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half of the membership. At the close our program year in April, we report and grade ourselves on how well we met those G&O.

We will ask your input and vote on the following proposed G&O at our September 26th meeting. If any changes are adopted at that meeting, they will be published in the October VEP News.

1. Continue to Improve our Community and our Association.
 - A. *Values: Place first priority on volunteer efforts that reflect member-endorsed improvements in our community.*
 - B. Leadership: Encourage regular turn-over of VEP Officers to impart broad, area-wide membership representation, fresh ideas, new perspectives, and peak energy in our organization.
 - C. Membership: Continue to increase paid membership.
 - D. Meetings: Encourage attendance at VEP meetings and events.
 - E. Fiscal Health: Continue to maintain VEP's positive fiscal condition.
 - F. Communication:
 - a) Continue publishing the VEP Newsletter nine times per year.
 - b) Continue development and encourage usage of VEP Website; develop a content guide.
 - c) Provide and cultivate a means of interactive member communications (such as expanding our current e-list and/or establishing a community forum on the VEP Website).
 - d) Utilize e-mail messages to communicate with members, particularly in months when newsletter is not published.
 - e) Continue to develop relationships with local media outlets and submit for publication articles about VEP.
 - G. Visibility: Increase VEP's public recognition through local signage, newsletters, event flyers, partnering with local businesses, schools, and other community associations; and through contributing articles to other community publications.
 - H. Volunteerism: Increase opportunities for VEP members to volunteer by:
 - a) Developing functional committees that will expand leadership opportunities and cultivate new talent for future VEP Executive Board positions.
 - b) Supporting our Volunteer Coordinator.
 - c) Supporting our Hospitality Coordinator.

- d) Continue developing, and share with committee chairs a VEP database of volunteers by activity and time preferences.
 - e) Continue developing and advertising additional volunteer activities, e.g. structured committees.
 - f) Schedule one major event per year to recognize and thank VEP volunteers.
 - g) Continue process of thanking volunteers for their time and talent in VEP communications.
 - h) Improve/formalize the process of hospitality/outreach to new residents of VEP.
 - i) Develop a VEP brochure describing VEP's history and mission, including information on committees and major yearly events.
- I. Review and update VEP's Constitution and Bylaws:
 - a) Consider and propose changes in the composition of the Executive Board that could improve our effectiveness (such as proposing that the Webmaster become a permanent/voting member of the Executive Board).
 - b) Develop and implement a formal committee structure for both standing and ad hoc committees, such as Major Events, Beautification, Parks, Transportation, Schools & Libraries, and Communications.
 - c) Consider and propose changes to our Community Service Award program (such as changes to current award categories, how to manage ties, and criteria for At-Large award).
 - d) Formalize the process for filling vacant Executive Board positions.
 - e) Consider an organizational name change to Vistapark Community Association (a geographically recognizable moniker).
 - f) Consider and propose changing our program/fiscal year to begin with May (rather than the current month of April).
 - J. Consider and propose incorporating VEP as a 501c3 non-profit organization.
2. Promote Community Interaction, Pride, and Preparedness.
 - A. Encourage member participation in neighborhood safety programs, crime prevention, and disaster/emergency preparedness.
 - B. Participate in at least two major beautification projects, such as San Jose Beautiful annual Daffodil planting; and landscaping the area at Branham and Narvaez.
 - C. Continue to organize and encourage participation in at least two pruning and community cleanup projects, such as the Chynoweth Palm Tree Pruning events.
 - D. Continue encouraging graffiti removal when/where ever it occurs in and around our area.
 - E. Continue to sponsor, promote, and underwrite these annual VEP events: the Home Faire, Community-wide Garage Sale, and the Memorial Day Parade & Festival.
 3. Work to Assure Local Government and Businesses' Responsiveness and Accountability to VEP Members.
 - A. Sponsor Election Forums that heighten our members' awareness of candidates and ballot issues, and encourages their participation as informed voters in all elections.
 - B. Work with City/County government and developers to install and/or maintain landscaping in the VEP membership area; e.g.,
 - a) South end of Vistapark (at Hyde Park)
 - b) Vistapark at Branham (along the new wall)
 - c) Capital Expressway medians

- d) Chynoweth medians
 - e) Narvaez median
 - C. Work with the City of San Jose to provide for traffic safety measures and traffic calming on VEP streets which have become heavily traveled; e.g.,
 - a) Chynoweth between Pearl and New World-Gaundabert
 - b) Hyde Park between Chynoweth and Vistapark (to Branham)
 - c) New Compton to Massachusetts to Chynoweth and visa-a-versa
 - d) Bluefield to Rosenbaum to Capitol and Snell
 - e) Kingspark Drive
 - D. Continue to monitor community impacts (including increased traffic and parking) resulting from uses of Gunderson High School and the new Vistapark Community Room.
 - E. Encourage, monitor, and react to plans for urban development, transportation, libraries, parks and other public infrastructure changes in and around our membership area. Organize and communicate community priorities and concerns.
4. Monitor, Create, and Maintain High-Quality Public Services for VEP Area.
- A. Promote and participate in planning and development of the Martial-Cottle Regional Park (Lester Property).
 - B. Monitor traffic and other issues along Branham Lane. Continue VEP member involvement during the design and construction process of widening Branham between Vistapark and Snell Avenue, and other improvements between Vistapark and Narvaez.
 - C. Monitor and provide input to the City's capital improvement plan for our neighborhood's needs.
 - D. Work with the City to develop, renovate, and maintain our neighborhood parks. Monitor adequate services for maintenance of Vista Park Community Room and Bathroom facilities.
 - E. Work with the City to develop a master plan for the immediate area surrounding the Vista Park Community Room.
 - F. Monitor opportunities to build a city park at Capitol/Narvaez.
 - G. Monitor the city's Adopt-A-Park program within our traditional membership area to assure that each park is adopted, and volunteer efforts are sustained.
 - H. Monitor opportunities for improvements in traffic level of service at Capitol/Narvaez/northbound 87 onramp.
 - I. Work for measures aimed at eliminating red-light running on Capitol Expressway.
 - J. Work for improved street conditions and strict enforcement of traffic laws in and around our area. Emphasize the need for VEP members to observe and comply with traffic laws, doing our part to improve neighborhood safety.
 - K. Work with the City to ensure that impacts of any proposed high-density development along the Guadalupe Corridor are fully mitigated.
 - L. Monitor design, development, and building of new library facilities at Pearl Avenue and at Branham and Monterey Road (the new Edenvale facility).
 - M. Monitor and encourage continued construction of wheelchair access ramps on street corners in our neighborhoods.

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VEP cleaned up on August 19th

-Dave Fadness

On Saturday, August 19, VEP volunteers collaborated with the city and Caltrans in pruning 170 palm trees in the Chynoweth Avenue median and cleaning up and pruning along the Route 87 bike/pedestrian path between Route 85 and Chynoweth Avenue.

Beyond keeping our community clean and attractive, this project also focused on public safety by improving sight distances for pedestrians and motorists on busy Chynoweth Avenue and removing potential hiding places along the bike/ped path, improving security for students who use it to and from school.

VEP really appreciated the help of Caltrans, the city, and these dedicated, hard-working volunteers who gave six hours of their time on a weekend to make our community a better place to live:

Cindy Bosworth, VEP Vice President

Katherine Decker

Aiko Fadness

Gil Gruber

Jim Hicks, VEP Secretary

Jeff Ismail & Debra Suydam

Frank Kistler

Jeanette Moghrabi

Dave Noel

Dave Pfaff & Marianne Damon

Josie Supencheck



Our 8/19/06 Clean-Up Team: VEP and Caltrans

The maintenance crew from Caltrans was:

Rick Blacksten

Jess Mejia

Paul Ramirez

Anthony Simpson

(cont'd next page...)

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We extend our gratitude to the city's Department of Transportation Landscape Maintenance crews who promptly remove the thousands of cut fronds our volunteers leave stacked in the median. This time, that big job was completed by two city crew members from DOT's Landscape West Division, **Eric Colbert** and **Creston Olson**.



VEP planted those 170 Chynoweth Avenue palm trees in 1995 and we've pruned them twice each year for the past nine.

Election Forums

- Dave Noel

With less than two months to go until Election Day (Tuesday November 7th), campaigns are heating up.

On Wednesday October 11th VEP and **Almaden Valley Community Association** will co-sponsor a forum for featuring moderated debates of Santa Clara Valley Water District Division 1 candidates **Rosemary Kamei** and **Ram Singh**, and San Jose mayoral candidates **Chuck Reed** and **Cindy Chavez**. This event will be held in the Gunderson High School Theater. Arrive at 6:45 to meet the candidates. Our formal program will run from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

At our Tuesday October 24th general meeting, VEP will host a moderated debate of Santa Clara County District Attorney candidates **Karyn Sinunu** and **Judge Delores Carr**. This forum will be held in the Vista Park Community Room and will be one of two topics to be covered at our normal 7:30 to 9:00 meeting time.

Please mark you calendars and attend *both* events. Everyone is invited. Please help spread the word to other groups,

and invite your friends, family and neighbors. Large turnouts will show the candidates we are serious voters and care about the issues. See www.vepca.org for any post-publication developments.

211 Coming To Santa Clara County

- San Jose City Councilmember Ken Yeager

A toll-free calling code, 2-1-1, designated for the public to access health and human services referrals and disaster assistance, is coming soon to Santa Clara County. The United Way of Silicon Valley has pioneered this effort and is working with a private-public partnership to launch this full-service system next February.

This call center hotline and public website will connect people to the services that they need 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

2-1-1 enables people to get or give help. It offers information on a broad range of services, including housing and shelter assistance, financial literacy, child and elder care, after school programs, mental health and other health resources.

