

NEWS, or cut out the renewal form in this newsletter, or print a copy from our website at www.vepca.org. Mail your \$20 check to VEP, P.O. Box 18111, San Jose 95158. Please do it today!

In a very real sense, renewing membership is your vote of confidence and support for the work we do as VEP volunteers. Yes, we get an occasional "thank you," but proof positive of your appreciation is demonstrated by your willingness to renew membership each year. We also appreciate the nice comments many of you offer along with your renewal—for that, we offer our thanks!

If you enjoy reading this newsletter and supporting your neighborhood, please join VEP. This is our 38th year, let's break all previous membership records and show the world that our community is the proudest, best organized, and most caring of all.

Your remit envelope has several volunteer preference categories to select from. Please help by checking the categories you'd be willing to assist in.

VEP membership is the best value you'll ever experience. Renew today, and ask your neighbors to join our growing family. Thank you.

What is VEP Community Association?

- VEP is an all-volunteer organization of your neighbors working to improve our neighborhoods
- VEP sponsors many projects and events that improve our quality of life and beautify our community
- VEP volunteers make our neighborhood's views and needs known to government at all levels.
- Founded in 1969, we are one of the largest, most successful, and most active and enduring grass roots volunteer organizations in Santa Clara County.

Why join VEP?

- To receive our newsletter nine times a year
- To receive monthly email alerts
- To keep our neighborhoods beautiful, safe, strong and prepared
- To participate in and support neighborhood activities and representation
- To support VEP's annual *Community Service Awards* for high school graduates
- To be part of an outstanding community organization with 38 years of success for our neighborhoods



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Join VEP today!

** 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? _____

I am willing to volunteer for: Beautification/clean-up projects VEP News/mailling prep Memorial Day Parade & Festival Distribute flyers Serve on a committee Serve as a VEP officer or committee chair Other _____

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

VEP Community Calendar

Tue, Mar 27 @ 7:30 pm = VEP Home Improvement Faire in the Gunderson High School Forum (see article in this newsletter)

Mon, Apr 2 @ 7:15 pm = VEP Exec meeting in the Vista Park Community Room.

Tue, Apr 10 @ 1 pm = Deadline for VEP NEWS articles and Bulletin Board ads (send to drfadness@sbcglobal.net)

Tue, Apr 24 = Carson Elementary School Open House (see article in this newsletter).

Tue, Apr 24 @ 7:30 pm = VEP General Meeting in the Vista Park Community Room.

Tue, Apr 24 @ 9:00 pm = VEP Community Service Award applications due.

Sat, May 5 = VEP Community Garage Sale.

Tue, May 22 @ 7:30 pm = VEP General Meeting in the Vista Park Community Room.

Mon, May 28 = VEP Memorial Day Parade & Festival

Mark your calendars
and be sure to
Invite your friends and neighbors to participate...

☺ **Tuesday, March 27th** ☺

★ **VEP Home Faire** ★

Plenty of vendors and lots of cash prizes!
Gunderson High School Forum
7:30 – 9 pm

For info: John Marks @ 408-629-6433
skram77@att.net

☺ **Saturday, May 5th** ☺

★ **VEP Neighborhood Garage Sale** ★

A great opportunity for you to
clear out your stuff and make some money.
Start as early as 7 am

No need to sign up, just place your items outside your own home.

For info: Ginger Cardona @ 408-227-0222
cardona@sbcglobal.net

☺ **Monday, May 28th** ☺

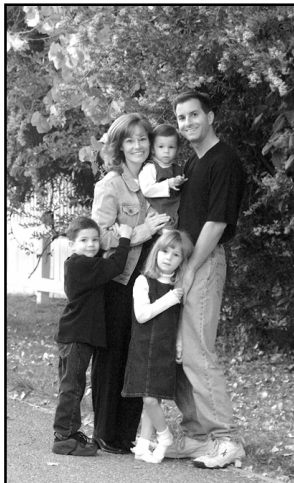
★ **Memorial Day Parade & Festival** ★

Parade, Bands, Entertainment, Games, Prizes, and More!
Parade starts 11 am at Carson School. Festival follows at Parkview.

For info: Dave Fadness @ 408-578-6428
drfadness@sbcglobal.net

Interested in the possibility of selling your home-made crafts this Memorial Day event?
Contact Ginger Cardona (see above).

[See articles in this newsletter for more information on these events.]




Precious Moments In Time


Family and Children Portraits

Weddings and Special Events

Photography *by* Jeri Arstingstall

★ VEP MEMBER ★

(408) 281-3393

★★ Upcoming Volunteer Events ★★

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

- ✓ Volunteers are needed to plan, organize, and/or participate in our 2007 Memorial Day Parade & Festival. Contact Dave Fadness at 578-6428 if you are willing to help.
- ✓ VEP newsletter preparation and mailing for April.
- ✓ VEP flyer distribution in April (Garage Sale) and May (Memorial Day Festival and Parade).

Craft sale

-Ginger Cardona

Do you sell your own crafts? Are you looking for a large group of people to sell your crafts to? We are now considering the possibility of adding a craft sale at our annual *Memorial Day Parade & Festival* on May 28. Hundreds of your neighbors attend this function at Parkview School.

If you are interested, and only if you sell your own hand-made crafts, please contact me at cardona@sbcglobal.net for more information.

Unclaimed garden tools

-Dave Fadness

The following tools were left behind at our Branham-Narvaez work site in January. If any of these belong to you, please call (578-6428) or email me (drfadness@sbcglobal.net) to arrange pick-up.

- (1) 8-inch leaf rake with a yellow handle;
- (1) 16-inch leaf rake with a yellow handle;
- (1) short (about 27-inch long) spade shovel with a blue "D-grip" handle; and
- (1) Ames Kodiak trench shovel with a chrome "D-grip" handle (looks like new).



Make your May 5th garage sale a **BIG** success

-Dave Fadness and Ginger Cardona

This year, our annual *Community Garage Sale* will be held on Saturday, May 5th. Make sure to mark it on your calendar now, and start gathering those treasures from your garage, attic, and under the back porch.

