

VEP NEWS

• VEP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION •

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



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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 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

▶ April 25th, 2017 ◀

Vista Park Community Room
475 Hyde Park Dr.

Everyone is welcome. Invite your neighbors!

AGENDA

★ Update on Martial Cottle Park ★ Introducing New Spring Festival, May 6th

Presentation by

Eric Goodrich

Manager, Martial Cottle Park, County of Santa Clara

★ Presentation on Caring for Our Pets ★ "During Times of Special Circumstances"

Presentation by

Katherine Decker, VEP Vice President

(Dog Owner x 3)

and

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 ~ Vista Park, 8:30am**

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

Annual VEP Membership Drive Continues

VEP's Next Meeting - Tuesday, May 30th, 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 April Meeting Preview

By Marilyn Rodgers

► **Featured Presentations:** Eric Goodrich, Manager, Martial Cottle Park will provide an update on the Park, as well as highlighting information on the upcoming First Annual Spring Festival at the Park scheduled for Saturday, May 6th. An additional presentation will be provided by Katherine Decker, VEP Vice President. She will provide information helpful for the planning of and providing for our pets in the event of an emergency or other unusual time in our lives.

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

Several updates and announcements will be given, as well as information provided by (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, April 25th!**

March Meeting Synopsis

By Marilyn Rodgers

President Rodgers called the meeting to order. Everyone had been enjoying networking with friends. She introduced current VEP Board Members and Past Presidents in attendance. She then introduced Stacie Shih, representing our new State Assemblyperson Ask Kalra, Stacie previously was his Chief of Staff when he was a Councilmember for San Jose, and is now his Director for the Assemblymember's District Office. Ash was not only a Councilmember who lived just a few blocks away in the Hayes Neighborhood Association, but he has always been supportive of issues of concern regarding Branham Lane and issues involving the Martial Cottle Park. Ms. Rodgers said she had received information from several sources, including from Dave Noel, regarding an issue of importance for our area... an Assembly bill that was being heard in Committee in Sacramento. That issue was AB342 which would provide a 5-year pilot project for the cities of San Francisco and San Jose to place speed monitors on certain streets, and would give/initiate automatic tickets to speeders. This bill was to be heard in a committee that Assemblyman Kalra was now a member of – the Privacy Committee. Ms. Rodgers had called and sent an e-mail to the Assemblyman's Sacramento office to encourage his support of the bill. Ms. Shih then spoke of the several committees that Assemblymember Kalra would be a member of – including one in which he has been named the Chair (an unusual honor for a "freshman" assemblyperson). She also provided information about how to contact the Assemblyperson's office, some helpful websites, and how she and the District office staff might be able to help residents in his district. Ms. Rodgers thanked her for coming to the VEP meeting, and invited her to attend any time her schedule allowed. She said she would, and mentioned that she would stay until the end of the meeting if anyone would like to talk to her. She also had several handouts for those in attendance. (Note: phone number for the District Office is 408-277-1220.) Ms. Shih also mentioned that as a pet owner, she was looking forward to the presentation on caring for pets in an emergency.

This reminded President Rodgers that she had not previously informed the attendees that there would not be a presentation on how to care for pets in an emergency. She stated that several City departments were very involved with the continuing emergency with the Flood in San Jose, and as a result, were not able to attend meetings such as ours. She hoped to reschedule the presentation for a subsequent meeting. Several attendees were disappointed as they had specifically come to the meeting for the

presentation regarding caring for pets in emergencies or other unusual times in our lives.