2-1-1 will also enhance public safety and crisis recovery efforts. From earthquakes to floods to bio-terrorism and pandemics, 2-1-1 call centers are the ideal platform for building emergency response communication capacity.

[Ed. Note: Ken Yeager is City Council member in District 6, Willow Glen.]

SeniorNet expands curriculum

-John McCulloch

Have you ever taken a computer class and walked out thinking to yourself, "they went too fast, there is too much to cover"? Well, SeniorNet has been listening, and we have some great news.



SeniorNet has made some changes in the curriculum to assist computer learning. The *Introduction to Computer* class has been expanded. In addition to the original 8-week class, a 4-week "Next Class After Intro" class has been added. This new class goes over some of the necessary skills for successful computer use such as mouse proficiency, selecting text, opening-renaming-saving files, cut-copy-paste, as well as folder and file management.

In addition, a 4-week class has been added titled: "Next Class After Intro." which goes over some of the necessary skills for successful computer use such as mouse proficiency, selecting text, opening-renaming-saving files, cut-copy-paste, as well as folder and file management.

SeniorNet Willows has launched an *Internet for Beginners* class which begins by giving an overview of the internet and how to send and receive e-mail messages using an address book. Later the class goes on to teach navigating the web, searching for specific information, reading and posting to bulletin boards, and instant messaging.

The *Photoshop Elements* class has been expanded from one 8-week class to two 8-week classes. The first class titled "Introduction to Photoshop Elements" (offered next session) will cover moving the photo into the computer hard drive, or-

ganizing photos, repairing common problems with Quick Fix and sharing photos via e-mail. The follow-on class titled: "Photoshop Elements 4 - Editor" will teach the student how to modify digital images, eliminate red eye, brighten or darken that photo, and remove that palm tree you don't want.

If you would like to take these or any of the twelve classes offered by SeniorNet Willows, come to our class registration on Saturday, October 7 at 9 a.m. Sign-up for the Introduction to Computers class is at 10:30 a.m. This registration is held at the Willows Senior Center, 2175 Lincoln Avenue (at Curtner Avenue).

SeniorNet is open to anyone 50 years young and over. Most classes cost \$20, and there is an annual SeniorNet fee of \$40. For more information, call (408) 364-1430 or go to www.snscsj.org. SeniorNet classes are also offered at the Almaden Library.

VEP-area beautification projects

-Dave Fadness

In December 2004, VEP published and distributed a wish-list of things we wanted to accomplish in and around our community. This list was, in part, drawn from our adopted Goals & Objectives. It served as the basis for discussions we had during tours of our area with (then newly-seated) Councilwoman Nancy Pyle and other high-ranking city officials.



The original three-page wish-list contained 32 specific items. It covered Streets, Traffic, and Pedestrian Safety; Parks; Libraries; Community Beautification; and General Community Issues. This article will cover progress toward fulfilling beautification items.

Because VEP has a plan, is committed to success, won the support of city and county officials, and has dedicated volunteers, our accomplishments have been significant. Some of the more ambitious multi-year objectives remain unfinished. These will be revisited in developing our Goals & Objectives for 2006-07.

Here's our wish-list (not in priority order) for community beautification:

1. *Install median landscaping (trees and ground cover mulch) on Capitol Expressway, from Copperfield east to Snell.* VEP asked for this improvement and worked almost continuously for nearly four years to make it happen. Pinn Brothers, developer of Bella Villagio, recently signed a maintenance agreement with County Roads allowing completion of the few remaining details. Thanks to Pinn Brothers, Santa Clara County Roads Department, County Supervisor Don Gage, and VEP, we now have one of the most attractively landscaped expressway segments in Santa Clara County.
2. *Complete the median island on Vistapark Drive, north of Capitol Expressway.* This improvement was a condition on Pinn Brother's Bella Villagio project. We expect this median work to be completed shortly.
3. *Install cul-de-sac landscaping at the south end of Vistapark Drive.* This project is now complete. VEP volunteers have been maintaining it, pending a negotiated agreement with the City of San Jose.
4. *Paint the old Branham Lane sound walls, east and west of*

Vistapark Drive. VEP asked Las Brisas developer SummerHill Homes to do this for us. They did a beautiful job, painting from Vistapark Drive east. VEP volunteers have been keeping it looking nice by painting-out occasional graffiti.

The masonry wall west of Vistapark Drive was replaced by property owners on Royal Garden Court. After the new wood fencing was installed, VEP volunteers removed the old shrubs and planted 72 miniature oleanders there. Maintenance (watering and weed removal) is being done by VEP volunteers.

5. *Get the irrigation fixed (or hose bibs installed) so we can plant ivy along the old Branham sound wall as soon as those walls get painted. (We'll also need water there for trees we hope to plant across the street.)* This work will be considered as part of the city's Branham widening project. VEP has submitted a list of expectations and will monitor fulfillment. We expect to see commencement of design and construction in San Jose's 2007 fiscal year, which ends June 30.

6. *Help VEP to landscape the Rosenbaum median triangle at Capitol.* County Supervisor **Don Gage** responded to VEP's request, having County Roads clear and apply mulch to this perennial weed patch. In an effort to minimize maintenance and preserve sight-distances for expressway turning movements, Roads discouraged our request for landscaping. After three years trying to work around legal requirements for landscape maintenance, we agreed to settle for this minimal treatment. VEP now considers this project to be complete.

We offer our thanks to County Supervisor **Don Gage**; his transportation aide, **Edwin Chan**; County Roads' **Dan Colleen**, **Ron Jackson**, and **Ron Neal**; and the crew members from County Roads' East Yard who did the actual work.

7. *Improve the vacant property on the northeast corner of Branham and Narvaez. Allow VEP to work with the City Arborist and Our City Forest to design an attractive spot-park, having a few benches and relatively low-maintenance landscaping (a few high-canopy trees, flowering bushes, and decomposed granite ground-cover). VEP will adopt and maintain it. Ask that the city name it "VEP Park."* The city prepared a design plan for us. VEP applied for a Community Foundation grant to cover more than \$5000 in cost to install water service. Our application was denied, so we approached the city for help.

We now have agreements to install the water service. Brown-ing-Ferris Industries agreed to donate and deliver 162 cubic yards of mulch (a \$3700 value). Our City Forest will donate

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VEP, truly a friend in need!

33 trees and stakes (a \$2000 value). We still need to raise funds for site-development costs (~\$450 for perimeter trenching and ~\$300 for auguring tree planting holes). No park benches are included in our design—and it will not be considered a park.

We target completion of this project by VEP volunteers before year's end. YOUR help will be needed in a variety of ways, from spreading mulch to planting trees. It'll be a big job requiring lots of hands, so please offer to help. (Call me at 578-6428.)

8. *Help VEP to improve the appearance of our Chynoweth Avenue gateway by installing landscaping (oleander?) on the north side, from New World to Pearl Avenue; trenching to contain pro-chip ground-cover (installed by VEP) on the Chynoweth median (under the palm trees), Barron Park Drive to Pearl Avenue; finish installing irrigation and ivy landscaping on the south side of Chynoweth, westerly to the first driveway past the pedestrian staircase.* Ownership issues and the lack of water service stopped progress on this ambitious undertaking. There is no easy answer to how water could be accessed for landscaping on the north side of Chynoweth. A complicated brew of state, county, and city agencies own the south side of Chynoweth, making it a logistical nightmare. Trenching and applying mulch under the palm trees would be a huge job.

We decided to hold-off until other, more readily achievable projects can be completed. Pending the availability of water and an indication of community commitment, these Chynoweth gateway projects could be broken into smaller, more manageable projects.

9. *When an accident occurs that damages them, continue to have the city pursue the responsible party's insurance carrier to cover full cost and replacement of Chynoweth palm tree(s) of matching size.* This is being done, and is policy at the Department of Transportation. Trees destroyed by accidents and replaced in August were paid for this way. VEP volunteers have maintained them for eleven years.

10. *When Oakridge Mall construction is complete, insist that Westfield make Blossom Hill Road presentable. It's now an eyesore with a hodgepodge of repairs.* VEP has not pursued this.

Minivan needed

Second Harvest Food Bank is in need of a mid-sized van that can hold at least six people. The van should have an automatic transmission, air conditioning, be less than ten years old and have less than 100K miles.

Donations are tax deductible. For more information contact Bruce Worrell at bworrell@shfoodbank.com.

[Ed. Note: It may be possible to claim a higher tax deduction if you donate a car to a charity that plans to use it, rather than sell or auction it. When charities sell your car, our understanding is your tax deduction is based on the amount they sold or auctioned the car for, but if the charity will use your car, your deduction is based on fair market value. Check with your tax professional.]

★★ Upcoming Volunteer Events ★★

Unless otherwise specified, be sure to call Maria at 226-4614 to find out specifics and volunteer for these events.

- ▶ Annual San Jose Beautiful Daffodil Planting – Saturday November 4th. Meet at 8:30 a.m. for refreshments and bulb distribution. Planting starts at 9:00 a.m.
- ▶ Improve the vacant property on the northeast corner of Branham and Narvaez. Plant trees and spread mulch. Tentative date is mid-November, 2006. Volunteers are also needed for ongoing maintenance (tree watering and litter control) after planting.

Help wanted

-Dave Fadness

If you are skilled in or have a knack for writing, please step forward to help with an important job for VEP. I've been editing VEP newsletters since 1992. It's time for an infusion of new ideas and the help of a person who can fill in on those occasions when this old hand is away on travel. (I'd even step aside if you want the job!)



