

Sunrise at Martial Cottle County Park - By Heidi Racherla

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello VEP members,
I hope you are all enjoying our warm weather as we start summer off right.



It's been an interesting year so far, and not without its challenges. We learned (the hard way) that so much has changed at the City in terms of rules of engagement that we had to quickly pivot and adapt. Whereas in the past, we could easily organize our own cleanups and other community events and simply request help from the City, we now have to follow a process to be scheduled as part of the City's planned cleanup efforts and schedule. That said, we are making progress and we'll be hosting more events coming up in the next 4-6 months, so stay tuned.

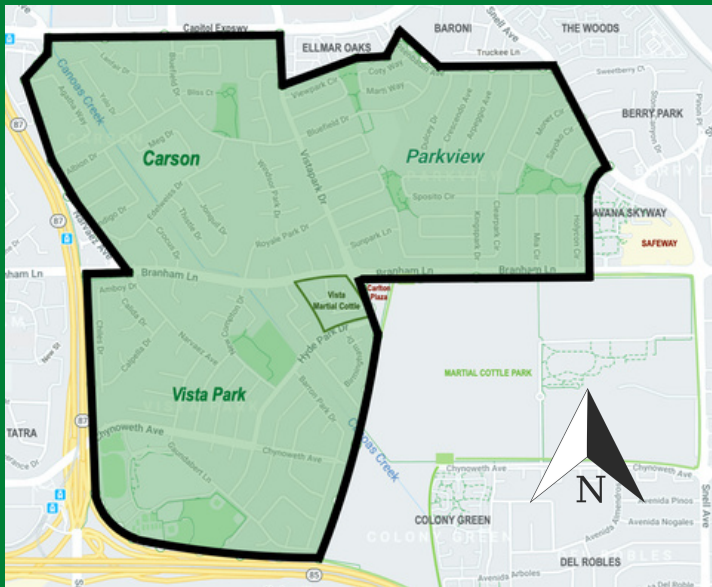
We recently hosted an event at Vista Park as part of the Great American Litter Cleanup sponsored by BeautifySJ and the City of San Jose Parks and Recreation Department. This happened on April 20th at Vista Park. Many thanks to all the volunteers who showed up to help pick up trash and remove graffiti at Vista Park but also in the surrounding streets in the neighborhood. You made a difference! Read Brian Ferry's article, on [Page 4](#).

We also have two exciting events planned. First, on August 24th, the VEP, in conjunction with District 2 Leadership, will be hosting a cleanup at Parkview Elementary School as well as Parkview I and Parkview II parks. Captain Stephen Donohue, our SJPD Southern Division police captain, has been working with the SJFD, Parks and Recreation, the principal of Parkview Elementary, the Oak Grove School District Superintendent's office and other key stakeholders to make this event happen. Both the SJFD and SJPD plan to cook breakfast for all of the volunteers, and we'll be heavily recruiting you all to turn out and help. The City will be providing everything we need, including tools, cleaning supplies and logistics support to help us get the job done. Mark this date in your calendars now, we'll be sending out more reminders and a call for volunteers as we get closer to the date.

Second, we have decided that we will be hosting our own National Night Out this year on Tuesday, August 6th. We're still working on the details, more to follow, including the park we will host this at. We are planning for food trucks, music and some activities for the kids. This is a great opportunity to come out and meet your neighbors and support our community.

We canceled our recent meeting in May so that members could attend the Basking Ridge Neighborhood Association's meeting and listen to Mayor Matt Mahan's Budget Message. As expected, the City has had to make some necessary trade-offs this year due to a budget shortfall. The good news is that the budget keeps the City's top priorities in place of sheltering the unhoused, cleaning up the

VEPCA Membership Area



VEP 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.

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

VEP 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 VEP News Editor. Business entities interested in advertising are welcome to contact the editor as well, for rates.

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

VEP SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS (CLICKABLE!)

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

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

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

President's Corner, Continued from Page 1

city and removing blight and increasing the safety and security of our neighborhoods with the recruitment of new police officers. You can learn more [here](#) about the Mayor's Budget Message and priorities.

I've been meeting with several neighborhood associations over the last few months to learn more from them about what they are doing to encourage more members to participate and engage with the community as well as how they are approaching advocacy at the City and County levels. As one example, we are in the process of preparing a list of improvements we want to see in several parks in our neighborhoods such as Meadows Park and Parkview I and II parks which are in bad need of improvements and plan to meet with Parks and Recreation to share our concerns and proposed list of improvements and encourage them to prioritize these improvements.