President Rodgers then introduced Denelle Fedor, Council Assistant to Councilmember Johnny Khamis. She said that Johnny was sorry he would not be able to attend our meeting – but the Council was in a marathon-long council meeting. Marilyn had introduced Denelle not only as the Council Assistant for Planning and Development (liaison for Johnny's office and the City), but she had also led the effort for the all volunteer project which is coming up again shortly – the **4th of July Fireworks Family Festival**. Denelle took this opportunity to once again (and this time publicly at our meeting) to thank those folks in attendance at the meeting... those who had been volunteers from VEP at last year's 4th of July event. She thanked Aiko Fadness and Josie Supencheck who had worked at the booth where residents – both adults and children, could write letters to our military particularly those stationed overseas. Katherine Decker who had volunteered as the on-site "festival Nurse" and also assisted in escorting veterans, from the San Jose Veterans Center, down a "red carpet" of honor. She thanked Debra Suydam and Marilyn Rodgers (who with two other VEP volunteers who were not at the meeting) volunteered in the VEP and D10 Leadership booth – and helped raise needed funds for paying for the fireworks by selling "glow sticks." There were also VEP members and residents who helped by volunteering to set up the tables for booths the night before, and helped the day after the event with both park cleanup and litter pickup in both the park and along neighboring streets. Ms. Rodgers had been on the volunteer Leadership Team (of 4) that helped in the planning of the event, recruiting business donations (which paid for this event) and in leading and coordinating the following day with litter pickup both in the park and on surrounding streets.

Ms. Fedor then went on to provide announcements from the Councilmember's office of upcoming events – one of particular interest is the annual Great American Litter Pickup scheduled for Saturday, April 22nd. One of the 3 sites for District 10 will once again be in the VEP neighborhood – with the sign-in at Vista Park beginning at 8am.

Ms. Fedor then proceeded to provide an update and information regarding the concern VEP members and residents had over the sign which had just recently been posted by VTA at the station/parking lot - corner of Narvaez and Branham Lane. This sign was the first step in the VTA announcing their request to build both housing and commercial entities at this VTA parking lot. (Note: See more information in an article about the VTA Proposal on page 5 of this newsletter.) Additionally she indicated that the Council District Office had not been previously informed of the VTA's proposal, and had quickly initiated a meeting with VTA staff. Additional information is being requested, however, the Councilmember currently has been very public about **not supporting** this request until at the very least... previously promised improvements at the intersection of Narvaez and Capitol Expressway have been completed. Ms. Fedor answered several questions based on the current information, with a promise to continue to update us. Additionally she reassured the attendees that this was at the very beginning of the process, and to not hesitate to continue to ask questions and have additional information provided to us by VTA.

Some of the questions attendees were asking had to do with the increased amount of building and development within San Jose and of particular concern – building in our area. President Rodgers interrupted the questions to say that this was probably a good lead-in for the next speaker.

She thanked Ms. Fedor and then explained that Ms. Nancy Kl-

Continues on Page 3

“Thank You” to Long Time VEP Member and Dedicated Volunteer – Debra Suydam

By Marilyn Rodgers

It is with both appreciation, and just a small amount of sadness, that the VEP Board of Directors, along with many VEP residents and volunteers, say “thank you” and a fond good-bye to long time VEP member and avid volunteer – Debra Suydam.

Over two decades ago Debra, then a single career woman from the Northwest, arrived in San Jose. Fortunately for all of us....Debra decided to purchase a home in the VEP area. She immediately became interested in... and... joined the all volunteer VEP Community Association.

Debra not only joined, but went on to serve as a volunteer in several capacities for the community she enjoyed and believed in. She served on the Board of Directors for several years and provided leadership for several ongoing projects. She quickly gained a reputation – “whatever activity she volunteered for – that was a definite commitment, and she would be there.” Debra was one of the volunteers that could always be “counted on” when needed! She was among the cohort of steadfast volunteers that Dave Fadness came to rely on, for any and all, “beautification projects”. Among those projects - the annual pruning and cleanup of the infamous Chynoweth “palm trees”, and the many planting and cleanup projects at Vista Park. Over the years Debra helped organize a San Jose City project – planting daffodils in open spaces in our community (note... some daffodils continue to re-bloom every year and... remain to this day - look for them!) .

Debra was also among the large group of volunteers who participated in VEP’s largest single beautification project – on the northeast corner of Narvaez and Branham. This project was scheduled over a two week time period including three weekends. This large cadre of VEP volunteers, with helpful assistance from City staff – dug trenches/large holes for putting in water pipes and... watering systems; followed by planting several trees and bushes; and finishing with dispersing piles and piles of wood chips and ground cover.

For many years, Debra was involved in either leading or assisting with the annual VEP Membership Mailing Party – where both VEP newsletters and/or invitation letters to non-members were mailed out to all of the residents in the VEP neighborhoods.