We have an excellent and diverse flow of articles each month from many contributors. Some editing is typically required—shortening articles, repairing grammar (my weakness) and spelling, ferreting meaning from tangled sentences, etc. A doctorate in English Grammar is not required, believe me!

Our editor also uses common sense in deciding what will be of general interest to our readers. Most of our contributors understand and write for our audience, so it's rare that we refuse to print an article. We do our best to avoid commercial pitches—even from our advertisers, who have never even tried.

Most articles are submitted in WORD format. Almost all are emailed to us now, so keyboarding skill isn't as much an issue as it once was for two-fingered typists like me. Needless to say, you'll need to have email access. The majority of VEP execs use PCs, so it would be best that whoever takes this on be a PC user, too.

We use Microsoft *Publisher* for our newsletter paste-ups. It's very easy to learn and use, so experience is not required. VEP supplies the software. I will provide all the training you may need.

Brian Bonnifield, Real Estate Consultant American Eagle Properties

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The newsletter format and ads are set up, waiting for text to be poured in each month. In all, it's a fair amount of work, but very satisfying. We get many compliments on the content and quality of the *NEWS*.

Call me at 578-6428 if you have questions about or an interest in helping. I'd love to hear from you!

★★ VEP Community Calendar ★★

Sat, Sep 23 @ 8:30 am = "Hoofing it for Kids Safety", a walk & resource fair for children's safety in honor of the 20th Anniversary of the SJPD Mounted Unit, at the Arena Green, across the street from the HP Pavilion. For more information, call Denelle Fedor at (408) 275-6652.

Tue, Sep 26 @ 7:30 pm = VEP meeting at the Vista Park Community Room (on Hyde Park Drive). See agenda on page 1.

Sat, Sep 30 @ 11:00 am = Pearl Avenue Branch Library Groundbreaking Celebration. For more information call (408) 535-8450.

Mon, Oct 2 @ 7:15 pm = VEP executive board meeting at the Vista Park Community Room (on Hyde Park Drive).

Wed, Oct 4 @ 2:00 pm, and

Thu, Oct 5 @ 7:30 pm, and

Sat Oct 7 @ 11:00 am = Long Term Care Workshop at the Vista Park Community Room. See President's message on page 8, or Steve Gregerson's ad on page 14 for more info.

Wed, Oct 11 @ 6:45 = VEP/AVCA Election Forum in the Gunderson High School Theater, featuring water district and mayoral candidate debates (see article on page 4).

Tue, Oct 24 @ 7:30 pm = VEP meeting at the Vista Park Community Room (on Hyde Park Drive), featuring District Attorney candidate debate (see article on page 4).

Sat, Nov 4 @ 8:30 am = San Jose Beautiful daffodil planting

Martial Cottle Park (Lester Property) update

-Jane Mark (*)

The Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department is currently developing a Request for Proposal (RFP) to solicit professional consulting services to develop a park master plan based on the vision of the land's donor, **Walter Cottle Lester**. That process will also include completing the required environmental review for implementation of this project.

The RFP is scheduled to be released in September, 2006. It is anticipated that the Department will initiate the consultant selection process in October, 2006. Once a consultant firm is selected, the Department hopes to start the master planning and environmental review process in early spring, 2007.

The Martial Cottle Park property is now jointly owned by the County of Santa Clara and State of California. Those two agencies have already engaged in discussions related to the long-range planning process that may integrate major components, public outreach and coordination, final review and approval steps. The Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department recently met with key staff members of the State Parks Department and will continue working with their staff throughout the Martial Cottle Park Master Plan project.

For more information regarding the master plan and environmental review project, or to be added to the County's mailing list for this project, please contact Jane Mark at (408) 355-2237 or at jane.mark@prk.sccgov.org.

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[[* Ed. Note: Jane Mark is a Parks Planner for the Santa Clara County Parks & Recreation Department. She will be manager of the Martial-Cottle Master Plan process.]

Neighborhood scuttlebutt

-Dave Fadness

Branham Lane widening project: San Jose's City Attorney has prioritized drafting a right-of-way land transfer agreement with the county, setting forth terms that city and county technical staff have conceptually agreed to. This draft will then be sent to the county for review. If all goes well, a final agreement will be considered for approval separately by the city council and the board of supervisors in October.

After the city and county approve this agreement, environmental and preliminary design processes can begin. City staff assures us that VEP's input will be sought.

If you are interested in joining VEP's Branham Widening Committee, call me at 578-6428. Meetings with city staff will resume soon after the land transfer agreement is approved.

Chynoweth Avenue traffic calming: In the aftermath of serious, speed-related accidents last June, VEP is working with San Jose's Department of Transportation and San Jose Unified School District to achieve "traffic calming" on Chynoweth. A broad range of alternatives are being considered in an effort to improve pedestrian and motorist safety.



Users of that street will notice that some operational changes have already been made. Cautionary signage has been added. The eastbound free right turn lane was eliminated and pedestrian crossing markings were improved at the Gaundabert-New World Drive intersection. The eastbound turn lane into Gunderson's parking lot was made longer. School zone speed limit signage was moved outward to near legal maximum distances from Gunderson. Digital speed display signs were installed in both travel directions.

Changes yet to be implemented include adding a bike lane on both sides, from Pearl to Gaundabert-New World Drive, and installing Bots dots rumble strips in both travel directions near the freeway under-crossing.

One option that would result in lasting speed reduction is going from two-lanes to one-lane in each direction. Some Chynoweth users claim that congestion would result, so VEP asked the city to measure traffic volume.

The city did multi-day, 24-hour traffic speed and volume measurements before school ended in June. Unofficial results are that total traffic counts (the sum of vehicles in both directions) is an average of ~6200 vehicles per day. Those counts were done the week before classes ended at Gunderson, but after seniors had graduated. So, to be more accurate, a slight increase in that average number may be appropriate.

However, even if adjusted upward to reflect having the senior class at GHS, no one at DOT feels that this low number requires two traffic lanes in each direction to avoid congestion. For example, two-lane (one in each direction) San Jose streets like Pine and Hicks with averages of 10,000 to 13,000 vehicles per day currently operate without unacceptable congestion.

This conclusion is consistent with what we experienced on Chynoweth when construction on the 85/87 interchange forced temporary (but months long) lane closure there.

Recognizing that 24-hour average traffic counts can mask high peak-hour loads on otherwise low-volume streets, VEP asked whether measurements at peak hours indicated a potential problem. The answer is no, the time-monitored counts indicated there were no spikes in peak-hour traffic volume that would result in congested conditions if there was only one lane in each direction.

A city friend retires

- Dave Noel

Have you ever wondered who picks up the palm fronds after VEP volunteers prune the palm trees twice a year? The answer isn't the city's household yard waste collector as you might think. This work is done by the city's Department of Transportation Maintenance department.

Until recently, the DOT Maintenance department was headed up by **Frank Bowman**. Frank was a very good friend to VEP, helping us with many landscaping projects and providing advice on future projects. He was so appreciative of VEP's volunteer work that he nominated us for the Mayor's Award that we won last year.

Before Frank retired in June, VEP President **Marilyn Rodgers**, beautification projects leader **Dave Fadness**, and Treasurer **Ginger Cardona** presented Frank with a plaque in front of his peers thanking him for all he's done for our community.

VEP is now working with Frank's successor to continue our partnership in keeping the VEP area beautiful.



President's message

-Marilyn Rodgers

I hope you have all had an enjoyable summer. It is hard to believe that fall is upon us, school started, and vacations are now only a nice memory.

It was a busy summer for the VEP Executive Board, who took a short break in July, but were back working on your behalf in August. Here are some of the results:

September 26th – We will have our first VEP General Meeting in the new Vista Park Community Room (see page 1). Please be sure to read the article on our proposed 2006-07 VEP Goals and Objectives. Members will have an opportunity to discuss and offer amendments, and then will be asked to approve them.

Long Term Care – Information meetings on the Long Term Care opportunity will be held the first week in October for VEP Members and their extended families. These sessions are scheduled for Wednesday afternoon, October 4th at 2:00 pm, Thursday evening, October 5th at 7:30 pm, or Saturday morning, October 7th at 11:00 am. Attend any session that is convenient for you. All sessions will be held at the Vista Park Community Room. For additional information refer to the May article by **Steve Gregerson**—or to his ad in this newsletter.

Candidates Forums – VEP is hosting or co-hosting two candidate forums in October featuring the mayoral, district attorney and water district candidates for the November 7th election. For additional information, refer to the article on page 4.

Traffic calming efforts for Chynoweth – Work on this initiative has been a priority for the VEP Executive Board over the summer. In June, three automobile accidents occurred within a ten day period along the stretch of Chynoweth between Pearl and Gaundabert-New World. Unfortunately, one accident resulted in a life-threatening injury to a high school coed.

To assure we had accurate information on the accidents to share with our members, and to assess additional options for improving safety, I initiated a meeting with representatives from Gunderson High School and San Jose Unified School District, San Jose Police Department, San Jose Department of Transportation, the office of Councilmember Nancy Pyle, and members of the VEP Executive Board.

Several measures have been initiated over the summer, including: increased signage, lengthening the right turn only lane into the parking lot of Gunderson, pedestrian crosswalks at the Chynoweth-Gaundabert/New World intersection; and a mandatory stop for all lanes at that intersection. Electronic speed monitoring signs were installed during the last week of August. These will alert drivers as to their current speed versus the speed limit in front of Gunderson High School. The

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option of Chynoweth becoming a single lane, (and including a bike lane and a median buffer zone) was put forward.

Because our newsletter is not published during the summer months, e-mail was utilized to provide both information to members and to solicit feedback regarding your Chynoweth Avenue concerns. The majority of responses were in favor of moving to a single lane. However, there was concern voiced that a single lane might cause congestion/back-up during peak traffic times such as during school drop-off, pick-up, and after-school activities.

