

Sunrise on the Martial Cottle County Park Perimeter Trail - By Heidi Racherla

VEP Community Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27th @7:00 PM
Vista Park Community Room
475 Hyde Park Drive

~ **Everyone is Welcome! Invite a Neighbor!** ~

MARCH MEETING AGENDA

~ **SCC Valley Transportation Authority (VTA)** ~

UPDATE: Transit-Oriented Development
at the Capitol Light Rail Station

- Cristina Nape: Senior Transit-Oriented Development Project Manager
- Josselyn Hazen: Senior Project Manager, Transit-Oriented Development
- Anthony Lopez: VTA's Community Engagement
- Jon Cacciotti and Peter Le: 87-Capitol Expressway Project

- **Vista Park Mural Project** -
Cynthia Cao:

Arts Program Coordinator, City of San Jose Office of Cultural Affairs
Roan Victor: Selected Artist ([See Page 3](#))

- **Information & Updates: City of San Jose** -
Vanessa Sandoval: Chief of Staff
Office of District 2 Councilmember Sergio Jimenez

- **VEP Business Meeting** -
Upcoming Events
Next Meeting Date: **May 22nd**

(to avoid conflict w/Gunderson High School's Graduation Ceremony on 5/29)

- **Open Forum / Member Q&A** -

A chance to voice your opinions and/or seek VEP's help.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

with Alain Mowad

We've had a very wet winter season here. While we all can appreciate the criticality of getting enough rain here, I think we can all agree that Spring cannot come soon enough.

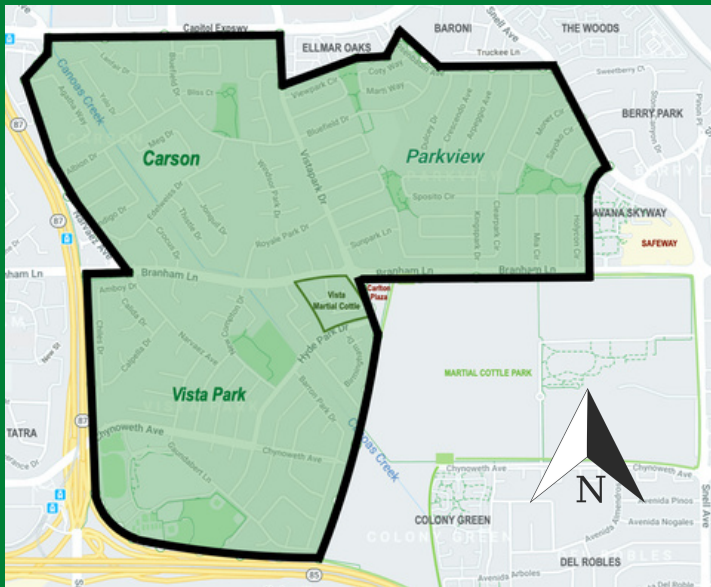
We really appreciate Bossman's Pizza accommodating us for our last meeting at the very last minute, due to the mold issues at the Community Center. We will be back at the Community Center for our upcoming meeting.

In our last meeting, MidPen Housing presented to our members about the transit-oriented development they are managing at the Capitol Light Rail Station. Thank you to everyone who attended and made your voices heard. As they could not answer our questions regarding traffic management and parking overflow, we followed their guidance and reached out to the VTA. They have agreed to come and present to us at our upcoming meeting. We will also have representatives from the 87-Capitol Expressway project to provide an update on the planned Northbound onramp and answer any questions. Please make every effort to attend and make your voices heard again. I have asked them specifically to address the concerns we have about traffic and parking and also any progress on the onramp.

Additionally, Cynthia Cao from the City of San Jose Office of Cultural Affairs will be presenting their plans and collecting our input for a planned mural at Vista Park. She will be joined by Roan Victor, selected artist for the project.

I look forward to connecting with you all at our upcoming meeting on March 27th!

VEPCA Membership Area



VEPCA Community Association is a not-for-profit organization, supported by a board of volunteers. First established in 1969, it is one of San Jose's oldest community associations. VEPCA serves and represents homeowners in the Blossom Valley area of southern San Jose and has grown to encompass more than 2,800 homes. Its primary focus is on neighborhood beautification, safety and local civic affairs. This newsletter is emailed to all current VEPCA members, but is also available on line for all to view.