The idea is to get everyone in our community to have a garage sale on the same day. The best way to help that price-less old junk find a new home is to increase traffic to your home. So, VEP will advertise this event in local newspapers and by distributing flyers around our neighborhoods.

Your best resource is you--activity attracts more activity. Get your neighbors involved. People will pass by your street unless they think something is happening there. Try to get *everyone* on your street to join in. You might even pool all your neighbors' goodies into one big second-hand superstore. If your neighbors aren't selling, ask if you can spread out to their driveway.

Plan now to make sure you can be seen from the street. Put up balloons or signs. Have your out-of-area friends bring garage sale items that add to yours--make it a big, fun event on your street or cul-de-sac. A little energy and creativity now will pay off in big dividends, freeing up space in your garage and putting extra money in your pocket.

VEP officers needed

-Marilyn Rodgers

Elections for VEP Executive Board positions will soon be upon us. Have you thought about serving as a VEP officer? It's a great way to meet more of your neighbors, and to learn more about the VEP Community and the City of San Jose, and... *it's fun!*



The Executive Committee consists of the elected offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and VEP News Editor. We plan to add a new elected officer position, the Director of Electronic Communications. Past Presidents plus the Executive Committee together make up our Executive Board. We are fortunate to have several past presidents who stay active on the board, mentoring new officers and leading projects and committees.

Interested, but would like more information? Contact me or any of the Executive Board members (see the mailing page of this newsletter). We will be happy to assist you. Also, all members are welcome to attend our monthly Executive Board meetings. Our next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 2nd starting at 7:15 pm in the Vista Park Community Room.

2007 Memorial Day Parade & Festival!

-Dave Fadness

VEP's *Memorial Day Parade & Festival* will be held on Monday, May 28. We still can use your help to make this event bigger and better than last year.

So far, here's what we have lined up for our parade and festival:

- Fair Middle School Band & Choir.
- Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force personnel.
- Andrew Hill ROTC Color Guard, Honor Guard, Drum Corps, and Drill Team.
- Gunderson High School clowns!
- Parkview-Carson All American Kids' Club Choirs.
- Oak Grove High School Jazz Band.
- *Dance Kraze* Dancers (tentative).
- San Jose Police K-9 Unit (tentative).

- San Jose Police Horse-Mounted Unit.
- San Jose Fire Department (tentative).
- San Jose Firefighters' BBQ team.
- *S.J. Sharkie* (tentative).
- Town Square Harmonizers barbershop quartet (tentative).
- America Tae Kwon Do.



There will be costume awards, lots of field and booth games for kids, and plenty of refreshments for our crowd. We're also planning to include the sale of homemade crafts (see *Craft sale* article by Ginger Cardona in this newsletter).

This event is free and open to the public. The only charges will be for food and drink, face painting, "crazy hair", and booth games—which will be offered inexpensively by volunteers from participating public school groups. All proceeds will be shared by the participating school (PTA) organizations.

You can help. We need lots of volunteers...

- To pick up and return equipment the day before and after.
- To help with set-up the morning of the event.
- To help with food booth duty and field-event games.
- To help clean-up after the event.
- To find event sponsors and donors (Safeway has already donated \$500; Albertson's also pledged a donation).

Having your help in taking care of one or two of these details will make this event successful for kids of all ages in our community. Let me know if you or someone you know is willing to add to the fun.

If you or a neighbor have an antique, classic, or hotrod car, have them give me a call if they're interested in showing it off in our parade. If you belong to a service group or other organization, we'd like to have you there with us—especially if you'd be in costume--anything from square dancing or scouts to...well, you name it.

We need a couple of flatbed trucks to use in our parade and to move items to and from our festival site. If you have a piano keyboard that we can use for choir accompaniment at Parkview, please contact me.

Call me at 578-6428 or email me at drfadness@sbcglobal.net if you're willing to help even in a small way with our third-annual Memorial Day event. Please don't wait because you think someone else will step forward. For this to be a success, we *really* need your help (and/or commitment to help) now.

Above all, please be sure to mark your calendars and plan to attend with your family and friends on Monday, May 28, 2007.

Needed: volunteer committee members

-Marilyn Rodgers

Are you good at organizing and contacting people? Would you like to get more involved with VEP? This year, as part of the VEP Membership renewal process, we are asking members who are willing to volunteer some of their time to VEP, to indicate their preferences of volunteer activities. Options include beautification projects, distributing VEP flyers for annual activities like the Spring Garage Sale, or assisting with the Memorial Day Parade and Festival, to name a few

Our Volunteer Coordinator, **Maria Digregorio**, would like to

form a small committee of two or three volunteers to assist in organizing and mobilizing VEP volunteers by preferred activity. If interested, please contact me at (408) 225-7553, or Maria at (408) 226-4614.

VEP Community Service Awards

- Dave Noel

For our 23rd consecutive year, VEP will offer Community Service Awards to graduating high school seniors who have demonstrated exceptional records of volunteerism and community service during their high school careers.

This year VEP members approved conferring up to three Community Service Awards of \$1,000 each. They will be offered to graduating high school students in three categories: Gunderson, Andrew Hill, and "At-Large". These grants must be used for higher education or vocational training.



Applications and informational flyers have been distributed to the administrators and career centers at Gunderson and Andrew Hill High schools. We have asked the designated administrator at each school to nominate three students and submit their completed applications by April 24th. If you know a Gunderson or Andrew Hill student deserving consideration for this award, please encourage them to talk to their designated administrator to be sure that they'll be considered:

Lara Sandora at Andrew Hill High School

Becky Bruni at Gunderson High School (Career Center)

Our At-Large application form was included in the February VEP NEWS, and is also available on our website at www.vepca.org. Our At-Large category is defined as a graduating high school senior residing in San Jose and nominated by a current VEP member. The At-Large application deadline is 9 p.m. on April 24th. Applications may be mailed to the address on the application, or hand delivered to a VEP officer at our March 27th or April 24th general meeting.

We will present our Gunderson and Andrew Hill awards at each school's respective senior awards night in late May. Our At-Large award will be presented at VEP's May 22nd general meeting.