San Jose's Department of Transportation completed a traffic study that analyzed both the speed and the amount of traffic. The data indicate that congestion/backups would not be a problem. (For more details, please see *Neighborhood scuttlebutt* article in this newsletter.)

We will have a presentation of the city's traffic study results and recommendations at our September 26th meeting. You will be asked to vote on implementation of a single lane in each direction on Chynoweth between Pearl and Gaundabert-New World.

* * * *

Being able to send e-mail messages to members over the summer was a very helpful communication tool. If you have not provided us with your e-mail, and would like to receive information/announcements by this method, please send your e-mail address to my attention at MRodgersRN@aol.com. VEP keeps member e-mails addresses confidential.

VEP's Memorial Day event a big success

-Dave Fadness

A pleasantly cool, sunny May 29 morning greeted hundreds of participants and spectators at VEP's second annual Memorial Day Parade & Festival. Culminating months of preparation by volunteers from VEP and co-sponsoring Carson, Parkview, and Gunderson Schools, this event was fun and a big success for our community.

We are grateful for the generosity of these individuals and local businesses for their cash, price discounts, and/or in-kind donations:

All Seasons Remodeling
America Tae Kwon Do
Bee Hive Country Store
Browning Ferris Industries
California Kithchen & Bath
Capisce? Restorante Italiano
Regina Cate, Cal State-East Bay
Dance Kraze; Sandy Kaiser, Owner/Dance Director
Dave & Aiko Fadness
Fun Services, Sunnyvale
Steve Gregerson
Fred & Lois Koslowski, A-Rentals
Make It Mine Embroidery
Ken & Annamarie McKnight
Jeanne Mullins
Gina Ray, Century 21 Realty
Renaissance Builders (Solatube)
Yogendra Singh, California Best Properties
Pete Sparaco, Town Square Harmonizers
Smart & Final
Wesley Terrell, Century 21 Realty



These VEP Steering Committee members worked hard to make this event a success for us:

Cindy Bosworth, V.P., VEP and Parkview School Community Association
Scott & Diane Conry, Carson PTA



Wesley W. Terrell

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Maria Digregorio, VEP Volunteer Coordinator
Dave Fadness, Festival Co-Chair
Annamarie McKnight, Festival Co-Chair
David Noel, VEP Past-President
Marilyn Rodgers, VEP President
Irene Shoberg, Carson School
Yogendra Singh
Josie Supencheck
Debra Suydam, VEP Hospitality Coordinator

Judges for Parade costume and decoration awards were:

Councilwoman Nancy Pyle, City of San Jose District 10
Dana Marshall, Teacher; Parkview Elementary School
Wesley Terrell, Realtor

We are especially thankful for the willing help of these event volunteers:

Andrew Love, Music Director, Sylvandale Middle School
Tanya Summers, (Volunteer) Director, Parkview School *All American Kids Club* Choir. Choir members: Astrid Ehlenberger, Mikayla Ehlenberger, Alexis Favors, Ashley Fiedler, Gene Gaona-Pope, Juan Juarez, Hannah Kim, Judie Koenig, Max Mulliner, Wyatt Mulliner, Kiara Simpson, Emily Summers, Eric Summers, and Stephen Summer.
Chris Gray, (Volunteer) Director, Carson School Choir. Choir members: Joanna Acevedo, Evan Barlow, Justin Barlow, Jacob Bergvall, Jensen Bergvall, Karly Brooks, Chelsi Dimick, Jonathan Hall-Springer, Alex Inocencio, Kassie Inocencio, Mykal-Anne Lopez, Molly McConnell, Gloria Ruiz, Jaclynn Sealy, Aleksander Vargas, and Isabella Vargas.

Staff Sergeant David Driggers, U.S. Army
Town Square Harmonizers (barbershop quartet)
Katy Milligan, Principal, Rachel Carson Elementary School
Robert Topf, Principal, Parkview Elementary School
Dr. Alice Campbell, Principal, Sylvandale Middle School
Cary Catching, Principal, Gunderson High School
Jennifer Carver, Parkview School Food Services Supervisor and her son, Richard Carver.
Rolando Vicerat, Parkview School Custodian
Jacqui Reed, Teacher, Parkview School
Trish Buttrill, Drama/Activities/Resource Teacher, Gunderson High School

Our delightful clowns from Gunderson High School: Monica Espinoza, Casey Faatilaga, Kahlilah Hodge, Stephanie Jimenez, Ruby Paguada, Makaela Patterson, Christian Pattee, Katherine Raby, Desirae Ruiz, Brittany Verbeckmoes, and Lizzy Vicente.

Gordon "Sunny" and Willa "Twinkles" Markley, *Caring Clowns*

Matt Hewitson, Social Science Teacher, Gunderson High.
Volunteers: Jessica Almond, Michael Castro, Timmy Dang, Joe Denault, Keith Donovan, Maria Fuentes, Isela Garcia, Kimberly Hsu, Lucy Jackson, Wannida Kim, Aldin Pasic, Ofelia Torres, Audrey Voss, and Jessica Yusico.
 Alanna Sinclair, Photographer, Gunderson High School
 Col. Charles Hurd, Director, and Demetrio Moreno, Andrew Hill High School ROTC Color Guard
 Rhapsody Flores & Lisa Giuliani, Girl Scouts of Santa Clara County, Daisy Troop #91
 Captain Jack Farmer, San Jose Police Department
 Officer Scott Johnson & "Kevin", Officer Brett Myers & "Jim", San Jose Police Dept. Canine Unit
 Sgt. Greg Trapp, Officer Ernie Brown on "Bold", and Officer Mo Barreras on "JJ"; San Jose Police Dept. Horse-Mounted Unit
 Sgt. John Rose, Special Events Coordinator and Officer Andrew LoCicero, SJPD
 Captain Patricia Tapia, San Jose Fire Dept. (Station 18)
 Fawna Ferguson, City of San Jose Office of Cultural Affairs
 Mike Cervantes, Santa Clara County Health Department
 Rachel Carson PTA. **Volunteers:** Mike Lopez, Lisa Kennedy
 Parkview School Community Association. **Volunteers:** Veronica Castro, Kathleen Sommers, Nicole & Joe Somrak, Bob Bosworth, Cindy & Chris Bish
 VEP Community Association's member families & friends. **Volunteers:** Marylou Avanzino; Ginger, Jennifer, Jessica, and Justin Cardona; David & Debbie Danitz; Aiko Fadness; Jim Hicks; Nicole, Amanda, and Andy Iskandar; Michie Kimizuka; Frank Kistler; Tom & Joanne Liddy; John Marks; Jeanne Mullins; Stacey Steffens; Roland Zechmeister; and Kaye Faria

We encourage your involvement in planning next year's event. Call me at 578-6428 if you'd like to help. Above all, please be sure to mark your calendars and plan to attend on Monday, May 28, 2007. Our aim is to make this event bigger and better every year—you can be part of that winning effort!

Carson and Parkview kids inspire onlookers

-Dave Fadness

A highlight of our Memorial Day Parade & Festival was the choir of beautiful young voices from Carson and Parkview Elementary Schools. Thanks to the dedicated *volunteer* leadership of **Christine Gray** (Carson) and **Tanya Summers** (Parkview), onlookers were inspired by patriotic music sung by a choir of students from two elementary schools--in two different school districts.

These are the Carson kids and their grade levels:

Joanna Acevedo - 3rd
 Evan Barlow - 2nd
 Justin Barlow - 4th
 Jacob Bergvall - 3rd
 Jensen Bergvall - 3rd
 Karly Brooks - 1st
 Chelsi Dimick - 1st
 Jonathan Hall-Springer - 5th
 Alex Inocencio - 1st
 Kassie Inocencio - 1st
 Mykal-Anne Lopez - 2nd
 Molly McConnell - 1st
 Gloria Ruiz - 3rd
 Jaclynn Sealy - 2nd
 Aleksander Vargas - 4th
 Isabella Vargas - 3rd



These are the Parkview kids and their grade levels:

Astrid Ellenberger - 2nd
 Mikayla Ellenberger - 4th
 Alexis Favors - 4th
 Ashley Fiedler - 5th
 Juan Juarez - 5th
 Judie Koenig - 5th
 Max Mulliner - 3rd
 Wyatt Mulliner - 1st
 Kiara Simpson - 4th
 Emily Summers - 1st
 Eric Summers - 3rd
 Stephen Summers - 5th

VEP is grateful to these talented students and their outstanding volunteer music teachers.

Community Service Awards

- Dave Noel

As the last school year came to a close, VEP's president Marilyn Rodgers presented our annual Community Service Awards at the Senior Awards nights for both Andrew Hill and Henry Gunderson high schools. This was VEP's 22nd year of granting stipends for post-secondary or vocational training to graduating high school seniors with exceptional volunteer service.

Congratulations to our 2006 winners, who each received \$1,500 towards their ongoing education.



Marilyn Rodgers & Anna Alvarado



Yen Tran & Marilyn Rodgers

Gunderson: **Anna Alvarado**. Anna is attending Fresno State University and hopes to pursue a career in Veterinary Medicine.

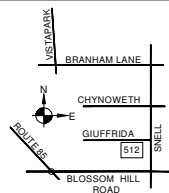
Andrew Hill: **Yen Tran**. Yen is attending San Francisco State University and is pursuing a degree in Nursing.

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At-Large: We did not have any nominees this year so there was no award.