Debra’s volunteer interest also extended to our “4-legged residents.” She was a long time volunteer for the Humane Society of Silicon Valley – leading many community projects for that organization, including serving for several years as a “kitten foster parent.” She also had the informal title of “VEP resident pet expert.”

Recently Debra, and husband Jeff (an active volunteer in his own right!), made a decision to move to another state, with the goal of beginning their retirement. We know that whatever community/neighborhood Debra decides to live in, she will become: a good friend to neighbors, a valuable asset... and...a “volunteer extraordinaire” in that community. We want that community to know how fortunate indeed they are to have Debra in their midst!

Thanks again, Debra! You will be missed! Please come back for a visit anytime!

VEP Volunteers Make Our Community Even Better!



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VTA Sign Posted - Requesting Permit for Proposal to Build at the Corner of Branham Lane and Narvaez Avenue

By Marilyn Rodgers

A few days just prior to the scheduled monthly March VEP Community Association meeting, several VEP members and VEP area residents noticed a new sign posted on the edge of the parking lot of the VTA station at Branham and Narvaez. This was a notification sign in which VTA (the Valley Transportation Authority) was requesting a permit for a proposal to build - in what is now the parking lot of the VTA station. These neighbors understandably were surprised, concerned, and with resulting questions as to what exacting did this mean?

Calls for information and clarification were initiated to both VTA and to District 10 Councilmember Johnny Khamis' office. The initial resulting information was that the posting of the sign had been premature. There is a requirement that notifications be sent to neighbors in close proximity to a new development/building project. Many residents also request general information on development/building projects irregardless of their physical proximity to a project. These notifications are initially sent via an automatic electronic system.

Apparently this electronic system had failed... and was not working for a 2-week period of time. Also, the usual process of a courtesy notification to the City Councilmember whose area would be affected, had also been inadvertently delayed. Thus Councilmember Khamis had no advance information as well. These issues were identified and resolved.

At the VEP membership meeting held on March 28th, Councilmember Khamis' staff - Denelle Fedor, Council Assistant and liaison for Planning and Development provided an update on current information on the proposal. As mentioned above the posting of the sign was premature, and there are several required steps which VTA will need to go through prior to the proposed project going forward and/or being approved (or not approved).

Of important note - Councilmember Khamis has already come out in strong opposition to the proposal, stating that until "the already promised improvements at the intersection of Narvaez and Capitol Expressway - onramp to Hwy 87 north, are completed - he cannot support an additional proposed project in this area."

Initial information on the project proposal currently being requested is to build specifically in the VTA parking lot at the corner of Branham and Narvaez, including a request to a change in the City of San Jose's general plan zoning. (Note: the City's General Plan most recently went through a city-wide review and revision done approximately 8 years ago - and known to many residents as the "Envision San Jose 2040 Plan"). The request is for a mixed-use multi-family residential development of up to 450 dwelling units, and 10,000 square feet of retail/commercial.

Historical perspective - over 10 years ago, VTA had initiated a proposal for a similar project at the VTA parking lot at Capitol Expressway and Narvaez. VEP took a strong position of opposition as "no parking on site was planned" in that proposal. VEP fought to bring up specific issues of concern, as well as highlight that all initial notifications, permits, and processes had not been properly adhered to for the proposal to legally go forward. That proposal was eventually abandoned by VTA.

Currently, there are major concerns regarding both traffic congestion along Narvaez, as well as limited easement along Narvaez - resulting in currently no street parking. This could very easily have a severely negative impact on the very limited street parking on the current residential homes on the small residential streets

that intersect and/or interface with Narvaez.

Additionally, there are several very LARGE current development projects - both residential and commercial, in close proximity to this area. Of primary concern for the impact at Narvaez and Capitol Expressway and the northbound onramp to Hwy 87 at this intersection..... 2200 additional homes being built as part of a previously approved "several year - 3 phase project" for the top of Communications Hill!

Moreover, in close proximity - the additions being built at the Toyota facility on the north side of Pearl and Capitol Expressway; and the massive new facility being built for CarMax at the southwest corner of Pearl and Capitol Expressway with expected large numbers of client/customers increasing significantly traffic congestion in the immediate area.