If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer to help the Community Service Awards committee, please contact



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me at (408) 266-7183 or DNoel1234@aol.com.

VEP President's message

-Marilyn Rodgers

We moved our clocks ahead one hour for Daylight Savings Time on March 11th this year, three weeks earlier than last year. With an extra hour of daylight each day, and the unusually warm weather, it feels like spring has come early.



We organize and plan three major annual events between March and the end of May each year, always a very busy and exciting time for VEP. Starting with our March 27th Home Improvement Fair, followed by a May 5th spring Neighborhood Garage Sale, and finally our largest event on May 28th, VEP's Memorial Day Parade & Festival.

1. VEP's General Membership Meeting for March will be our Home Improvement Fair, scheduled for Tuesday, March 27th, at 7:30 pm in the Forum area at Gunderson High School. This is a free event. Come and bring a neighbor—it's always a lot of fun, as well as an opportunity to meet and talk to many exhibitors and neighbors. Many thanks to VEP Past President **John Marks** who has organized and coordinated this event for 10 years!

2. Membership Drive - many of you have already renewed your VEP membership. We thank you for your support. If you haven't already mailed in your renewal, please do it today. If you have been a VEP volunteer, or would like to be a volunteer, please check one (or more) of the appropriate boxes on the remit envelope. This will help us contact you for those activities that you are especially interested in.

3. Volunteer Opportunities

(a) Help Distribute Flyers. VEP distributes flyers to all VEP residents to advertise the annual events held in the Spring. If you would like to help distribute flyers, please contact Volunteer Coordinator **Maria Digregorio** at 226-4614.

(b) VEP Memorial Day Parade and Festival planning is well under way. If you would like to volunteer for this exciting event, please contact Event Chairman **Dave Fadness** at 578-6428.

4. Volunteer Opportunities for High School Students – if you are a high school student, or are the parent of a high school student, there are many opportunities through VEP to obtain "volunteer hours" needed to meet high school graduation requirements. Please contact me for additional information.

5. Community Service Awards – VEP is offering Community Service Awards to a high school senior for volunteer community service. This is a \$1,000 grant to be used for higher education. For additional information and/or an application see the February VEP Newsletter, or contact Dave Noel at 266-7183.

6. Several of you have inquired about the progress/status of what was Mr. Lester's property, the future Martial-Cottle Park. A presentation and update is now scheduled for our May 22nd VEP General Membership meeting. Be sure to attend.

VEP membership update

-Jeri Arstingstall

Thank you to all for your membership renewals. We've re-

ceived 340 as of March 14th. We reach out to 2200 homes and, in recent years, typically have more than 500 paid member households.

Please take the time to renew your membership if you have not done so already.

Here are some quotes from the membership renewals received to date:

"Special thanks for all your hard work." - *Barbara Erling.*

"Great job, guys!" - *James & Virginia Roach.*

"Great work!" - *Mark & Gail Winans.*

"I really have enjoyed the volunteering I've done so far and appreciate being asked." - *Christine Butler.*

"Keep up the good work!" - *Lois Rodden; Christine & John Curfman.*

"Thank you for all you do!" - *Diana Pires.*

"Thank you!" - *Paul & Verna Fuentenebro; David & Mary Olson.*

"Thanks to everyone for all of your hard work." - *Don & Marilyn Rodgers.*

"We are original owners (Jan. 1972). We are proud to be part of this outstanding group." - *John & Laverne Pavlow.*

"You are doing a great job! Thank you." - *Maria & Ali Arid.*

"You do a great service to the community. Thank you." - *Edward & Janet Maisen.*

"You do so much for our Vistapark community. Thank You." - *David & Mary Rodarte.*

Add your comments to this growing list—renew or join VEP today!

Completing the Guadalupe River trail system

- *Santa Clara County Supervisor Ken Yeager (*)*

On Tuesday, December 5, the San Jose City Council authorized additional funds to build a trail under Airport Parkway. The trail will also include a Highway 101 undercrossing. The trail will be created and constructed as a joint project between the City of San Jose and the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD).



This project is exciting because it will create the longest continuous trail segment in the city's system, providing 8.6 new miles of trails and a way for



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airport workers to commute by bicycle. This segment of trail will connect downtown San Jose to Alviso. Construction of this project is expected to begin this summer and could be completed by November.

I am also pleased to report that San Jose is currently negotiating with Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) to purchase the segment of their Willow Glen Spur between Coe and Minnesota. Concurrently, UPRR is working with the State Department of Toxic Substances Control on a soil remediation plan for the property.

San Jose is hoping to complete all negotiations and soil remediation studies in the Spring of 2007. If all goes according to plan, the city could purchase this land by the end of 2007.

For questions regarding trail management, development and promotion contact Yves Zsutty via phone at 793-5561 or email at yves.zsutty@sanjoseca.gov.

[()Ed. Note: This article is taken from Ken Yeager's 12/8/06 email newsletter, his last as a San Jose City Councilmember.]*

Neighborhood Scuttlebutt

-Dave Fadness

Branham Lane widening project: While the city-county land transfer agreement moves towards approval, the city is beginning to survey the property that will be involved in Branham Lane and Snell Avenue street improvement projects. It is anticipated that preliminary design will begin later this spring or early summer. City staff will use VEP's *Branham Lane Widening Project Wish-List* as well as the city's own list of necessary improvements to develop preliminary design alternatives. Meetings will then be initiated with VEP to provide information and gather feedback.



If you are interested in joining VEP's Branham widening Committee, call Dave Fadness at 578-6428.

Route 87-Capitol-Narvaez: VTA's *Capitol Light Rail Station Area Preliminary Traffic Operations Investigation Draft Final Report* was released for our review early this month. This study was done in conjunction with VTA's proposal for high-density development on the south park-n-ride lot. It examined existing traffic conditions in the Route 87-Capitol-Narvaez interchange area, adding the effects of proposed residential and commercial uses. The study report includes a preliminary list of possible remedies.