VEPCA News is typically published bi-monthly to coincide with the community meetings, with the exception of the "Summer Break," from June through August.

VEPCA attempts to publish any and all articles that will be of general interest to our membership community. Articles or information may be submitted to the VEPCA News Editor. Business entities interested in advertising are welcome to contact the editor as well, for rates.

VEPCA News Editor: Rachel Witmeyer - newsletter@vepca.net

VEPCA EXECUTIVE BOARD of DIRECTORS

President: Alain Mowad - president@vepca.net

Vice President: Heidi Racherla - vp@vepca.net

Treasurer: Marc McGeever - treasurer@vepca.net

Secretary: Lisa Sanchez - secretary@vepca.net

Beautification: Brian Ferry - beautification@vepca.net

Web & Social Media: Adina Pierce - socialmedia@vepca.net

Membership - membership@vepca.net

Visit **VEPCA's website** for information regarding your volunteer run association: www.vepca.net

VEPCA SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS (CLICKABLE!)

IG <https://www.instagram.com/vepca95136/>

FB <https://www.facebook.com/vepca95136>

FBC <https://www.facebook.com/groups/vepca>

January VEP Community Meeting Summary

By Lisa Sanchez

January's meeting was a great kick-off to the New Year! There was a great turn out, despite the crazy rains and last-minute venue change due to unforeseen circumstances with the community center. Special thanks to Bossman's Pizza, for graciously accommodating the VEP meeting, which kind of turned into a yummy pizza party. It's always great to take advantage of opportunities to support neighborhood small businesses.

VEP President Alain Mowad opened the meeting by introducing the 2024 re-elected VEPCA Executive Board of Directors, guest speaker MidPen, and District 2 representatives.

MidPen Housing - Project Manager, Rebecca Barnes, shared background on the non-profit developer service provider. Proposed renderings were shared of the 200+ units that will be built on Narvaez & Capitol Expressway.

- This project will be 6 stories to accommodate density of units.
- There are currently 100 parking spots allocated for this housing project. There is ongoing negotiation with VTA, for possible overflow parking in the transit parking area.
- Start of construction is slated for end of 2026 with resident move-in slated for 2029.

Lots of questions were raised from neighbors concerning local traffic, on/off ramp flow and VTA's Traffic Study. MidPen is unable to address those specific traffic flow questions, so VEP will be sure to invite VTA for continued discussion. District 2 addressed question regarding the possibility of obtaining "Permit Parking Only" for single family home residents. See response below under District 2.

District 2: The Office of Councilmember Sergio Jimenez

Chief of Staff, Vanessa Sandoval, and Helen Chapman joined the meeting to share a few updates.

- San Jose City is currently creating an ordinance to limit oversized vehicles (like RV's) from parking near school zones. This is an effort to create a safe environment for students walking to and from schools.
- Currently reviewing processes and citations for parking oversized vehicles near senior facilities, in or around bike lanes, creating a hazard (line of sight).
- SB-35 is restricting San Jose City from some planning regarding more parking in these Budget Project Housing for density living.
- "Permit Parking Only" for residential areas, requires proactive monitoring to be funded and successful. Neighbors can only apply when there is an existing problem. It is a petitioning and evaluating process that can take a few years to approve and implement.
- Branham & Monterey Emergency Housing Project begins residency this summer.

January Meeting Summary Continues on Page 3

Vista Park Mural Project

Community Visioning Meeting with Artist Roan Victor at the VEP Meeting on March 27th.

The community is invited to learn about the upcoming mural project at Vista Park, meet artist [Roan Victor](#), and inspire content for the mural.

COMMUNITY VISIONING MEETING

MEET ARTIST ROAN VICTOR,
AND INSPIRE CONTENT FOR THE
UPCOMING MURAL PROJECT AT
VISTA PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

DISTRICT 2



Save the Dates!

VEP Community Meetings:

Wednesday, March 27th

Wednesday, May 22nd

Summer Break Until September

January Meeting Summary, Continued from Page 2

- San Jose's Animal Shelter is in desperate need of loving forever homes for dogs, cats and other small pets.