VEP will be requesting ongoing information from VTA, as well as requesting the planning/provision for a minimum of three community-wide meetings be provided by them.

There will be additional information and discussion on this evolving issue at the VEP Community Meeting on Tuesday, May 30th. Plan to attend!

VEP Helps Us Solve Community Problems!



NEED AN INTERNSHIP?

Councilmember Johnny Khamis is seeking bright & motivated individuals for his office!



Time commitment:

Flexible

Location:

San Jose City Hall

Duties include but not limited to:

- ☑ Administrative work
- ☑ Data entry
- ☑ Constituent service
- ☑ Policy research
- ☑ Special events



For application, send resume to district10@sanjoseca.gov
Questions? Call 408.535.4910

From my tractor seat

By Eric Goodrich

Welcome to **Martial Cottle Park!** In May, we will celebrate the two-year anniversary of our journey from the Cottle/Lester families' 150 year-old working ranch to an operational agricultural park whose primary objective, in Walter Cottle Lester's own words, is to "Inform and educate the public about the agricultural history of the Santa Clara Valley."

We're accomplishing Mr. Lester's wish with our park facilities, community partners, special events, and educational programs. Our neighboring community has been very supportive with visitation rising each month, and our staff provides a clean, safe park experience with excellent customer service. We have a thriving volunteer program and a variety of public programs, with community partners adding facilities and

programs this year (see pages 10-16). In May, our **Visitor Center** will be open seven days a week, staffed by our docents, and in the fall, we are looking forward to offering education programs for second and third graders, in partnership with neighborhood schools.

As the calendar turns to spring – a time for planting, rebirth, and growth – we invite you to join us in celebrating agriculture in Santa Clara Valley with our first annual ***A Taste of the Valley of Heart's Delight: Spring Celebration at Martial Cottle Park.*** Mark your calendars for **May 6, 2017**, because as with our fall **Harvest Festival**, this is going to be a "must" to attend!

Our park attendance is increasing as more people learn about the park. Our volunteer team, led by docents in the **Visitor Center** and the **Park Land Steward** crew, are bringing more visitors, too. **Martial Cottle Park** has more than 55 active volunteers, many from our neighboring community, who are enhancing our visitor experience, customer service,

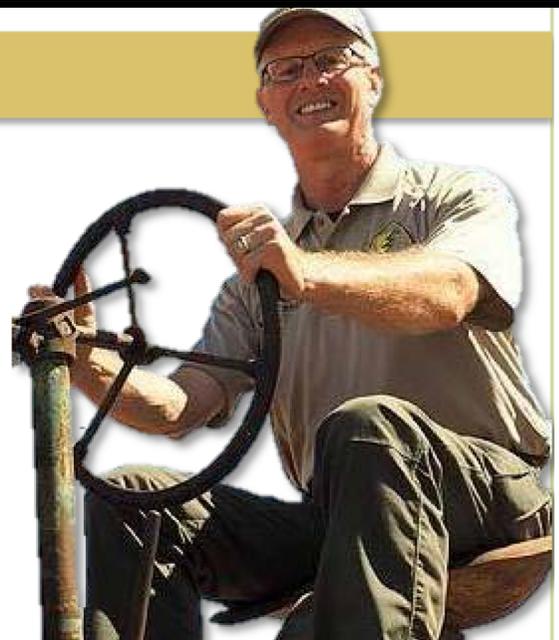


Photo by Ron Horii

and park beautification! We know this team will continue to grow in 2017 so, if you are interested in volunteering, please contact us at **(408) 535-4060**.

I encourage you to visit us often, watch us grow, and be part of the **Martial Cottle Park** experience. Whether you are going for a walk; enjoying the sunsets; having a picnic; taking a class; or visiting our partners, the **Visitor Center**, or the **Farm Stand**, your involvement in **Martial Cottle Park** is vital to the success of our mission. We have many fun and exciting plans for 2017 and look forward to seeing all of you at **Martial Cottle Park**.