As expected, our first-hand experience was, at last, officially validated: serious traffic congestion already exists there, in particular at the northbound approach to Route 87 on Narvaez Avenue. Replacing the park-n-ride lot with a high-density project would worsen already unacceptable traffic congestion. Importantly, the study also shows that portions of the same land VTA wants to develop will be needed to build traffic mitigation (new freeway approach and exit ramps, etc.).

As this newsletter goes to press, VEP is reviewing the study with representatives of neighboring community associations. We plan to invite a panel of city and county elected representatives and transportation officials to a VEP meeting to present the study findings to our members. At that meeting, we will discuss existing traffic conditions and probable impacts of



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additional growth in our area.

Our goal is to formulate a local consensus on an acceptable solution and a strategy to obtain funding. With that, we can begin lobbying at regional, state, and federal levels, as will probably be necessary.

Significant opportunities have been foregone in recent years by our city's stubborn refusal to change its traffic level of service rating at the northbound approach ramp. (It's still rated as "B" on a scale of A through F, where F is gridlock.) San Jose policy requires impact mitigation only if a project lowers traffic level of service below "D".

The result is that impact mitigation fees were not charged when large-scale projects nearby (on Communications Hill, for example) were approved. Millions of dollars could and *should* have been collected to pay for traffic relief measures at the northbound approach to 87 on Narvaez.

VEP's position (ref: our member-adopted *Goals & Objectives*) for the past several years has been that the traffic level of service rating must be revised to honestly reflect existing heavily congested conditions. Although it's almost too late—much of the development that could have contributed financially to a solution is already done—this study may help to achieve that goal.



The first step toward finding a solution is admitting there's a problem.

Update on Vistapark Drive cul-de-sac

-Marilyn Rodgers

As part of the original agreement between SummerHill Homes, the City of San Jose, and VEP Community Association, SummerHill built the Vista Park community center and, in addition, put in new landscaping and an irrigation system on the cul-de-sac on Vistapark Drive (adjacent to the Hyde Park Drive intersection).

Although the initial landscaping of the cul-de-sac was completed in mid-2005, an agreement regarding the ongoing maintenance of this area was just finalized this month. The San Jose Department of Transportation's Adopt-a-Street program has agreed to provide supplies and assistance to VEP. In turn, VEP will provide volunteers to maintain this area as

part of its on-going beautification and clean-up projects.

What VEP "adopted" is limited to the cul-de-sac area on Vis-tapark Drive. We are pleased to have reached an agreement with the city, and appreciate their support of our efforts to maintain a beautiful and safe community.

If you would like to volunteer to help maintain this area, please contact Marilyn Rodgers at 225-7553 or Dave Fadness at 578-6428.

Pearl Avenue Library update

- *Domenic Onorato* (*)

The contractor is installing underground utility lines. Building layout and excavation of the perimeter footing is being worked concurrently. Concrete footings will be poured in April. The concrete slab pour will follow thereafter.

For additional or future information regarding the project or site construction, please contact me at 535-8350 or by email domenic.onorato@sanjoseca.gov. You may also contact Frank Church or Bill McClain of Bogard Construction at the site trailer, or at the company number (831) 426-8191. See photos of construction activities at www.NewSanJoseLibraries.com.

[(*)Ed. Note: *Domenic Onorato*, works for the San Jose Department of Public Works City Facilities Architectural Services & Branch Library Development Team.]



Camp Vista

for ages 6 - 11

Help us celebrate the very first Summer Camp at the Vista Park Neighborhood Building! Make new friends and cherished memories at Camp Vista this summer. The veteran staff has gone over and beyond to design a camp that will challenge and entertain your child. Each week will be filled with wacky games, team oriented activities, expressive arts and crafts, and an exciting field trip every Thursday.

Campers are required to provide their own lunch and water everyday. A newsletter, listing the weekly activities and field

trip information, will be distributed on the first day of each session.

We want to make this camp enjoyable for you and your child. Please let us know of any special accommodations you may require by contacting Steve Ryan at steve.ryan@sanjoseca.gov or call (408)268-2048.

Everyone registering for camp must have reached the minimum age requirement on or before the first day of the camp. If a session reaches capacity, your child will automatically be placed on a waiting list and will be notified should an opening become available.

The Vista Park Community Room is located at 795 Hyde Park Drive.

~ CAMP VISTA SCHEDULE ~

Course No.	Days	Date	Times	Price
252.1.915	M - F	6/18 - 6/29	9 am-3 pm	\$168
252.1.916	M - F	7/2 - 7/13	9 am-3 pm	\$152
252.1.917	M - F	7/16 - 7/27	9 am-3 pm	\$168
252.1.918	M - F	7/30 - 8/10	9 am-3 pm	\$168

~ EXTENDED HOURS OPTIONS ~

Course No.	Days	Date	Times	Cost
252.1.921	M - F	6/18 - 6/29	3 - 6 pm	\$50
252.1.922	M - F	7/2 - 7/13	3 - 6 pm	\$45
252.1.923	M - F	7/16 - 7/27	3 - 6 pm	\$50
252.1.924	M - F	7/30 - 8/10	3 - 6 pm	\$50

Registration fees include supervision (10 to 1), arts and crafts supplies, games, activities, field trip admission, bus transportation, and one camp shirt for the summer. No camp on July 4th.

~ CAMP VISTA FIELD TRIPS ~

- 6/21 = Bowling and Swimming
- 6/28 = Great America
- 7/5 = Children's Discovery Museum
- 7/12 = Raging Waters
- 7/19 = Morgan Hill Aquatics Center
- 7/26 = Santa Cruz Boardwalk
- 8/2 = Movie and Roller Skate
- 8/9 = Golfland & Waterslides



~ HOW TO REGISTER ~

You may choose to register by mail, drop off, or fax. See form on reverse. Make checks payable to the "City of San José"

Mail or drop off:	Fax to:
Almaden Community Center Attention: Camp Vista 6445 Camden Avenue San Jose, CA 95120	Almaden Community Center Attention: Camp Vista (408) 997-1222

All refund requests must be made 14 calendar days prior to the first day of the session that you are registered. No exceptions.