We are in need of more volunteers to help us expand the scope and reach of our neighborhood association. If you or anyone you know is interested, please reach out to me at president@vepca.net. If you're willing to serve on our Board or head up a committee to help with our community initiatives, or in any other capacity, we'd love to hear from you.

And last, but certainly not least, every year the VEP awards two Community Service Award scholarships to seniors at our neighborhood high schools who have demonstrated a commitment to community service and that have made a difference with the community service work they have accomplished. Congratulations to our Class of 2024 winners Noreen Vu of Andrew Hill High School and Deitra Hoang from Gunderson High School for their outstanding community involvement and work! Read Brian Ferry's article and see photos on [Page 3](#).

Our next general meeting will be on Wednesday, September 25th at 7 PM at the Vista Park Community Center. Please send me any special requests on what you would like to hear about in this meeting and any special guests we should invite. Captain Donohue is already confirmed and we're looking forward to having him with us then.

Have a great summer, everyone!

VEPCA President, Alain Mowad



VEPCA Awards Two Deserving High School Seniors for their Community Service

By Brian Ferry

I had the honor of attending the 2024 Senior Awards Night at Andrew P. Hill High School, and of representing VEP by presenting one of this year's Community Service Awards. The young lady selected by the application reviewers is Miss Noreen Vu, who will be attending UCLA in the fall, and majoring in Psycho-Biology!

VEP President Alain Mowad attended the 2024 Awards Night at Gunderson High School, and presented the CSA to graduating senior, Miss Deitra Hoang, the District 3 Youth Commissioner for the City of San Jose. Deitra has been admitted to the University of Pennsylvania College of Arts and Sciences where she will be pursuing her post-secondary education.

Congratulations to Noreen and Deitra! We wish you the very best in your future endeavors!

The financial assistance provided by these annual awards is needed as much now as ever, and your own VEP dues help fund these awards. For those of you who regularly pay your dues, please accept our most sincere thanks!



Miss Noreen Vu with VEPCA Board Member, Brian Ferry



Miss Deitra Hoang with VEPCA President, Alain Mowad



exp
REALTY

Jayshree Reddy
All Things Real Estate

Your Neighborhood Realtor
Ph: 408-489-6812
jr.homesold@gmail.com
jayshreereddy.exprealty.com
San Jose, CA, 95136
License #: 02141214



Paint the City SJ in VEP!
Friday, August 16th at Parkview Park

Find More Information and Registration Links at
sanjoseca.gov/placemaking

3

Beautification Update

Hi Friends!

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who came out to Vista Park on Earth Day, April 20, 2024! We had about two dozen helpful souls turn up and pitch in to make the neighborhood look great!

In addition to cleaning up Vista Park, Parkview Parks (all 3 of them!) and some surrounding streets, we even had one VEP member tackle the former homeless encampment behind Gunderson's bleachers along the bike trail. Talk about devotion!

All in all, we collected 22 bags of trash from the neighborhood in just about 3 hours; quite an impressive haul! Thanks again to everyone who turned out to make this event such a success!

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

Brian Ferry
VEP Beautification Guy



GHS Class of 1994 & VP Resident Since 2004

Wesley W. Terrell
Loan Officer | NMLS#2490148

Call me today for all of your Residential Financing Needs!

(408) 205-7291
wterrell@S1L.com
S1L.com/Wesley-Terrell

Synergy One Lending, Inc. | NMLS #1907235
Licensed by CA DFPI: CRLMA & CFL



ALMADEN LAKE PARK
No vehicle access through Winfield Blvd.

3:00 PM Festival
9:15 PM Fireworks

Volunteers Needed for the 4th of July Fireworks Festival at Almaden Lake Park

Dear Neighbors, I'm excited to invite you to the 9th Annual 4th of July Fireworks Festival. Celebrate Independence Day with us at Almaden Lake Park! It is an honor to carry on this District 10 tradition, which began under the leadership of Former Councilmember Johnny Khamis and continues on year after year.