For more info about **Martial Cottle Park**, visit our website:

www.parkhere.org

New!
Visitor Center
Hours
Starting in May
2017
7 days a week
10:00 a.m. – 4:00



Exemptions for New Property Taxes Approved in November 2016

Later this year, when we receive our new property tax bills, we will all see a significant increase from several new tax and bond measures that were approved by the voters last year. If you're a senior, or meet other criteria, you may be eligible for an exemption from some of these new taxes. Two approved tax measures that were approved contained exemption language, and a third, older tax measure, also has an exemption available:

2017 Tax Measure	School District	Type of tax	Cost	Length
Y	San Jose Unified	Parcel Tax	\$72 / parcel	8 yrs
HH	Franklin McKinley School District	Parcel tax	\$72 / parcel	9 yrs

Each exemption has different qualifications and must be applied for separately. Neither the Santa Clara County Assessor nor the Santa Clara County Tax Collector administers the application process for exemptions. This is done by the respective school district.

Several people have asked us how one goes about obtaining the exemption, so we are providing the following helpful information:

Measure Y

People who are qualified to receive an exemption:

- Individuals who will be 65 years of age prior to July 1 of the tax year, owns a beneficial interest in the parcel, and occupies that parcel as his or her principal place of residence
- Individuals receiving supplemental security income for a disability, regardless of age, and occupying said parcel as a principal residence
- Receiving social security disability insurance benefits, regardless of age, whose yearly income does not exceed 250 percent of the 2012 federal poverty guidelines issued by the United State Department of Health and Human Services

Exemption Procedure:

To request an exemption form call (408) 535-6444 or email your name, mailing address, and phone number to pio@sjusd.org. They'll send you a form that you will need to return to them in order to qualify for the exemption.

Measure HH

People who are qualified to receive an exemption:

- Pursuant to CA Government Code Section 50079 (b), any owners of a Parcel used solely for owner-occupied, single family residential purposes and who are 65 years of age or older, may obtain and exemption from the education parcel tax by annually submitting an application, by June 15 of each year, to the Board of Trustees of the Franklin-McKinley School District in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Board
- Parcels which are (i) contiguous; (ii) used solely for owner-occupied, single family residential purposes; and (iii) held under identical ownership may upon annual application be treated as a single parcel for purposes of the levy.

Exemption Procedure:

Seniors - Exemption from the FMSD Parcel Tax is available to all senior citizens 65 years or older who live in the Franklin-McKinley School District and reside in their home. Link to the 2017-18 Senior Exemption Form: <https://1.cdn.edl.io/WFjFNbz4CH5tWp5WcwCJioGlnm306F2a170FnwYh-HigDnr0W.pdf>

- Senior homeowners may be exempted on an annual basis upon application to the District. To qualify, a homeowner must be 65 years of age, or older, and be the owner-occupant of the property.

- A senior applying for an exemption needs to bring proof of residence to the Business Services Department at the District Service Center and fill out the Senior Citizen Exemption Form every year (available in March each new year). The Senior Citizen Information Sheet can answer many of your questions: <https://1.cdn.edl.io/qsNBj7VB5el1wzXAC5pdBqIKQGcJwSgc4NblSTdA4nqbF321.pdf>

Contiguous Exemption - The contiguous parcel exemption allows a property owner to combine adjacent parcels (parcels that share a common border) into one taxable unit. These combined parcels must also have the same primary purpose (i.e., a residence, a business, vacant land, etc.). Property owners need to complete the Application for Contiguous Parcel Exemption and bring the form to the Business Services Department.

Questions or Comments? If you have any questions please contact Sandy Guevara, Executive Assistant to Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, at (408) 283-6020 or email her at sandy.guevara@fmsd.org.

Measure CC

No exemption is listed in the documentation for the Campbell Union School District's Measure CC from 2017 (this is a correction to the information provided previously). There is, however, an exemption available for seniors and other qualified individuals from the 2015 Measure B parcel tax.