[SIAS Website:](#)

<https://www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/departments-offices/animal-care-services/services/pet-adoption>

2024 VEP Budget - Treasurer Marc McGeever

- Please invite neighbors to help grow membership
- Reviewed Proposed 2024 Budget.
 - VEP Community Service Awards - The 3rd award for the "At Large" category has been dropped for 2024 due to lack of applicants in recent years.
- Proposed Budget approved

Next VEP Member Meeting: Wednesday, March 27

- Guest Speaker: VTA - Transit Housing Development

Meeting adjourned 8:24pm



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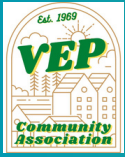
VEPCA MEMBER
MARINE CORPS VETERAN



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Hello!
SPRING





MEMBERSHIP CORNER

By Heidi Racherla, VEPCA Vice President

Happy Spring to all our VEP friends and neighbors who support active community engagement through membership and civic participation across our Carson, Martial-Cottle, Parkview, and Vista Park neighborhoods as well as the greater City of San Jose!

We welcome new memberships and annual renewals and encourage you to invite your neighbors personally to be part of VEP, especially if they've recently moved to the area and aren't familiar with our long history of neighborhood beautification and service.

For residents and members with interest in leadership roles, please reach out regarding potential board and committee opportunities! We'd love to hear from you! (CLICK HERE for the CONTACTS listed on PAGE 2)

Questions and suggestions can be sent via email, to: Membership@vep.net

THANK YOU for helping VEP Grow!



JOIN TODAY!

BECOME A
VEP MEMBER

STAY CONNECTED!

RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
ANNUALLY

PHONE A FRIEND!

INVITE YOUR VEP
NEIGHBORS VIA TEXT,
EMAIL, AND/OR SHARE
ON SOCIAL MEDIA

GET INVOLVED!

JOIN US AT AN
UPCOMING
MEMBERSHIP MEETING
OR COMMUNITY
VOLUNTEER EVENT

**YOUR ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT HELPS OUR
VEP LOCAL COMMUNITY GROW AND THRIVE!**

5 WAYS TO JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

① Mail your \$20 check to:
VEP Community Association
P.O. Box 18037
San Jose, CA 95158

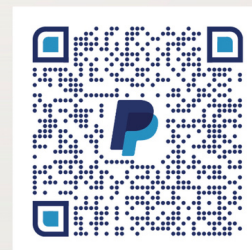
② Pay by credit card via our website:

[>>> VEPCA WEBLINK <<<](#)

③ Pay by cash at an upcoming meeting or
volunteer event

④ Pay via Zelle: dues@vepca.net

⑤ Join or Renew via
PayPal \$20/year:



vepca@vepca.net

Beautification Update

Hi Friends -

Now that Spring seems to be well on its way, it's time for the VEP community to get back outside and start beautifying our neighborhood!

VEP is participating in the "Great American Litter Pickup" on Saturday, April 20th, 2024. We'll meet in the parking lot at Vista Park (Hyde Park Dr. & New Compton Dr.) at 9:00am, collect our litter pickup gear, and spend a few hours with friends or family making the neighborhood look great! We should be done by 12:00 noon, but your help is welcome for even just 30 minutes!

[>>> CLICK HERE TO REGISTER <<<](#)

As always, if you have any concerns or ideas for beautification projects in the VEP area, you can email me at beautification@vepca.net.

See you out there!
Brian Ferry
VEP Beautification Guy

BeautifySJ

SAVE THE DATE! GREAT AMERICAN LITTER PICKUP



SATURDAY | APRIL 20, 2024
Multiple Locations | Litter Supplies Provided
To continue to beautify your community, visit BeautifySJ.org

BEAUTIFYSJ IS COMING TO YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

JOIN US IN BEAUTIFYING THE COMMUNITY!
**SATURDAY
MARCH 30, 2024
9 - 11 A.M.**
Grand Blvd. &
Trinity Park Dr.
FOOD, ACTIVITIES, AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR ALL AGES

BeautifySJ



Dear BeautifySJ Volunteers,
We are reaching out to invite you to join us for an upcoming beautification event. We hold the belief that through our collaborative efforts, we can positively influence our environment and cultivate a healthier, more appealing community. In partnership with Mayor Matt Mahan, we are reaching out to invite you to join us for a day of service in the community as we beautify the neighborhood. There will be food, activities and community resources for all ages. Please join us on Saturday March 30th from 9 a.m to 11 a.m at Grand Boulevard & Trinity Park Drive San Jose, CA 95002.