Join me on July 4th starting at 3 PM for a jam-packed festival including a Family Fun Zone, food trucks, and booths showcasing local organizations and businesses. Enjoy live music and a new "Half-Time Show" featuring Comedy Sportz, the National Anthem, and more. Attend the half-time show in your most patriotic outfit for a chance to win prizes! The celebration culminates with an explosive fireworks show at 9:15 PM (approximately). Former District 10 resident Craig Cutright with Blackstar Fireworks Incorporated, along with longtime District 10 resident and volunteer extraordinaire Bob Vonderwerth, are once again producing a fantastic fireworks display. This festival couldn't have come together without the efforts of our neighbors as well as generous donations from the community and our sponsors. Visit SJD10.com for more information.

To ensure this event goes off with a bang, the Almaden Valley Women's Club needs your help! First, there are great volunteer opportunities for all ages. Students can have their community service forms signed. Visit bit.ly/J4FF2024volunteer to sign up. In addition, support the Almaden Valley Women's Club and Rotary Club of Almaden/Willow Glen as they raise funds to keep this annual event going. Their fundraiser provides a win-win-win opportunity - you support the festival, you get huge savings on the things you do every day, AND you support local businesses. That's a win-win-win! Visit goraisy.entertainment.com/avwc to learn more.

We are grateful to the organizations and sponsors who help make this great event possible. Reach out to district10@sanjoseca.gov if you have any questions or would like to learn more.

See you at the 4th of July Fireworks Festival at Almaden Lake Park as we gather to celebrate the United States of America!

Sincerely, Arjun Batra - District 10 Councilmember

UPDATES

from the Office of Councilmember

SERGIO JIMENEZ

SAN JOSE DISTRICT 2

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

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 Email: District2@sanjoseca.gov

Newsletters: bit.ly/D2NEWSLETTERS



VIVA PARKS
ACTIVATIONS

BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH FUN


FREE MOVIE NIGHTS

June 13 – August 29, 2024
Thursdays 6 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.
Movie begins shortly after sunset


Bring a Blanket & Chair!

Contact us
(408) 535-6887
Placemaking@sanjoseca.gov
www.sanjoseca.gov/Placemaking


[f](#) [@](#) [@vivaparkssj](#)



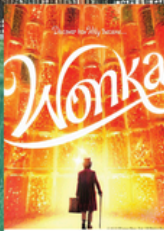
WISH
June 13
Cahalan Park




THE LITTLE MERMAID
June 20
Great Oaks Park




ELEMENTAL
June 27
Coy Park




WONKA
July 11
Boggini Park




**MINIONS:
THE RISE OF GRU**
July 18
Great Oaks Park




**RUBY GILLMAN
TEENAGE KRAKEN**
July 25
Lincoln Glen Park




**TNT
MUTANT MAYHEM**
August 1
Northwood Park




KUNG FU PANDA 4
August 8
Mayfair Park



**THE LEAGUE OF
SUPERHEROES**
August 15
Butcher Park




TURNING RED
August 22
Ramblewood Park



**TROLLS
BAND TOGETHER**
August 29
Starbird Park

City of San Jose
Placemaking Website





VIVA PARKS
ACTIVATIONS

BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH FUN

**SUMMER
EVENT CALENDAR**

**JUNE – AUGUST
2024**

VIVA PARKS EVENTS
6 p.m – 8 p.m.

FREE MOVIE NIGHTS
6 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.

Movie begins shortly
after sunset


Contact us
(408) 535-6887
Placemaking@sanjoseca.gov
www.sanjoseca.gov/Placemaking

[f](#) [@](#) [@vivaparkssj](#)

June

#BUILDINGCOMMUNITYTHROUGHFUN

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10	11 Melody Park	12	13 Cahalan Park	14
17 Metcalf Park	18	19	20 Great Oaks Park	21 Fernish Park
24 Silver Leaf Park	25 Calero Park	26 La Colina Park	27 Coy Park	28



July

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
1 Tamien Park	2 Children of the Rainbow Park	3 Solari Park	4 Happy 4th of July
8 Alviso Park	9 Capitol Park	10 Los Paseos Park	11 Boggini Park
15 Biebrach Park	16 Esther Medina Park	17 West Evergreen Park	18 Great Oaks Park
22 Brooktree Park	23 Rocksprings Park	24 Marijane Hamann Park	25 Lincoln Glen Park
29 Melody Park	30 Plata Arroyo Park	31 Dove Hill Park	