People who are qualified to receive an exemption:

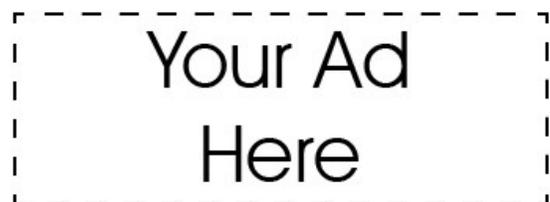
- Property-owners age 65 and older, or those who receive S.S.I. benefits

Exemption Procedure:

- Obtain exemption forms at local library branches (Campbell, Saratoga, Bascom, Willow Glen, Los Gatos), request by phone 408-341-7043, or at the District Office 155 N. 3rd St., Campbell, or obtain forms online: <https://www.campbellusd.org/files/seniorexempt.pdf>

- Mail or deliver the signed, completed form with copies of the three (3) proof of eligibility documents noted above (age, residence and ownership) to: Campbell Union School District - Parcel Tax Exemption 155 N. Third Street, Campbell, CA 95008

You need only apply for the exemptions for the district(s) in which you pay property taxes. If you need to look up your school district(s), please visit <https://eservices.sccgov.org/rov?tab=dt> and type in your residential address.



Contact VEPeditor@gmail.com

After the Floods, Water District Efforts Continue

By Linda J. LeZotte, Director: Santa Clara Valley Water District

Our hearts go out to all of those impacted by the recent flooding in San Jose and elsewhere in our community. The Water District is committed to reducing flood risks in those affected areas, as well as, throughout San Jose and Santa Clara County.

In the last four decades, the Santa Clara Valley Water District has invested more than a billion dollars in reducing flood risks, protecting more than 93,000 properties in previously flood-prone areas. As the flood protection agency for the county, the water district works to protect as many parcels as possible through strategically designed flood protection projects and annual stream maintenance which includes sediment removal, bank repair and vegetation management. However, flood risks still exist in our county, with more than 66,000 parcels in flood-prone areas. The water district currently has 18 projects underway to minimize this risk. Flood protection projects are a large and multi-faceted undertaking that include planning, design and construction phases, and oftentimes a permitting phase after design. In the initial stages of each project, it is essential to gather support and evaluate existing risks, potential benefits, environmental impacts and costs. Support from the community and agencies at local, state and even federal levels are crucial for a successful project.

As seen with the successful improvements to the lower and downtown portions of the Guadalupe River, flood protection projects improve a creek's capacity to withstand strong storm events and protect homes and businesses. Previously downtown San Jose and Alviso experienced historical flooding on multiple occasions in the 1980s and 90s. Both regions, addressed by flood protection projects completed by 2009, were in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. When the upper reaches of the Guadalupe River are completed, the entire project will protect more than 7,500 parcels from a 100-year flood event.

The devastating impacts of the recent flood event along Coyote Creek on President's Day are a reminder that flood risks persist. During the wettest winter in over 20 years, our watersheds were saturated and increased run-off filled our reservoirs and raised creek levels. For example, Anderson Reservoir, our county's largest reservoir, was less than half full on January 1, 2017. After the first series of storms in January, we began releasing water from the reservoir on January 9, as it became likely that winter storms would fill the reservoir exceeding the seismic safety restrictions. Heavy rainfall from January and February storms caused more water to flow into the reservoir than we could physically release. The reservoir reached its capacity and began to spill on Feb. 18. The subsequent storms resulted in the largest flow of water ever recorded over Anderson's spillway.

Since the President's Day storm event we have reached out to our federal and state legislators for support in seeking assistance and funding to prevent future flooding. We are also working

closely with the City of San Jose to update creek capacity thresholds and develop a joint Emergency Action Plan. At the request of Mayor Liccardo our board of directors approved repurposing up to \$450,000 in an existing contract between the water district and the San Jose Conservation Corps to help the city in flood response efforts.

In early April, we will also host a series of post-flood community meetings to analyze the event and discuss how we can reduce flood risks in the future. We will need continued community and agency support in reducing future flood risks in our region.

Please sign up for our newsletter to receive the latest information on upcoming community meetings, project updates and more, at www.valleywater.org. As always, I am available for questions or comments as your District 4 representative for the City of Campbell, portions of Willow Glen and Cambrian, North Almaden and Blossom Hill neighborhoods of San Jose. Feel free to contact me at (408)265-2600.