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Free Directory Assistance

- Dave Noel

Directory assistance charges have gone way up in recent years, but did you know you can get directory assistance for free? Just call 1 (800) FREE 411. You'll hear a brief commercial, but it's well worth the money you'll save. The service has worked well for me and is really handy from cell phones. Give it a try.



Carson School Update

- Irene Shoberg (*)

A number of Carson parents and staff along with Carson's Principal Betsy Doss attended a District Community Conversation on March 12th. The subject was customer service and a number of ideas were presented at that meeting.

Carson's Open House will be held on April 24th from 7 to 8 pm. A Vocabulary Bee will be held starting at 6 pm. Also, a Book Faire will be held that evening and at various times throughout that week. Anyone in the community is invited to attend these events.

If you would like to purchase books for you or your family, come and check out the Book Faire. Profits are used to purchase books and materials for Carson's Media Center.

Registration for Kindergarten is continuing. You may enroll your incoming kindergartner at Erikson Enrollment Center on Pearl Avenue.

Carson is looking forward to participating in VEP's Memorial Day Parade & Festival on May 28th.

[[(*)Ed. Note: Irene Shoberg is a long-time VEP member and the Categorical Program & Library Assistant at Rachel Carson School.]



Gunderson High School happenings

-Cary Catching, Principal

I am pleased to share with our community some of the exciting events that are happening at Gunderson over the next few weeks.

Congratulations to our Gunderson Varsity Girls' and Boys' Basketball Teams for making it into the CCS playoffs. First year Coach **Kevin Blunt** did a great job of turning our boys' program around as this team hasn't been to CCS in several years. As for the girls' team, as a result of past year's successes, the team moved up to the highest division in the BVA--and still made the playoffs. We look forward to going to CCS next year as well! We are very proud of all our players and coaches.

As many of you have noticed, the new building construction is now complete. Teachers and students moved into beautiful new classrooms over the winter break. In addition, they also have a nice courtyard in which to relax, eat lunches, or just hang out after school.

Please note: this courtyard is *not* the newest skateboard park in San Jose. If you happen to see skateboarders in this area over the weekend and/or holiday breaks, feel free to contact the police.

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Your assistance is greatly appreciated in keeping our school clean and attractive.

Gunderson Junior **Misha Balangit** will be featured on NBC11's "Moving Pictures" series on Friday, March 16 at 11 p.m. Misha is a member of the San Jose Leadership Academy and Project Cornerstone, the school mascot, our junior class treasurer, an accomplished school actor, and is an exemplary student. The Gunderson community is very proud of Misha. Set your TiVo's!

Finally, congratulations go out to the entire Gunderson school community--teachers, support staff, students, parents, and administrators. Gunderson was recently recognized by Project Cornerstone for the Creation of a Caring School Climate. We have worked tremendously hard to make sure our students and families feel welcome, supported, and assisted when needed. *Way to go Grizzlies!*

Just a reminder, Gunderson's Spring Break is fast approaching. There will be no school from April 6 thru April 13.

Oak Grove School District news

-Manny Barbara, Superintendent

Over the years we have received strong support from our community. In November 1995, the community generously approved a \$75-million bond authorization for the purpose of upgrading school facilities within our District. After almost 12 years, our Modernization Program will come to an end this summer.



The Modernization Program addressed a significant portion of the overall facility needs in Oak Grove. All school sites received significant improvements, ranging from new student restrooms, playground equipment, roof upgrades, painting, and technology infrastructure.

Last summer, the Modernization Program completed various electrical and other classroom wiring at Anderson, Oak Ridge, and Taylor Schools. Herman Intermediate School benefited from seismic reinforcement of building columns and replacement of a canopy roof.

While more work remains, we have benefited from the community's support over the last decade. Thank you!

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Deciphering numbers on fertilizer packages

-John Marks (*)

When should you fertilize plants in your yard? Why are there so many types of fertilizers? What do those three numbers on the packages mean?



The answer to the first question is: start fertilizing after the last frost and continue through to the fall. The reason for the different sets of numbers is that each plant calls for a different combination.

Fertilizer numbers such as 5-10-5 or 12-8-4 stand for the percentage by weight of the three key nutrients critical for plant growth: nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K). Nitrogen feeds leaves. Phosphorus feeds roots (also flowers and fruits). Potassium is for overall health and cellular development.

As in multivitamins, there are also other important players: iron, sulfur, calcium, magnesium, etc. Commercial fertilizers tailor these minor nutrients to meet the picky demands of certain plants, such as acid-loving camellias, azaleas and blueberries, or iron-loving shrubs.

But it's the big three that call most of the botanical shots. Take a chemical grass fertilizer with numbers like 25-6-4. This fertilizer is designed to promote leaf growth, which is why its nitrogen content is so high.

By contrast, a box of bone meal or starter fertilizer or bulb food will have a higher middle number like 1-15-0 or 2-4-2 or 5-10-5 because phosphorus is the nutrient that feeds roots. Phosphorus also promotes flower and fruit development, so you'll see a high middle number on packages promising more buds, blooms, vegetables, and fruits.

General-purpose fertilizers have more balanced numbers like 4-4-4 or 16-16-16 because they try to cover all bases. However, don't rush to put a general fertilizer on just any plant because nitrogen can push leaf growth before the last frosts, or create overly lush leaves, attracting aphids and other pests.

[()Ed. Note: The foregoing was adapted from an article in the 2/3/07 issue of the San Jose Mercury-News.]*

Upcoming gardening tasks...

~ MARCH ~

SNAPSHOT: Crisp days and chilly nights. Smart buys include

azaleas, rhododendrons and camellias in bloom. Start summer vegetable and flower seeds indoors to transplant outside when soil warms. Plant ground covers.

FLOWERS: Attract hummingbirds and butterflies to your yard by planting passion vine, trumpet creeper, cape honeysuckle and wild lilac. Many types of ground cover can be planted now, including Mondo grass and ground morning glory. Get instant color from cinerarias, ageratums, begonias and dwarf marigolds.

VEGETABLES: Plant your herb garden, and this year put in some catnip for your favorite feline. To rejuvenate perennial herbs such as sage and mint, cut back dead or old growth. Put in broccoli and cauliflower transplants; get peas, lettuce, spinach and carrots going from seed.