I'd like to recognize and thank our 2006 Community Service Award Selection Committee: **Jeri Arstingstall, Dave Fadness, Aiko Fadness, Mark Schoenberg, Ginger Cardona, Debra Suydam, Cindy Bosworth, Marilyn Rodgers, Jim Hicks, Steve Kinsey, and Phil Bejar.**

I'd also like to thank administrators **Sonia Gomez** of Gunderson High School and **Larrie Peters** of Andrew Hill High School for nominating three candidates per school.

If you know a high school senior with an outstanding volunteer record, make sure they know about our award. If they attend Gunderson or Andrew Hill, they can be nominated by their administrators. Our At-Large award is granted to a graduating senior from any school who lives in San Jose and is nominated by a VEP member.

This fall the process starts over again. We begin with outreach to the schools, then we appropriate funds with a vote of the membership in January/February, we call for nominations in February/March, applications are due in late April, and we grant our awards in May.

I plan to form a committee to propose some changes to the Community Service Award program. Please contact me at (408) 266-7183 or DNoel1234@aol.com if you are willing to join the committee or have suggestions on how to improve the program.

Changes or clarifications under consideration may include award categories, how to manage ties, how to distribute funds if no award is granted in a category, and whether to allow an At-Large award if there is only one candidate. Any proposed changes will be published in the VEP News and brought forward for a vote of the membership at a VEP general meeting.

Removing trees without a permit

- Ralph Mize, City Arborist

Residents and companies who remove trees in San Jose without a permit will face stiffer fines starting July 7, 2006. In addition, the public will be given an additional week to comment on tree removal permit requests.

The fines apply to street trees greater than six feet tall in the public right of way and to trees on private property with a trunk larger than 56" in circumference (about 18" in diameter). These trees are protected by the San Jose Municipal Code. The City's Transportation Department oversees street trees, while trees on private property are overseen by the Department of Planning, Building & Code Enforcement.

The fine for removing a street tree without a permit will now range from \$500 to \$2,000--up from \$300 to \$500, depending on trunk diameter. For illegal removal of trees on private property, the fine will now range between \$1,500 and \$2,000 instead of the former flat rate fine of \$500.

In addition, fines for repeat offenders will double and triple for violations within a three-year period. Both the property owner and the tree removal company, or individuals, are subject to these fines.

The fines for Heritage Trees, which have been designated as such by the City Council for increased protection, will now be-

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gin at \$10,000, and may be as high as \$30,000 for multiple offenses. Previously, the fine was \$5,000.

In addition, the posting period for street trees, which allows residents to protest the removal of any street tree in San Jose, will increase from seven to 14 days. This will allow additional time for those who are concerned about the removal of a street tree to file a letter of protest, which will then trigger a hearing by the City to review the matter.

These measures have been adopted in response to requests from San Jose residents to reduce the number of trees removed without permits and to ensure adequate opportunity for public input into the process. These actions will help San Jose protect and maintain a healthy urban forest, thereby contributing to the attractiveness and livability of our community.

For more information about street tree permits, contact the City Arborist at (408) 277-2762 or at arborist@sanjoseca.gov. For information about permits for trees on private property, contact the Department of Planning, Building, and Code Enforcement at (408) 277-4528.

Anyone witnessing an illegal tree removal in progress in San Jose should contact the City's 24-hour Customer Service Call Center at (408) 535-3500 to report it.

DO NOT TOP TREES

Learn a language without leaving home

- Dave Noel

San Jose Public Library announces the addition of the Pimsleur Language Series to its growing collection of downloadable audio books. Users can choose among more than 150 titles from Albanian to Vietnamese. All languages are available at the beginning level and many are available at the intermediate and high intermediate level. English-as-a-Second Language (ESL) titles are also available in over a dozen different languages.

This language system is as user-friendly as it gets; the e-

Audio books have an unlimited concurrent checkout, automatically "return" themselves after three weeks, and have unlimited renewals. Additionally, all titles are guaranteed to be available whenever users want to access them.

To Access the Pimsleur Language Series, visit www.sjlibrary.org. Click on "Articles and Databases", then click on "Language and Literature". Scroll down and click on "Pimsleur Language Program". Enter your name, library card number and PIN. Type the desired language in the "Search for Audiobooks" field, then click on "Search." Locate the desired title and click on "Download this book."

Oak Grove School District news

- *Manny Barbara, Superintendent*

The first day of school was Tuesday, August 29. As I start my 34th year in the Oak Grove School District, I remain excited about the start of the school year. All of our employees have been working hard all summer preparing for the first day back.



Thanks to community support of a bond passed in the 1990's, we were able to continue to upgrade school facilities during the summer. Approximately 2000 students attended summer school, receiving extra help in reading and mathematics. Many of our dedicated teachers attended professional development during the summer, learning new ways to help students learn and to meet high academic standards.

Approximately sixty new staff will be joining Oak Grove for the 2006-07 school year. They are equally excited to get our school year off to a great start.

With the new school year starting, please be extra careful driving around our schools, and look out for students on the way to and from school.

All of us in the Oak Grove educational community would like to thank the greater Oak Grove community for their support in renewing our \$68 per year parcel tax. The parcel tax provides additional revenue supporting our children with critical programs to help them succeed. Your support of our parcel tax (supporting our instructional program) and bond (providing upgraded facilities) elections helps us to provide an outstanding educational experience for all our students.

On Friday, August 25, the Oak Grove School District held a special memorial event in honor of Kristi Porter. Mrs. Porter had served on our Board of Trustees for ten years when she was killed in a car accident while visiting her son in Europe. In honor of Kristi's many years of dedicated service, the Bernal Intermediate School marquee will be dedicated in her honor. All seven Porter children had attended Bernal School in our District.

I look forward to the coming school year and a continued partnership with the VEP Community Association.

San Jose Unified School District news

- *Don Iglesias, Superintendent*

As you visit our San Jose Unified school sites this year, you will see an exciting number of school improvements. Over the past nine years, two bond measures overwhelmingly passed by the voters, Measure C and Measure F, have provided over \$600-million in financial resources to ensure that our schools are safe environments where all of our students have access to the learning tools of the 21st century.

Some of the 2005-06 school construction highlights include:

The opening of the Terrell Elementary School Life Lab. Over thirty businesses and community organizations donated volunteer time and resources for the garden. With these generous donations of time, materials, and money, Terrell students now have the wonderful learning opportunities the outdoor garden classroom can provide.

Muir's multi media labs. The labs are now in place as part of an overall effort to provide students with greater access to environmental science technologies.

Pioneer High School's state-of-the-art Environmental Science and Physiology Labs that can provide students and staff immediate connectivity to local educational resources such as the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

Gunderson's new professional audio/video production studio and editing rooms provide students opportunities in film, audio and video production that are unique in Silicon Valley.

We want to thank our San Jose Unified parents and community who worked so closely with us on the passage of these bonds. Because of your support we have been given the opportunity to make a difference for our students and classroom teachers for years to come. The positive impact on property values and community pride, as well as our ability to actively recruit and retain qualified employees, cannot be underestimated.

Thank you for working with us to provide quality educational environments for our students.

Bond oversight members wanted

San Jose Unified School District's Board of Education is now seeking applications from individuals who would like to serve on the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) for the general obligation bond (Measure F) passed in 2002. This is an exciting opportunity be part of improving your neighborhood schools.



The purpose of the CBOC is to inform the public concerning the expenditure of bond revenues. Currently the committee meets four to eight times per year on Monday nights. Members must reside in the San Jose Unified District. Appointees serve a two year term and may apply for a second term.

For an application, please call Lynn Raspone at 535-6733 or email lynn_raspone@sjusd.org.



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California Distinguished Schools

- Dave Noel (*)

San Jose Unified School District was proud to announce that two of its schools were selected in April as 2006 California Distinguished Schools: Terrell Elementary and Willow Glen Elementary.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction **Jack O'Connell** called principals **Anita Sunseri** and **Dayle D'Anna** personally to give them the good news. Said O'Connell, "These schools are the best of the best. They share a vision of excellence and they have brought that vision to life".

The California School Recognition Program identifies and honors some of the state's most exemplary and inspiring public schools with the California Distinguished School Award. Although participation is voluntary, the award is highly sought after by schools in all areas of the state. Approximately five percent of California's public schools are selected each year, and no fewer than forty counties are typically represented.

[(*)Ed. Note: This article was adapted from "News and Happenings" at www.sjusd.org.]

Gunderson High School happenings

-Cary Catching, Principal

It seems as though summer just started and now it's over. It has been a very active break, especially in regard to construction.

As you have noticed, our new building is definitely underway. This building will house 15 classrooms, replacing the existing portables behind the swimming pool. It is anticipated that this work will be completed in December of this year.



The renovations on the back fields are also drawing to a close. There have been some drainage issues, so we are still not able to

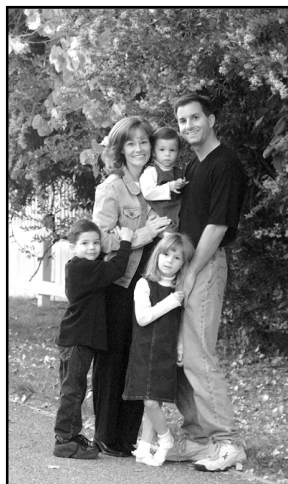
use them. We are asking the community to respect this request for now and not play on them or run dogs on them until the contractor gives us the green light.

Finally, construction on and installation of equipment for the new video production studio is complete. We anticipate many quality videos being produced in the near future by our students.

Gunderson started the school year with an increase in enrollment (approximately 60 students more than last year). Many of these students are from our surrounding neighborhood. In addition, we have not had near as many students requesting transfers to other high schools as in the past. We are thrilled that our community is starting to look at Gunderson with an objective eye and realize what a fine school it is.