August

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
5 Danna Rock Park	6 Bellevue Park	7 Murdock Park	1 Northwood Park
12 River Oaks Park	13 Meadowfair Park	14 Hillview Park	8 Mayfair Park
19 Brigadoon Park	20 Backesto Park	21 Silver Leaf Park	15 Butcher Park
26 Cahill Park	27 Watson Park	28 Rubino Park	22 Ramblewood Park
			29 Starbird Park

For more information or to request an accommodation for City-sponsored events or an alternative format for printed materials, please contact Placemaking@sanjoseca.gov at least 3 days prior to the event. For additional information visit: sanjoseca.gov/placemaking

Martial Cottle Park - Summer Program

“Drugs on the Farm” - Saturday, July 27, 2024 - 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Join a retired pharmacist and lead volunteer in the exploration of drugs on the farm in the days of old. How did use of these pharmaceutical drugs shape the course of how drugs are manufactured and marketed today?

Meet at the Martial Cottle Park Visitor Center. Leashed dogs, children, and families are welcome.

\$6 vehicle entrance fee required. Program is free!

Sign-Ups are Recommended: [CLICK HERE!](#)

CAM Rebate Program

From SJPD Southern Division Captain, Stephen Donohue

I am pleased to share an exciting opportunity provided by our department that is set to benefit your constituents, local small businesses, nonprofit organizations, and places of worship.

In our ongoing efforts to enhance public safety and improve evidence collection, we have secured a \$75,000 grant to subsidize the purchase of external security cameras. Each eligible applicant can receive a rebate for cameras costing up to \$350, including taxes.

We are eager to discuss this program with you individually and provide detailed information. Our team is also prepared to facilitate meetings, application drives, and any other support needed to ensure comprehensive accessibility to this program. We offer these services in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese to accommodate our diverse community.

Please contact Monica Rueda at monica.rueda@sanjoseca.gov to schedule a meeting or have any questions regarding the program.

To participate, applicants must follow these four simple steps:

1. Complete a preliminary application and receive conditional acceptance e-mail.

Note: Purchases made from July 2022 onward are eligible under this retroactive program.

2. Buy the camera and submit an itemized receipt.

3. Install the camera and submit a photograph of the installed unit.

4. Register the camera with our CAM Program.

Upon completion of these steps, we will review the application and documentation. Qualified applicants will be instructed on where to collect their rebate check. Please note, this is a first-come, first-served program, and approval of preliminary applications does not guarantee funding.

For more details, please visit our website links below. We welcome referrals and are here to answer any questions you may have regarding this valuable initiative.

[CAM Rebate Program | San Jose Police Department, CA](#)

[CAM Program Rebate Application.pdf \(SECURED\)](#)

[Spanish CAM Program Rebate Applicationext.pdf \(SECURED\)](#)

[CAM Program Rebate ApplicationVietnameseext.pdf \(SECURED\)](#)

[CAM Rebate Program FlyerEnglish.pdf](#)

[CAM Rebate Program FlyerSpanish.pdf](#)

[CAM Rebate Program FlyerVietnamese.pdf](#)

We look forward to partnering with you to enhance the safety and security of our community.



ROBERTO RUIZ

INTERO REAL ESTATE
BROKER ASSOCIATE

BRE LIC. #01270734

408-234-7249

RRuiz@interorealestate.com

5580 Almaden Expwy
San Jose, CA 95118

www.RobertoBroker.com

VEPCA MEMBER
MARINE CORPS VETERAN



6





FIREWORKS

ARE ILLEGAL

IN THE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ

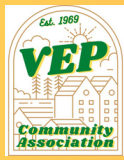
MINIMUM FINE \$1,000
MAXIMUM FINE \$50,000

**ENJOY PROFESSIONAL FIREWORKS SHOWS
HAPPENING IN SAN JOSÉ AT ALMADEN LAKE
PARK, LAKE CUNNINGHAM, AND EXCITE
BALLPARK.**

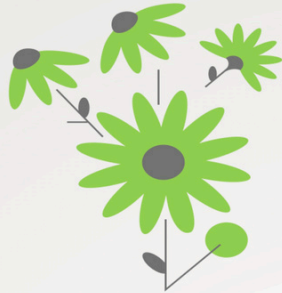
Report illegal firework activity online at

Denuncie la actividad ilegal de fuegos artificiales en línea en
Báo cáo hoạt động bắn pháo bông bất hợp pháp trực tuyến tại
www.sanjoseca.gov/fireworks or calling 408-535-5600 or visit
3-1-1- mobile app. To download app, scan QR code.





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