[>> CLICK HERE TO REGISTER <<](#)

Jissela Carlos of BeautifySJ
City of San José | Parks, Recreation and
Neighborhood Services Department
1601 Foxworthy Avenue, San José 95118
Tel: 408.975.7181



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MARTIAL COTTLE PARK

Santa Clara County Parks Summer 2024 Internships

Internships are a great way to obtain practical work experience and learn more about the County as an employer. We are excited to share that our Summer 2024 Intern Cohort opportunities are live on our website. For more information on how to apply, internship levels and to see our current opportunities visit our website at <https://parks.sccgov.org/careers/internships>

Onboarding begins in June however we are accepting applications through March 31, 2024.

Fast Facts

- **SCC Parks internships are paid!** Starting pay depending on level of internship is \$17 an hour all the way up to \$40 an hour.
- **Internships can be in the field, in administration, or both!** All types of work support the mission and operation of SCC Parks.
- **All internships will feature career building opportunities,** including a Meeting with the Park Executives and Mock Interviews!
- **All interns will complete a Capstone Project** and present it at the end of the internship, enabling you to walk away from your time at Parks with a project planning experience and a professional presentation under your belt!
- **Internships are designed to support certain stages of your academic career!** Level I: High School, Level II: College Freshman/Sophomore, Level III: College Junior/Senior/Recent Graduate, Level IV: Graduate School/Recent Graduate

- For questions contact us at ParksHR@PRK.sccgov.org -



Regal Raptors: Raptor Boxes at the Park

Saturday, March 30th, 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. | At Martial Cottle Park, we create a space for birds of prey to find a home and habitat within a dense, urban area. Join us for an afternoon walk to learn more about barn owls and raptor boxes in Martial Cottle Park.

This program will include a very short walk on paved paths. Families are encouraged to attend.

Email rob.mcdonnell@prk.sccgov.org for more information. A \$6 parking fee is required. **Reservations required.**

Learn more and sign up at <https://forms.gle/wEB3AtAyBUxwUQyU8>

Hedgerow Work Day at Martial Cottle Park

Saturday, March 30th | 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm -- It's a Hedgerow Weeding Party! Come join park staff in a fun and lively effort to install and maintain the multi-functional hedgerow at the park. Learn the positive impact these hedgerows have on the landscape and what it takes to keep them thriving. Meet at the Hedgerow at the South side of the park - Near the end of Chynoweth Ave.

past the Master Gardeners parcel. Park on Chynoweth Ave.

Schedule Your Shift at https://scc.samaritan.com/custom/502/opp_details/4513



Viva Calle SJ at Martial Cottle Park

Sunday, April 21st 10:00am – 3:00pm

VivaCalleSJ is a free recreational program that closes miles of scenic San José streets.

The open street events brings people and communities together to walk, bike, skate, play and explore the city like never before! It is not a race, so you can start anywhere and have as much fun as you want, in either direction.

Martial Cottle Park will be one of the three activity hubs on the Viva Calle route.

Let's come together on Sunday, April 21 to celebrate our city, our planet, and the power of togetherness.

[Read More About This Event on the Next Page!](#)

Viva CalleSJ

SoFA TO THE STREETS

SOFA DISTRICT | SCC FAIRGROUNDS | MARTIAL COTTLE PARK

SUNDAY
APRIL 21
2024

10 A.M. - 3 P.M.

OPEN STREETS | RESOURCES
VENDORS | FOOD TRUCKS
PERFORMANCES | FAMILY
ACTIVITIES AND MORE

**COME OUT AND
EXPLORE
THE ROUTE!**



VIVACALLESJ.ORG

@VIVACALLESJ

#VIVACALLESJ



LEGEND

- Activity Hub
- Auto Crossing
- VCSJ Route
- Cross Streets
- Parking
- Lyft Bay Wheels
- Caltrain Station

Clickable Weblinks :



SAN JOSE PARKS, RECREATION & NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES | Building Community Through Fun

Viva CalleSJ

SAVE THE DATE

APRIL	JUNE	SEPTEMBER
21	09	08

EVENT CALENDAR 2024



WHAT IS VIVA CALLESJ

Viva CalleSJ is a free program that temporarily closes miles of San José streets to bring communities together to walk, bike, skate, play, and explore the city like never before.