We only had to replace five teachers this year... a new all-time low. The teachers who did leave us did so either to pursue other careers or moved out of the area. For the first time in many years, we did not have any changes to the administrative staff. With this stability, comes increased school stability, increases in academic performance and school pride.

To this end, I am thrilled to say that Gunderson increased its API by 20 points; the second highest increase of any high school in San Jose Unified School District!



Precious Moments In Time



Family and Children Portraits



Weddings and Special Events



Photography by Jeri Arstingstall

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Finally, I will continue to hold monthly Principal's Coffees, an opportunity for parents and community members to meet with me to discuss school activities, upcoming events, concerns, etc. The next "Coffee" is slated for Friday, October 6 at 7:30 a.m. in the Art Gallery. You are invited to attend.

Fall check up

-John Marks

I trust you've been pulling the heads off those dandelions all summer. If not, you should have. Every time you walk to the car to go somewhere and you see a yellow dandelion blossom, don't think, "I'll have to dig that up when I get home." It'll never happen. Prevent that plant from multiplying by going over and plucking the blossom; if it's already progressed to the fuzzy ball, all the more important to trot over and close it into your hand and throw away, before the wind spreads the spores.



~ Crabgrass ~

The best way to control crabgrass--that familiar annual weed with blue-green leaves and spreading stems--is to maintain a dense, healthy lawn that will out-compete it and prevent it from establishing. Mow at a height of 2-1/2 to 3-1/2 inches, and cut the grass frequently so as not to remove more than one-third of the leaf blade at one time. Also, water deeply and infrequently, and fertilize to encourage a vigorous lawn.

Weed killers are another option. The most effective among them are pre-emergent types that kill weed seeds as they sprout. It's essential to apply the herbicide before the crabgrass emerges from the soil. This happens in spring when soil temperatures are greater than 55°F to 60°F for seven to ten consecutive days. Check with your local extension service for timing, or monitor the soil temperature yourself using a soil thermometer inserted at an angle just below the surface. But don't apply weed killers prior to seeding or in an area that's just been seeded.

~ Soil Amendments ~

When you purchase potted plants from a nursery, you should add aluminum sulphate, a product also used to make hydrangea blossoms turn blue. Roses like acidic soil, as do many other plants. For roses, use no more than a scant teaspoonful per container; mix it into the top inch of the soil and water it in thoroughly. Use this amendment once in the spring and once in early fall.

~ Leaky Whiskey Barrels ~

If you buy containers filled with potting soil and water appears to leak out too rapidly, not to worry. Modern, commercially

prepared soil mixes are specifically designed to allow rapid drainage, while also holding large amounts of water and nutrients for the plant roots to absorb. More problems are found with containers that do not have enough drain holds. It's hard to get too many holes in the whiskey barrels. Simply wait until the soil is dry about an inch or so below the surface, then water enough to wet all the way to the bottom.

Are spiders bugging you?

Remember that spiders are primarily *beneficial* and their activities should be encouraged in your garden.

~Management~

Pesticide control is difficult and rarely necessary. The best approach to controlling spiders in and around the home is to remove hiding spots for reclusive spiders such as black widows and regularly clean webs off the house with brushes and vacuums.

~Prevention and Non-chemical Control~

Spiders may enter houses and other structures through cracks and other openings. They also may be carried in on items like plants, firewood, and boxes. Regular vacuuming or sweeping of windows, corners of rooms, storage areas, basements, and other infrequently used areas helps remove spiders and their webs. Vacuuming spiders can be an effective control technique because their soft bodies usually do not survive this process. Indoors, a web on which dust has gathered is an old web that is no longer being used by a spider.



Individual spiders can also be removed from indoor areas by placing a jar over them and slipping a piece of paper under the jar that then seals off the opening of the jar when it is lifted up.

To prevent spiders from coming indoors, seal cracks in the foundation and other parts of the structure and gaps around windows and doors. Good screening not only will keep out many spiders but also will discourage them by keeping out insects that they must have for food.

In indoor storage areas, whenever possible move boxes off the floor and away from walls to help reduce their usefulness as a harborage for spiders. Sealing the boxes with tape will prevent spiders from taking up residence within. Clean up clutter in garages, sheds, basements, and other storage areas. Be sure to wear gloves to avoid accidental bites.

Outdoors, eliminate places for spiders to hide and build their webs. Keep the area next to the foundation free of trash, leaf litter, heavy vegetation, and other accumulations of materials. Trimming plant growth away from the house and other structures will discourage spiders from first taking up residence near the structure and then moving indoors.

Outdoor lighting attracts insects, which in turn attracts spiders. If possible, keep lighting fixtures off structures and away from windows and doorways.

Sweep, mop, hose, or vacuum webs and spiders off buildings regularly. Insecticides will not provide long-term control and should not generally be used against spiders outdoors.

~Chemical Control~

Typically, pesticide control of spiders is difficult unless you actually see the spider and are able to spray it. There are various insecticides available in retail outlets labeled for spi-

der control, including pyrethrins, resmethrin, al-lethrin, or combinations of these products. Avoid products containing chlorpyrifos or diazinon because they have been implicated in storm water contamination.

If you spray a spider, it will be killed only if the spray lands directly on it; the spray residue does not have a long-lasting effect. This means a spider can walk over a sprayed surface a few days (and in many cases, a few hours) after treatment and not be affected. Control by spraying is only temporary unless accompanied by housekeeping. It is just as easy and much less toxic to crush the spider with a rolled up newspaper or your shoe or to vacuum it up.

Sorptive dusts containing amorphous silica gel (silica aerogel) and pyrethrins, which can be applied by professional pest control applicators only, may be useful in certain indoor situations. Particles of the dust affect the outer covering of spiders (and also insects) that have crawled over a treated surface, causing them to dry out. When applied as a dust-like film and left in place, a sorptive dust provides permanent protection against spiders. The dust is most advantageously used in cracks and crevices and in attics, wall voids, and other enclosed or unused places.

*[Ed. Note: The foregoing article was extracted from University of California **Pest Notes**, Publication 7442; May 2000. If you want a full copy, call me at 578-6428.]*

Angie's List home contractor referrals

- Dave Noel (*)

When Tom and Jennifer Jackson bought their first home in San Jose two years ago, they found themselves faced with myriad home repairs and no idea who to call for help. Then Jennifer spotted an advertisement for Angie's List, a referral Web site sweeping the country. From pet-sitting to roof repair, site members grade local companies and write comments about specific services.

Angie's List started in 1995 in Columbus, Ohio when Angie Hicks teamed up with friend Bill Oesterle, who had just bought an old home, to figure out how referrals could become a business. Hicks began by walking door to door, asking neighbors to give referrals to various services, which they used to build their fledgling company.

Angie's List launched in the Bay Area in January 2006 and has quickly picked up 19,000 members. The private company says it has more than 450,000 members and wants to expand to 68 cities this year.

PLANNING FOR TOMORROW BEGINS TODAY

Attend a Free Long-Term Care Insurance
Workshop and Sales Presentation

~ Workshop Dates ~

2:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 4

7:30 p.m. Thursday, October 5

11:00 a.m. Saturday, October 7

Place: Vista Park Community Room (on Hyde Park Drive)

Long term care is a vital way to plan for your future. In fact, did you know that 40% of people who need long-term care are working age adults between 18 and 64. The good news is, it's easy to prepare yourself.

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Stephen A. Gregerson, CFP (A VEP Member)
(800) 972-2880

Members pay a monthly subscription fee of about \$6 to access the site, www.angieslist.com. (The list was offered free in the Bay Area during the past few months to draw members.) Once signed on, members use the site to review service contractors and post their opinions.

Contractors get a grade of A, B, C, D and F, as if in school, and then a report card is given that ranks the company's price, quality, responsiveness, punctuality and professionalism. Members can also write a short synopsis of the service they received.

Members are not allowed to post reports anonymously, and Angie's List employees check to make sure companies aren't posting comments about themselves. In addition, Angie's List only accepts advertising from companies that have an overall B rating or higher on the site and also offers a complaint resolution service to help members who are not happy with a service they found on the site.

[()Ed. Note: This article was adapted from an article by Sarah Jane and Gary Reyes in the 8/10/06 San Jose Mercury News.]*

Crossing Guard for a day

- San Jose City Councilmember Nancy Pyle

September is here and as fall rushes to greet us, so too does a new school year for all the children in District 10. Late last month I was lucky enough to have an opportunity to experience first-hand the excitement and anticipation of the first day of school at Los Alamitos Elementary School in District 10.



Not only was I able to visit with the parents and students, I also donned crossing guard gear and took to the street in order to show just how personally I take both the SJPD's crossing guard program and the safety of our children.

As many of you may recall, earlier this year in the midst of the city budget sessions, the city council was faced with potential budget cuts to the school crossing guard program. I'm proud to say that I aggressively opposed these cuts and spearheaded efforts to ensure that this program, which is so critical to our children's safety, received the funding necessary to maintain it. For those of you who know me well, as a city councilmember, two of my deepest ongoing commitments have been to community safety and to the education and safety of our district's young people.

Throughout the hour that I spent as a crossing guard, I came to realize just how hard these individuals work to protect our children. It is critical that they have a "360-degree awareness" in order to ensure that everyone can cross safely while also being mindful of the many parents who are driving by to drop off their students.

In a similar manner, in my role as your representative, I must have an awareness of the safety concerns across District 10. Just a few months ago, I worked with neighbors in the VEP Community Association area and staff from the Department of Transportation to improve the safety conditions around Gunderson High School. My office will continue to work with administrators at Gunderson, VEP leadership, and our city staff to monitor how these beneficial changes have made an impact on the safety of students.

