Park - Shawnee Ln & Comanche Drive



Register HERE: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/district-10-great-american-litter-pick-up-2017-tickets-32277417625>

NOTE: After you register, please contact our office to let us know which location you would like to be at, this will help us with supply counts. Thank You!

Clean up: 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM

- Light morning snack & lunch will be provided for all volunteers
- All supplies will be provided.
- Please wear comfortable clothing and closed-toe shoes
- All ages welcome
- Can count towards required community hours



New Incentive for 2017:

This year, Mayor Liccardo's Office will be awarding up to \$1,000 to the top three High Schools with the most student volunteers! (Please inquire about further details.)

Questions?

Call Dora Gonzalez, with the Office of Councilmember Johnny Khamis, at (408)535-4982 or email dora.gonzalez@sanjoseca.gov



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

NORMANDIN

CHRYSLER JEEP

•Sales •Service •Rentals •Body Shop

900 CAPITOL EXPRESSWAY AUTO MALL • SAN JOSE

266-9500

Serving San Jose Since 1875

It's Time to Renew Your VEP Membership!

VEP membership is based on a calendar year, January through December, so it's time to renew your membership. You'll find a remit envelop in this newsletter. 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 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. Thank you.

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 safety, 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 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 high school graduates.
- To be part of an outstanding volunteer community organization with 48 years of success in our neighborhoods.

** VEP Membership Application **

Note: None of the your personal information will ever be shared with any third party.

**** Please type or print legibly ****

Last name(s): _____

First name(s): _____

Street address:

Telephone # _____

Email address(es):

Comment(s):

Can you give VEP a few volunteer hours? _____

I am willing to volunteer for:

- Beautification/clean-up projects
- VEP News/mailling prep
- Large Event/Festival, i.e. 4th of July
- Distribute flyers
- Serve on a committee
- Serve as a VEP officer or committee chair
- Other: _____

Please let us know:

- I prefer getting my newsletters by email.

Mail your \$20 check to:

VEP
P.O. Box **18037**
San Jose, CA 95158

Thank you!

Please Note:

VEP's new P.O. Box # was misprinted in the January newsletter. The correct no. is 18037.

Leigh Moore

GEN LIC 606322

MOORE CONSTRUCTION

Foundation Stabilizing • Expert House Levelers

South Bay # 408-849-9509

Your Ad
Here

Contact VEPeditor@gmail.com

SAVE-THE-DATE: 4.22.17!



Great American Litter

PICK UP



Sign Up, Pick Up and Clean Up Your Community!



Saturday, April 22, 2017

Clean Up: 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Rain or Shine.

VEP Location:
Vista Park
475 Hyde Park Dr.

**Contact office for locations & registration*

See Page 8
For More Info!

For more information contact Dora Gonzalez, with the Office of Councilmember Johnny Khamis, at : **(408) 535-4982** or email **dora.gonzalez@sanjoseca.gov**

Para información sobre este día de limpieza comunitaria, llame al (408) 535-4982. Muốn biết tin tức về ngày dọn dẹp cộng đồng, xin gọi số (408) 535-4982.

VEP Community Calendar

☘ March / April ☘ 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
19	20  HAPPY FIRST DAY OF SPRING!	21	22	23	24	25
 GOT EXTRA TOOLS OR MATERIALS? NEED TO GET RID OF THEM? DONATE excess supplies to local non-profit OUR CITY FOREST . See their "Wish List" at ourcityforest.org/donate 	27	28  VEP Community Meeting ~ 7:30 PM ~ @Vista Park Community Room	29	30	31  César Chavez' Birthday 	1
	3	4	5 District 10 Office Hours 8:30-9:30am @Almaden Valley Community Center (6445 Camden Ave.)	6	7	8 District 10 Office Hours 10:30-11:30am @Hub's Coffee (630 Blossom Hill Rd.)
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
S.J.U.S.D. Schools on Spring Break						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22  Earth Day  PICK UP Vista Park 8:30-11:30am
O.G.U.S.D. Schools on Spring Break						

★ Coming Soon in the VEP Neighborhoods ★

VEP's Spring Meetings

APRIL
Tuesday, April 25th

MAY
Tuesday, May 30th

*Everyone is Welcome!
Invite a Neighbor!*



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

Rea\$onable Rate\$!

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

VEP Community Events

Community-Wide

☆ **Garage Sale** ☆
First Saturday in May! (May 6th)

4th of July
 **Fireworks & Festival** 
 @Almaden Lake



THE VEP NEWS

A Publication of

VEP Community Association

P.O. Box 18037
San Jose, CA ; 95158

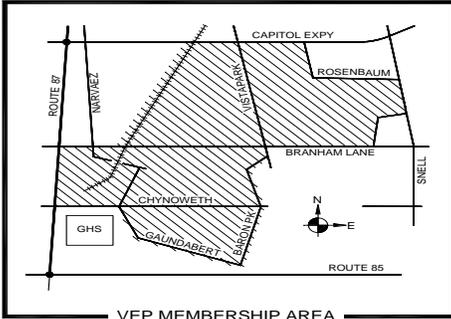
Email: vepca@vepca.net
Website: www.vepca.net

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	408-225-7553	mrodersrn@aol.com
Vice President	Katherine Decker	408-857-0740	kddecke@sbcglobal.net
Secretary	Adina Pierce		adinap@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Position Open		Please Contact VEP News Editor
Director	Helen Castillo		hcastillo@vbprop.com
Director	Rich Giammona		rgiammona14@icloud.com
Editor, VEP News	Rachel Witmeyer	408-226-2935	vepeditor@gmail.com

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



Would you prefer to receive your newsletters via email? Please, let us know at vep@vepca.net



VEP
Community Meeting
Tues., March 28th
7:30pm

Be sure to attend this month's VEP Community Meeting!
 Tuesday, March 28th @ 7:30pm
 in the Vista Park
 Community Room
 475 Hyde Park Dr.
 Check our website: www.vepca.net