TO-DO LIST: Check drip irrigation system; flush out sediment and clean or replace emitters. To encourage robust spring growth, fertilize plants that have special nutrient requirements, such as annuals, using slow-release nitrogen as found in alfalfa meal. Take a free composting class; call (408) 918-4640 for a schedule or check www.reducewaste.org.

~ APRIL ~

SNAPSHOT: Warmer days mean soil is welcoming to just about everything.

FLOWERS: Six-packs and pots of annuals and perennials will tempt you. Cosmos and nasturtiums - grow the gorgeous soft yellow climber called "Moonlight" on a fence or trellis - are easy from seed. Plant sunflowers in stages so you'll have continuous bloom through summer. Try a new color combo of Angel's Halo (Yellow), the Joker (bi-color red and yellow) and Chocolate Cherry (deep burgundy). Put in begonias, dahlias, glads, callas and cannas. Late month, after frost danger has passed, put in tropical hibiscus, jacaranda, bougainvillea.



VEGETABLES: Plant summer vegetables, herbs and ornamental gourds. Midmonth, put in cucumbers, peppers and tomatoes. Check out the vast selection of plants (in particular, luscious heirloom tomato varieties) at the popular annual Spring Garden Market organized by the Master Gardeners of Santa Clara County. For date and location, check www.mastergardeners.org.

TO-DO LIST: Feed acid lovers such as azaleas, camellias and rhododendrons after they finish blooming. Roll out new sod or sow grass seed. Spray apple and pear trees for codling moths after the petals have dropped. Make plans to attend: Native Plant Sale, April 7 at Hidden Villa, Los Altos Hills; the Wildflower Show, April 14-15 at Mission College, Santa Clara (details on both: www.cnps-scv.org); and the Going Native Garden Tour, April 29 in locations all over Santa Clara County (details: www.goingnativegardentour.org).

[Ed. Note: The foregoing "To-Do Lists" are taken from the January 6, 2007 San Jose Mercury-News.]

**DO NOT
TOP TREES**

DO NOT TOP TREES: Topping trees is very harmful to proper tree growth and appearance. When a tree is topped, it

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- ◆ References

is shocked into producing fast growth to the sides of the topped branches. The new growth will look very unnatural as it matures over time, and will also be weaker than normal growth. For full details, see your April 2006 VEP News (available at www.vepca.org).

Home maintenance

[Ed. Note: This is the third in a series of monthly reprints taken from "Home Maintenance Calendar 2007" which appeared in the December 30, 2006 San Jose Mercury-News.]

~ March ~

TOP JOB: Turn off all water in your house. After an hour, check the water meter. If it has moved, there is a leak somewhere in the plumbing system.

ALSO: Check for leaks at valve where water enters the house, at outdoor faucets and at any valves to toilet, bathroom, or kitchen sink, bar, etc. Turn each off and on several times to check for leaks. Inspect grout and caulk around sinks, tubs and showers. Repair or replace damaged areas. Inspect water heater for leaks and



flush tank. Clean underside of range hood and clean or replace filters.

~ April ~

TOP JOB: Replace batteries of smoke, heat, and gas detectors.

ALSO: Inspect home from bottom to top, looking for damage that occurred over the winter. Prepare a to-do list of needed repairs.

Do spring cleanup. Wash walls and windows; clean carpeting, upholstery, and window coverings.

Check doors and windows for proper operation. Lubricate hinges and tighten loose hinge screws. Apply clear wood floor wax to door edges that rub.

~ Each month ~

- Test and inspect smoke, heat, and gas detectors.
- Check fire extinguishers. Replace or service as needed.
- Check to be certain nothing flammable is near a source of flame, such as a water heater pilot light, gas range, furnace, etc.
- Practice your family fire-escape plan and review earthquake preparedness. Inspect electrical cords for damage. Repair or replace if needed.
- Check the operation of all electrical circuit breakers by turning each off and on. Do the same with ground fault circuit interrupters, usually found in bathroom, kitchen, garage, and outdoor outlets. Replace those not working properly.
- Always be alert for other safety hazards, such as cracked walkways, hazardous materials that aren't properly stored, or unsecured heavy bookcases or other furniture that could topple during an earthquake.
- Check water softener. Add salt if needed.
- Clean garbage disposal by grinding up two trays of ice cubes made from a mixture of 1 cup white vinegar in 1 gallon of water. (Be certain to use the disposer cap when grinding.) For a pleasant smell, follow the cleaning by grinding a lemon.

Free repairs for low-income homeowners

- Kevin Heuer (*)

Rebuilding Together, formerly Christmas in April, is a non-profit organization that brings together volunteers to provide repair work for low-income homeowners and non-profit facili-

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ties at no cost to the applicant. Rebuilding Together projects are primarily one and two-day projects, held each spring and fall. Throughout the year, the Neighbor-to-Neighbor program performs repairs that improve accessibility and mobility in the home.



Repair work focuses on neighborhood revitalizations and safety improvements such as grab bar and railing installation and repairs such as minor plumbing, flooring, electrical and carpentry. Additional work can also include interior or exterior painting.

For more information or an application, contact Rebuilding Together Silicon Valley at (408) 578-9519. Applications are accepted year round and can also be downloaded from our website at www.rebuildingtogether-sv.org. We are currently looking for homeowners that need warmth, safety, and independence repairs for our April Rebuilding Days program.

Rebuilding Together is the nation's largest volunteer home repair agency. Last year our Silicon Valley affiliate repaired and rehabbed 95 homes and non-profit facilities, utilizing 1500 volunteers.

[(*)Ed Note: Kevin Heuer is Program Development Specialist for Rebuilding Together Silicon Valley. He can be contacted at kheuer@rebuildingtogether-sv.org or (408) 578-9519.]