Whether serving on the Emergency Preparedness Council, working as a crossing guard for a day, or working with com-



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munity members to improve traffic safety around our local high schools, I am committed to making our community as safe as possible for all my friends and neighbors in District 10.

[Ed. Note: Nancy Pyle represents our Council District 10.]

Mayor's High School Parent Summit

- San Jose City Councilmember Judy Chirco

The Mayor's High School Parent Summit, "Parents Putting Education First" is a can't miss event to help your child succeed in high school. It includes expert advice, college readiness, career and scholarship information, workshops and much more. Breakfast and lunch are provided.

The Summit takes place on Saturday, September 23rd from 9 am to 3 pm. Registration begins at 8:15 am at the City Hall Rotunda, 200 E. Santa Clara Street. Free parking is available at city hall; enter on 6th Street.

For registration information please visit www.esuhd.org or call (408) 347-5436.

If you wish to receive periodic emails from my office please visit the District 9 website at www.sanjoseca.gov/district9 and click on "Join Judy's email list." As always, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact our office at District9@sanjoseca.gov or (408)535-4909.

[Ed. Note: Judy Chirco represents Council District 9, the Cambrian Area.]

Trail program's website updated

- San Jose City Councilmember Ken Yeager

As many of you may know, since I took office in 2000, I have been working hard to complete the trail system. I have also been working on ways to improve the accessibility and increase usage of those trails that currently exist.

I am very pleased to report that the Trail Program's website has been significantly updated to better serve the community. Residents will find the following changes on the site:



The Trails Interactive Map allows visitors to find the individual trail systems with links to photos and system maps; and

The Future Trail Network map helps the community understand what the 100-mile trail system will look like upon completion; and

The San Jose Bikeways Map helps users plan commutes and recreational trips by seeing the linkage between the on-street bikeways and the off-street trails; and

Individual System Maps for most open trails are available by clicking on the highlighted trails on the Interactive Map. This is one of the top requests from the community, and I hope that everyone will find this on-line resource helpful in responding to requests. The maps have been formatted so that users can print a copy to take on a hike; and

Photos of most open trail systems are provided; and

The Positive Trail Impacts report is a compilation of data from many studies across the country that documents how trails can enhance our communities.

For questions regarding trail management, development and promotion, contact Yves Zsutty at 793-5561, or email at yves.zsutty@sanjoseca.gov. For information on the website or electronic maps, please contact Jason Munkres at 793-5544, or email at jason.munkres@sanjoseca.gov.

[Ed. Note: Ken Yeager represents District 6, the Willow Glen area.]

Geocaching

-Jeri Arstingstall

There's a new phenomenon around us called *Geocaching*. We had friends visit from out of town who asked whether we knew there was a treasure at our park. I had no idea.

Turns out, we do have buried secret treasures at our park that are seen and talked about around the world. This was pretty cool. (To find out what is buried in our neighborhoods, go to <http://www.geocaching.com/seek/nearest.aspx?zip=95136>)

What is Geocaching? It's an entertaining adventure game for Global Positioning System (GPS) users.

Participating in a cache hunt is a good way to take advantage of the wonderful features and capability of a GPS unit. The basic idea is to have individuals and organizations set up caches all over the world and share the locations of these caches on the internet. GPS users can then use the location coordinates to find those caches.

Once found, a cache may provide the visitor with a wide variety of rewards. If they get something, all a visitor is asked to do is try to leave something for the cache.

Lawsuit against Open Space Authority

- Tony J. Tanke, Esq.

~ The Assessment Tax ~

Although most taxpayers and property owners may not know it, they are being taxed at an escalating rate of \$20 per year for a single-family parcel (and multiples of it for apartments and businesses) by the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority (OSA). They now have a \$50-million fund of taxpayer dollars.



OSA is a special purpose agency, with its own seven-person elected board and bureaucracy. It was created

by the Legislature to promote the preservation of "open space"--defined as parks, trails, greenbelts, or even waste parcels--any real estate that doesn't have a residential, commercial, or government building on it. The OSA's territory spans 3/4 of Santa Clara County.

OSA taxes property owners by means of an assessment levy on 314,000 parcels of property that is added to nearly everyone's annual property tax bill. This tax was approved by a bare majority of those parcels (50.9%), weighted by their respective tax burdens, in a written ballot mailed just after 9/11 that produced an 18.7% turnout.

Many taxpayers, who found out about the proposed tax too late to get or replace official ballots that were supposedly mailed to them, because OSA refused to accept ballots cast against the tax that were not on OSA's official forms. If those informal ballots had been accepted, the tax would have gone down to defeat.

~ SVTA's Lawsuit Against the Assessment Tax ~

A taxpayers' lawsuit challenging OSA's assessment tax was filed in 2002 and has been supported by SVTA, joined by the Howard Jarvis Taxpayer Association and several property owners.

The taxpayers lost the first two rounds--in the Santa Clara County Superior Court in a decision by Judge William Elfing, and in the Sixth Appellate District Court of Appeal in a 2:1 decision by Justice Eugene Premo and Acting Justice (really another Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge) Brian Walsh.



Justice Bamattre-Manoukian voted against the tax, believing it to be unconstitutional under Proposition 218, a 1996 state ballot measure that voters enacted to enforce Proposition 13, which had been disregarded in major respects by local government, state government, and the courts.

SVTA and its fellow taxpayer-plaintiffs did not take these defeats lying down. They sought and obtained the ear of the California Supreme Court which is now reviewing the case. Final legal briefs will be filed at the end of August 2006, but the case may not be heard and decided until late 2007. However it comes out, it will be a landmark case.

If local government wins, it will be able to bombard property owners with \$20, \$30, or \$40+ assessment taxes for every government program that government believes is underfunded, thereby avoiding voter approval of new taxes at the ballot box. Assessing government agencies will rely on the fact that most property owners will not participate in the written ballot--or may not even become aware of it--until the short-fuse, 45-day ballot return deadline has expired.

If the taxpayers win, assessment taxes on parcels will be confined to traditional subjects of assessment (e.g., street and sidewalk repair or reconstruction) and not be permitted for vast projects that benefit the public as a whole, and not specific parcels of property in a unique and special way.

~ Taxpayers' Rights to Refunds--and How They Can Be Lost ~

OSA has been accumulating assessment taxpayer dollars at a rate of about \$8-million per year. It will probably have close to \$50-million in a fund by the time SVTA's lawsuit is over.

If the Supreme Court holds the assessment tax unconstitu-

tional, SVTA has asked that refunds be given to property owners and taxpayers, who may then elect to keep them or turn them in to OSA. However, OSA can be expected to argue it is entitled to keep and spend these illegal taxes--unless individual taxpayers make separate claims for their own refunds.

Taxpayers need to be aware they may lose their rights to refunds if they do not file their own personal refund claims, even if the Supreme Court declares the assessment tax unconstitutional. Taxpayers will have a right to obtain refunds of assessment taxes paid within only four (4) years prior to the date of a refund claim.

This means that, if a taxpayer paid the assessment beginning with OSA's first levy in 2002, his or her refund claim would have to be filed within four years of the date the taxpayer actually made his or her first payment of 2002 taxes, which were due on December 14, 2002 and April 10, 2003.

Refund claims would thus be due in early December 2006 for most taxpayers. Any taxpayer filing later than that date would lose all or part of his or her refund.

Taxpayers need to file their signed original claims with the OSA at 6830 Via Del Oro, Suite 200, San Jose, CA 95119, making sure they ask OSA to stamp a copy of the claim form "filed" or "received" on a specific date. Taxpayers should keep a copy for the own records.

As a service to taxpayers, SVTA will supply claim forms prepared by its attorney that can be filled out, signed, and filed. Upon request, SVTA will also file the claims on taxpayers' behalf and keep copies.

~ Claim or No Claim: The Taxpayers' Choice ~

SVTA's lawsuit is not about whether open space funding for parks and trails is a good or a bad thing. Most people, including most SVTA members, believe it is good.

This lawsuit is about how open space and other government spending must be paid for under the California Constitution as enacted by the voters of our state, whether through general or special taxes approved by voters or through assessments on real estate for special benefits to particular parcels.



SVTA is not attempting to persuade taxpayers to file or not to file refund claims. That is a matter of personal choice. SVTA is simply informing them of their rights to do so in order that those rights will not be lost through ignorance of the law.

Some taxpayers may choose not to file claims because they will receive a modest refund and would prefer to have OSA keep their tax dollars even if they were illegally collected. Other taxpayers may believe that local government should not be above the law and that refunds will discourage further lawbreaking by local governments who might trample on taxpayer rights. Each taxpayer will need to make his or her decision based on what he or she deems important.

As SVTA legal counsel in this case, my staff and I would be happy to answer any questions or supply additional forms. My phone number is 530-758-4530 and my email address is appeals@tankelaw.com. Claim forms will also be available through SVTA.

[Ed. Note: Tony J. Tanke is the attorney representing SVTA in the California Supreme Court Case #136468, Silicon Valley

Taxpayers Association v. Santa Clara County Open Space Authority. If you want a copy of the claim form, contact Dave Fadness at drfadness@sbcglobal.net or 578-6428 for a copy of the required.]

***** Notice *****

The Low Self-Esteem Group
will meet Thursday at 7 p.m.
(Please use the back door.)

Beware of "IRS" scam

- Dave Noel

According to a recent edition of the newsletter "Bottom Line Personal", con artists are posing as the IRS. Taxpayers receive an official-looking e-mail stating that a review of a filed return shows a discrepancy.

Recipients are told that they can protest or pay the difference, typically less than \$100. Afraid to argue, many people just send a check. Scammers then cash the checks and steal the victims' identities using Social Security and bank account numbers on the checks.

In another variation of this scam, victims are told that they qualify for a small refund if they provide certain personal information.