Viva CalleSJ attracts thousands of participants, meaning local businesses can benefit greatly from increased visibility and sales the day of the event. This is the perfect opportunity to reach new customers and capitalize on the free marketing for your services, products, or programs.

For more information, visit vivacallesj.org

DO YOU OWN A BUSINESS ON THE ROUTE?

We highly encourage you and your business to participate in the event, and here are some great ideas to interact with event participants:

- Plan on opening your business on the day of the event.
- Make your storefront more visible with banners and signs.
- Bring your business to the streets.
- Advertise your business before the event.
- Spread the word about Viva CalleSJ.



JOIN NOW

EVENT DATE: SUNDAY, APRIL 21

<https://bit.ly/VCSJBiznessParticipation>



Questions? Contact Us
jairo.ramirez@sanjoseca.gov



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**GUNDERSON ALUMNI
BECOME A MEMBER!**

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- ✓ Lifetime Membership
- ✓ Invite to Homecoming Game
- ✓ Quarterly Newsletter
- ✓ Community Service Opportunities



Survey of LGBTQIA+ Older Adults in California: **FROM CHALLENGES TO RESILIENCE**




 **January 8th to March 31st 2024.**

Are you **aged 50 or over** and part of **California's vibrant LGBTQIA+ community**? Your voice is **pivotal!** We're excited to announce **California's first-ever statewide survey** focusing on the needs and experiences of mid-life and older LGBTQIA+ residents, supported by the **California Department of Aging**.

This **groundbreaking initiative**, in collaboration with leading research institutions and LGBTQIA+ community-based organizations, aims to shed light on our community's unique challenges, aspirations, and contributions. Your participation will **directly influence** resources, services, and policies to better support the well-being and rights of our aging LGBTQIA+ community.

Mark your calendars! The survey begins on **January 8th** and concludes on **March 31st 2024**. Learn more and take part at https://aging.ca.gov/Survey_of_LGBTQIA Let's ensure our voices are **heard and celebrated!** For questions please email: LGBTQIA_Study@ucsf.edu

 **Please scan this QR code to go directly to the survey or visit:**
https://aging.ca.gov/Survey_of_LGBTQIA



CALIFORNIA'S 19TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT



U.S. Representative Jimmy Panetta

announces

2024 HIGH SCHOOL ART COMPETITION
AN ARTISTIC DISCOVERY

All high school students residing in California's 19th Congressional District are eligible to submit one work of visual art.

Art must be submitted in person to any of Rep. Panetta's district offices in South San Jose, Santa Cruz, Monterey or Paso Robles.

Digital submissions not accepted.

Recognition will be for the top three pieces of art from the congressional district, with the first place winner to be displayed in the U.S. Capitol during the remainder of the 118th Congress.

Deadline for submission is no later than

12 | APRIL | 2024

For more information contact your local high school art teacher or contact the office of U.S. Representative Panetta at erin.davison@mail.house.gov or **831-424-2229**

UPDATES
from the Office of Councilmember
SERGIO JIMENEZ
SAN JOSE DISTRICT 2



Want to learn about City resources and information?
Have a question or suggestion about City services?
Need updates on City policies, upcoming events, community meetings, and more?

Contact your City of San Jose representative, Councilmember Sergio Jimenez:
Website: sanjoseca.gov/district2
Newsletters: bit.ly/D2NEWSLETTERS
Email: District2@sanjoseca.gov

COUNCILMEMBER SERGIO JIMENEZ'S
DISTRICT 2 ZOOM OFFICE HOURS
MONDAY, MARCH 25TH
5:30-7 P.M.

LET'S HAVE A CONVERSATION. ASK QUESTIONS, SHARE CONCERNS, AND MAKE SUGGESTIONS FOR YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

JOIN US ON ZOOM:
[TINYURL.COM/D2OFFICEHOURS](https://tinyurl.com/D2OFFICEHOURS)

Subscribe to the D2 newsletter to be sure to receive all the updates and meeting links. [CLICK HERE](#) to Subscribe!