FROM THE OFFICE OF



County Parks to Call Your Own

Being one of the most populated areas in the country, Santa Clara County sets the standard for our fast-paced and focused lifestyles; while this may be an indicator of economic prosperity, our residents value the access they have to their natural environment. Our County parks are places that offer tranquility and the ability to escape the busy lives we all lead, even for just a couple of hours. One of the ways you can help design the County Parks system is to participate in its Strategic Planning Process. This plan will incorporate short-term and long-term strategies to enhance recreational facilities.

All of this was made possible by voters who renewed the Park Charter Fund ensuring a dedicated source of funding for our County park system. Many of our parks will see improvements through this fund, which will ultimately benefit park visitors. Beyond establishing these developments, we also wish to gain your perspective on the future of our County Park System. To provide your input, please visit <http://ourfutureparks.org/participate/>. Another way you can participate is to attend a community outreach event held throughout the County. The dates and locations are also listed within the link above.

Mike Wasserman

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, District 1
www.supervisorwasserman.org ; district1@bos.sccgov.org



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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.



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- Marine Corps Veteran

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Your Ad
Here

Contact VEPeditor@gmail.com

A Taste of the Valley of Heart's Delight!

MARTIAL COTTLE PARK

1st
annual

Spring
Celebration
Sat., May 6 • 10am-3pm



Experience
Santa Clara Valley's
agricultural past, present
and future, on land the
Cottle family farmed
for over 150 years.

- Local Arts, Crafts and Food Items
- Meet Farm Animals Up-close
- Urban Forest Demonstration
- Antique and Vintage Autos
- Vintage Farm Equipment
- Gardening Demonstrations
- Spring Planting Activities
- Kids Activities and Crafts
- Fresh Organic Produce
- Garden Workshops
- Jacobs Farm Tours
- Live Music and more!

5283 Snell Avenue
San Jose, 95136



Free Admission!
(\$6 Parking)
Bike or take public transit



SANTA CLARA™
COUNTY PARKS



ESTABLISHED 1864

VEP Community Calendar

🌸 April / May 🌻 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
16 Easter	17	18 TAX DAY O.G.U.S.D. Schools on Spring Break	19	20	21	22 Earth Day  Great American Litter PICK UP Starts @8:30am ~ Vista Park ~
23  WORLD BOOK AND COPYRIGHT DAY	24	25 VEP Community Meeting ~ 7:30 PM ~ @Vista Park Community Room	26  Administrative Professionals' Day	27  COUNT ON ME! TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS AND SONS TO WORK DAY 2017	28	29
30  International Jazz Day	1	2	3 District 10 Office Hours 8:30-9:30am @Almaden Valley Community Center (6445 Camden Ave.)	4	5  CINCO DE MAYO	6 VEP'S COMMUNITY-WIDE GARAGE SALE!
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 District 10 Office Hours 10:30-11:30am @Hub's Coffee (630 Blossom Hill Rd.)
14 Happy Mothers Day	15  Peace Officers Memorial Day	16	17	18	19	20  ARMED FORCES DAY

★ Coming Soon in the VEP Neighborhoods ★

VEP's Spring Meeting

MAY
Tuesday, May 30th
Ice Cream Social @7:15!

Everyone is Welcome!
Invite a Neighbor!

* VEP TAKES A BREAK JUNE-AUGUST *

**ADVERTISE
WITH
US**

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

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VEP Community Association

P.O. Box 18037
San Jose, CA 95158

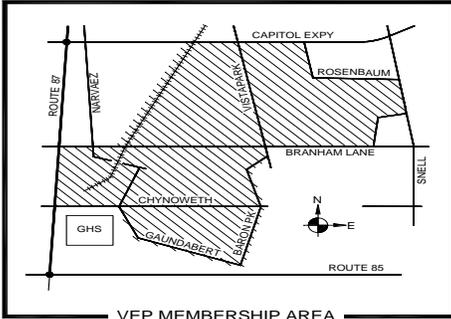
Email: vepca@vepca.net
Website: www.vepca.net

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.

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



VEP
Community Meeting
Tues., April 25th
7:30pm

Be sure to attend this month's
VEP Community Meeting!
Tuesday, April 25th @ 7:30pm
in the Vista Park
community Room
475 Hyde Park Dr.
Check our website: www.vepca.net