Free access to Mercury-News archives

- Dave Noel

If you've searched the San Jose Mercury-News website (www.sjmn.com) for articles, you've probably noticed that you must pay to read articles over 7 days old. Did you know you can get that same information for free if you have a San Jose Public Library card? Here's how:

- Go to the library home page: www.sjlibrary.org
- Click on *Research* (at the top)
- Click on *Articles & databases* (on the side)
- Click on *General Newspaper and Magazine articles*
- Scroll down and click on *San Jose Mercury News (SJPL)* (Remote access now available! ; 1985-)
- In the log-in screen, enter your name, library card number, and library PIN (the last four digits of your telephone number, unless you've changed it)
- Click on *San Jose Mercury News*

(Cont'd next page...)

- Search for your article.

Happy searching!

Dial 2-1-1 for Health & Human Services

- Arlene Peterson

This month Santa Clara County and United Way Silicon Valley launched a new toll free number to give County residents access to vital information. 2-1-1 is a free, non-emergency, confidential service that operates 24 hrs a day, 7 days a week, in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Mandarin, and 140 other languages.



2-1-1 provides access to health and human services such as food, shelter, counseling, drug and alcohol intervention, employment assistance, job training, youth programs, counseling, and much more. It also provides a link for individuals seeking to volunteer, provide resources, and assist during a crisis.

2-1-1 may also be used by adult children seeking services for elderly parents, laid-off workers struggling to feed their families, or people impacted by a disaster trying to connect to loved ones.

To make 2-1-1 possible, United Way Silicon Valley raised funds with government entities, private donors, corporations, and community-based organizations, providing \$150,000 per year for two years as "seed money" for ongoing fundraising. Through a unique partnership the 2-1-1 calls will be directed from a call center in Ventura County, eliminating the expense of a full local center.

Forty-one states now offer 2-1-1 services. California offers services in the counties of Los Angeles, San Diego, Orange, Riverside, Ventura, San Francisco, San Bernardino, and now in Santa Clara.

For more information, visit www.uwsv.org. For everyday needs and in times of crisis, don't forget to dial 2-1-1.

District 9 news

-City Councilmember Judy Chirco

At the Mayor's Community Breakfast on March 7th, I had the wonderful opportunity to honor dedicated men and women who volunteer to improve the quality of life for all of us living in District Nine. This year I am proud to honor the Pinehurst Residents Association as District Nine's recipient of the Good Neighbor Awards for 2007. Pinehurst Residents Association's president, **Janet Darrow** accepted the award on behalf of the association.

D-9

Thanks to a San Jose Beautiful grant, the Pinehurst Residents Association was able to install a drip irrigation system and plant 102 plants along the north side of Branham Lane where it borders their neighborhood.

About half of the plants are vines that will hopefully grow up the sound wall and eventually prevent graffiti. The project included pruning existing trees and shrubs, spreading mulch and picking up trash. Thirty-one volunteers worked a total of 213 hours to complete the project. Through the *Adopt A Street* program, the neighborhood will be maintaining the area.

~ City commissions and boards ~

I appreciate all the residents of San Jose who volunteer their

time and talents to serve on City Boards and Commissions. Currently District Nine has thirteen individuals serving on ten of San Jose's 27 commissions.

If you live in San Jose and have a commitment to being active in the community, consider applying. Although applications for current openings are due by 5 pm on March 21st, those sent later will remain active and on file for one year from the date received.

Application forms and information sheets that describe Commission duties and time commitments are available from the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 200 East Santa Clara Street, San Jose 95113. Call the City Clerk's Office (408) 535-1260 or visit www.sanjoseca.gov/clerk/forms/forms.asp.

~ We and Our Neighbors ~

The public is invited to attend the 115th Birthday Celebration of *We and Our Neighbors* at their clubhouse on the corner of Los Gatos/Almaden Road and Union Ave. This event will be held on Saturday, March 17 from 1 – 3 p.m. In addition to birthday cake, a program on craftsman architecture is planned. For more information contact Penny Canario at 408-267-8175

~ Russo Park grand opening ~

Where: Russo Park (Cherrywood Avenue and Russo Drive)

When: March 24, 2007 at 10:30 a.m.

Who: Councilmember Judy Chirco, representatives from the Department of Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services (PRNS), representatives from ROEM Development, and Almaden Oaks Association members.

Why: Russo Park provides neighboring residents with a safe and inviting area to enjoy the outdoors. The passive environment of the park was designed specifically to meet the requests of residents in the senior housing development located adjacent to the park.



This park, in part, is the result of actions by neighboring residents who formed an association called Almaden Oaks Association. These neighbors advocated for the park to be constructed after a proposal was made for a housing development to be built in the area. As a result, a parkland agreement was made between the City of San Jose and ROEM Development to include a park project in construction plans for their housing project.

(Cont'd next page...)

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Located at the end of Russo Drive near Route 85, the 0.3-acre park features horseshoe pits, walkways, fencing, lighting, drinking fountain, trash receptacles, turf, irrigation and other landscaping amenities. San Jose PRNS will maintain the park after its opening.

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.

District 10 news

- City Councilmember Nancy Pyle
~ Coyote Valley ~

By late month's end, the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Coyote Valley Specific Plan will be released. I do expect impacts in District 10. My office will be closely reviewing the EIR and will post an analysis of impacts to District 10 on my website www.sanjoseca.gov/district10.

D-10

My office will also host a forum in April to better educate residents regarding potential impacts. As council prepares for a General Plan update, it is important that my colleagues understand the impacts District 10 will face if Coyote Valley is developed. Please stay tuned for more information on Coyote Valley and the General Plan update.

~ Sports Fields ~

As part of the Sports Fields Feasibility Study, which I authored last year, the Department of Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services (PRNS) has put together a steering committee to help guide the study. Members of the Almaden Valley Youth Soccer League (AVYSL) have been appointed to this committee, by my office in order to lend a voice to the issues Almaden is facing in this citywide study to find solution to these problems. The committee will meet on the following dates at 7 pm: April 9, May 14, June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10, October 1, November 5, and December 10.

Meeting locations are yet to be determined. Please check www.sanjoseca.gov/district10 for more information.

~ Budget & Economic Development ~

Mayor Reed hosted his first Annual Budget Forum last month to discuss priorities of residents as part of the city's budget. Two weeks later the council and senior staff met to discuss the results. I was pleasantly surprised to see "Revenue Generation" listed by the community. As chair of the Community and Economic Development Committee, I understand that the city's economic vitality is extremely important if we wish to put more police officers in Almaden, build more soccer fields and fix our roadways.