Remember: The *real* IRS communicates by mail and phone, not by e-mail.

Higher FDIC coverage for retirement accounts

[Ed. Note: In April this year, changes were made to deposit insurance on retirement accounts. The following article discusses what you should know about what has and hasn't changed and how to get more information. It is taken from a special April 2006 bulletin of FDIC Consumer News, a quarterly newsletter produced by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. FDIC Consumer News presents information in a non-technical way and is not intended to be a legal interpretation of FDIC regulations and policies. Back issues and free subscriptions are available on the FDIC Web site at www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/news/]



Americans work hard and save money in hopes of having a comfortable retirement. But as people live longer and spend more years in retirement than ever before, preparing financially can be complicated. Here's good news that may help families saving for their retirement.

For the first time in more than 25 years, Congress has raised the limit on federal deposit insurance coverage, which protects against loss if a banking institution fails. However, the higher insurance limit only applies to certain kinds of retirement accounts that people may have at banks and savings associations insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and at credit unions insured by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA).

The FDIC wants you to be clear about what has changed--and what hasn't. Here is an introduction to what you need to know about your FDIC insurance coverage.

1. Certain retirement accounts at FDIC-insured banks and savings institutions will be insured up to \$250,000, up from \$100,000 previously. The higher insurance coverage applies primarily to traditional and Roth IRAs (Individual Retirement Accounts). Also included are self-directed Keogh accounts, "457 Plan" accounts for state government employees, and employer-sponsored "defined contribution plan" accounts that are self-directed, which are primarily 401(k) accounts.

In general, self-directed means that the consumer chooses how and where the money is deposited. Under the FDIC's new rules, which take effect on April 1, 2006, all of your deposits at the same insured bank that are in this broad category of retirement accounts are added together and the total is insured up to \$250,000. Your retirement accounts also are separately insured from any other deposits you may have at the same institution.

This increase to \$250,000 for retirement accounts is important because many people saving money for their retirement have accumulated well in excess of \$100,000. With the higher FDIC coverage, more Americans who rely on banking institutions for safety and easy access will know that more of their money for retirement will be completely protected if their banking institution were to fail.



2. The basic insurance coverage for other deposit accounts is still \$100,000. However, as before, there are ways to qualify for far more than the basic coverage at one insured institution.

For example, the funds you have in checking and savings accounts (not retirement accounts) in your name alone are insured up to \$100,000. Also, your portion of accounts held jointly with other people is also separately insured up to \$100,000.

Likewise, two other categories of accounts--business accounts you have at that bank and your share of employer-sponsored pension or profit-sharing plans--each qualify for separate insurance coverage of \$100,000.

Let's say you have four deposit accounts at one institution--a checking account in your name alone (totaling \$25,000), a savings account you own jointly with your spouse (your share equals \$40,000), an account for a corporation you own (totaling \$90,000), and your portion of an employer-sponsored profit-sharing account (\$30,000). Even though the four accounts add up to \$185,000, all of the money is fully insured by the FDIC because each account is in a different ownership category that is separately protected to \$100,000.

In addition, trust accounts may qualify for separate insurance coverage of \$100,000 per beneficiary (not per Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation depositor) if certain conditions are met.

That means you could have a \$200,000 trust account naming your spouse and a child as the beneficiaries upon your death and all \$200,000 would be insured by the FDIC (\$100,000 for each beneficiary), separately from the money you have in other types of accounts at the same institution.

And remember, your retirement accounts that will be protected under the new rules to \$250,000 are insured separately from your other accounts.

As you can see, the way different types of accounts are separately insured can add up to a lot of coverage for you and your family from the FDIC. This can be confusing, so to learn more contact the FDIC as listed below.

3. The insurance limits could rise in the future, but not until 2011, if at all.

The new law establishes a method for considering an increase in the insurance limits on all deposit accounts (including retirement accounts) every five years starting in 2011 and based, in part, on inflation. Otherwise, your accounts will continue to be insured just as we've described them.

That's an overview of what the new law means to you and your FDIC insurance. But here are some important reminders:

- No depositor has lost a single cent of FDIC-insured funds as a result of a failure.
- FDIC insurance only applies to deposits, not investments. The FDIC protects checking accounts, savings accounts, CDs (special accounts you'd typically hold for anywhere from one month to five years) and other types of deposits. The FDIC does NOT insure the money you invest in products such as mutual funds, stocks, bonds, life insurance policies and annuities—even if you purchased them from an FDIC insured institution.
- If you or your family have \$100,000 or less in all of your deposit accounts at the same insured institution, you don't need to worry about your insurance coverage. Your funds are fully insured. If you have more than \$100,000 on deposit at any one institution, you should take the time to be sure they're fully insured.

For more help or information, start by going to the FDIC Web site at www.fdic.gov to find consumer resources, including the brochure *Insuring Your Deposits* and the *Electronic Deposit Insurance Estimator* (EDIE), an interactive tool allowing you to get a summary of your FDIC coverage. Or, call toll-free 1-877-ASKFDIC (1-877-275-3342) Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Eastern Time. For the hearing impaired, call 1-800-925-4618.

VEP's May meeting

- Dave Noel

It has become a tradition for VEP to close its program year with a celebration of accomplishments. This year was no exception.

We began our May 23rd general meeting with a presentation by **Laura Wells** of the San Jose Department of Transportation (DOT), and **Captain Jack Farmer** of the San Jose Police Department. Laura and Jack brought VEP members up to date on traffic studies performed on Chynoweth Avenue, between Pearl Ave and Gaundabert Lane, and a list of recommended traffic calming measures, some of which were already being planned.



VEP members present unanimously approved DOT's recommendations. In a tragically ironic twist of fate, three serious accidents then occurred on this stretch of road on June 1st, June 3rd, and June 9th.

We then had presentations from our Santa Clara County Su-

pervisor **Don Gage** and our San Jose City Council member **Nancy Pyle**. Don announced that the terms of a complex land swap were *finally* nearing completion. Approval will allow the city to widen Branham Lane between Vistapark and Snell.

He reported that the Martial Cottle Park Master plan process would be starting in the coming months and would take about two years. Also, Pinn Brothers has signed a landscape maintenance agreement, allowing them to finish the trees and mulch in the Capitol Expressway median between Copperfield and Snell. Finally, Don announced that the Rosenbaum Triangle at Capitol Expressway would get mulch to prevent weeds, but no plants will be allowed there besides daffodils.

Nancy Pyle discussed the recently completed City of San Jose budget hearings, and delivered the great news that the new budget will allow the Vista Park Community Room restrooms to be opened and cleaned 7 days per week. Nancy also discussed the Branham Widening project and the complicated, multi-jurisdictional land swap negotiations. Project start date and duration are not yet known, but are coming soon. Nancy complimented VEP for our upcoming Memorial Day Parade & Festival, for which she will be a costume judge.

VEP member and Thrivent Financial group insurance salesman and financial planner **Steve Gregerson** then presented a proposal to allow VEP members to take advantage of a group discount on long-term care insurance. VEP members present voted unanimously to go forward with the proposal.

VEP President **Marilyn Rodgers** then extended a thank you to Gunderson's principal **Cary Catching** for her ongoing support of VEP on this bittersweet occasion of being our last general meeting to be held in the Gunderson High School Faculty Lounge before we move to our new home, the Vista Park Community Room. Following this, Marilyn introduced the new VEP board members and thanked our retiring board members.

This was followed by a membership update from past president and VEP database manager **Jeri Arstingstall**. We had 448 paid members (and counting) as of the meeting.

VEP Treasurer **Ginger Cardona** provided a year-end financial summary. Our budget is balanced and our finances are healthy. VEP members voted to approve the financial report.

Finally, **Annamarie McKinght** invited members to attend our upcoming Memorial Day Parade and Festival. An unbelievable amount of volunteer energy has been dedicated to making this event a huge success.

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The VEP Executive Board reserves exclusive right to re-refuse any ad for any reason. VEP does not certify nor is it responsible in any way for the claims, goods, or services of any advertisers.

Bulletin Board advertising rules:

1. Bulletin Board ads are limited to four (4) lines of text. One line contains 50 characters, including spaces.
2. VEP will print free Bulletin Board ads for its members for one-time transactions involving less than \$400, for lost and found, and for services offered by kids under 18 or retirees over 60 years of age. Free ads may be published in a maximum of three successive issues of the VEP News per submission. After three issues, non-renewed ads will be dropped without notice.
3. VEP will print commercial Bulletin Board ads for its members for \$6 per issue of the VEP News. (A commercial ad is one that offers goods and/or services for a fee. The VEP President and/or Editor has final say in determining whether an ad is commercial.) Ads must be prepaid before publication and be of four (4) lines or less in length (see 1, above). Commercial bulletin board ads may be published indefinitely so long as payment is received in advance of publication. Non-renewed ads will be dropped without notice. No graphics allowed.
4. Bulletin board ads and payment must be received at least 12 days prior to the fourth Tuesday of the month for inclusion in that month's newsletter. Mail to: VEP, P.O. Box 18111, San Jose, 95158.

Please pass this form along to any neighbors who may not be members of VEP...

**** Membership Application ****

Note: none of the following information will be shared with any third party.

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

Last name(s): _____

First name(s): _____

Street address: _____

Telephone # _____

Email address(es): _____

Comments): _____

Can you give VEP a few volunteer hours? _____

Mail your \$20 check to VEP, P.O. Box 18111, San Jose 95158. Thank you!

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 VEP's
 September 26th Meeting

THE VEP NEWS



VEP Community Association

P.O. Box 18111 San Jose, CA 95158

Email: vepca@vepca.org Website: www.vepca.org

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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