Part of our problem is sales tax generation. While San Jose spent the last ten years building housing to meet demands our surrounding neighbors built retail shopping centers. Con-



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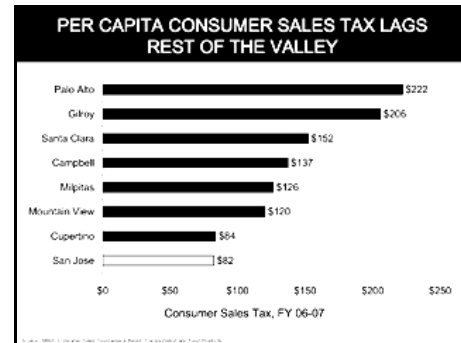
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sequently, San Jose lacks available zoned land for retail shopping centers. This is something that needs to be addressed during the General Plan update in addition to the city working to retain and attract business retail.

In California, cities heavily rely on sales tax to fund programs since property taxes do not meet the needs. In most cases this is fine, but many residents in San Jose now shop and entertain themselves outside of the city. This helps other cities meet their demands but fails to drive San Jose's economy. It is increasingly important that people shop where they live.



The graph above illustrates the competition San Jose faces from other cities when competing for sales tax revenue. While San Jose has more sales tax than these other cities, it is clear that on a per capita basis we are dead last.

Since I plan to vote for additional police officers and fight for funding for additional soccer fields in District 10, I plan on spending my money in San Jose. For a directory of D-10 businesses, consult the Almaden Business Association's website at www.almadenbizassn.org.

~ Congrats to VEP ~

Kudos to the VEP Community Association for their hard work and dedication in putting together the Branham-Narvaez beautification project.

In late January, VEP volunteers turned out on two successive weekends beautify the 1/3-acre lot at the corner of Branham Lane and Narvaez Avenue. They planted 32 trees and spread mulch over the entire lot. Another eight trees were planted along the ped/bike path across the street, replacing those that had died in recent years. The results were beautiful and very satisfying for every community member involved.

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Counterpoint...*Inclusionary zoning*

- James S. Burling (*)

Inclusionary zoning: a brilliant plan to *create* housing shortages.

In the strange political world of city council chambers across California and some other more befuddled parts of the nation, a belief in an alternative universe exists--where the laws of economics do not exist. In that universe, shortages created by government regulations can be eased only with more government regulations. And the skyrocketing cost of government regulation can be eased only with more costly government regulation.

This is the saga of "inclusionary zoning", a relic of the halcyon days where government officials could unabashedly worship at the altar of central planning. In the old days, of course, if the government discovered a shortage of something (such as low-income housing), it would just decree more of that something to be made by the government.



But times have changed. We've learned that such a course leads to failure. Planners today recognize that there is a role for the free market. They just haven't figured what the role is yet. So, today when planners recognize a shortage of something, they decree that more of that something should be made-by the free market.

In most parts of our country, there is a shortage of low-income housing. Local governments realize that more must be made. And, for some reason, it must be new. Of course, no one likes "low-income" housing, so planners renamed it "affordable housing" to make it more palatable to the middle class that ends up paying for it. More recently, planners, in a bow to the public's embrace of the value of something called "work," have renamed it yet again as "workforce housing." In light of recent developments, we may soon be seeing calls for more "proletariat housing."

The problem with alleviating a shortage of new low-income housing is that someone has to build it. And since government has done such a lousy job building housing, taxpayers are reluctant to shovel more tax money for the construction of government housing projects. So what's a planner to do? The answer is so-called inclusionary zoning, an idea so loopy that it almost makes rent control look like sound economics.

In a nutshell, so to speak, "inclusionary zoning" says that, if a developer builds ten or so homes for sale at market rates, the builder has to build one that is "affordable" to the "workforce," Or pay big bucks to the local housing commissariat for a subsidized housing fund.

So who picks up the tab for the subsidized housing? The planners behind this scheme either shrug and don't answer the question or suggest the builders will eat the costs. Certainly not the average families who make up the bulk of new home purchasers in this country. In inclusionary zoning jurisdictions, money *does* grow on trees.

There is one fly in the socialist soup, however: The United States Constitution. The Supreme Court has on several occasions, first in a 1.987 case brought by Pacific Legal Foundation (PLF) called *Nollan v. California Coastal Commission*, held that the Takings Clause prohibited government from demanding exactions from builders unless the exaction served to relieve some actual harm caused by the development. The problem here is that no serious economist will say that building homes and apartments for sale or rent at market rates creates a shortage of affordable housing. Quite the opposite.

If planners were serious about letting the free market relieve the shortage of affordable housing, they would allow more housing to be built without burdening it with yet another tax that takes thousands and thousands of dollars out of the pockets of the families struggling to afford a new home.

Recently, Oakland Mayor (and California Attorney General-elect) Jerry Brown vetoed an inclusionary zoning scheme in his city, saying it would drive developers and private investment out of the city. In his words, "There is no Santa Claus."

Right now PLF is litigating this issue in Santa Monica and more suits are on the way. I may never say this again in my lifetime: let us hope the courts agree with Jerry Brown.

[(*)Ed. Note: This article is taken from the Pacific Legal Foundation's December 2006 Guide Post. Principal Attorney James S. Burling is supervising PLF's current legal challenge to the City of Santa Monica's inclusionary zoning policies.]

VEP's February meeting summary

-Jim Hicks, Secretary

Marilyn Rodgers, the VEP President, opened the meeting with a warm welcome.



Wesley W. Terrell

★ VEP Member ★
Vista Park Specialist



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<http://gunderson.sjsud.org/%7Edrama/index.html>
<http://gunderson.sjsud.org/%7ebuttrill/>

Our area's new police Captain **David Cavallaro** was introduced. Captain Cavallaro took over for recently retired Captain Jack Farmer. He promised to work closely with the community. Those in attendance expressed concerns about potholes in various neighborhood locations, speeding drivers, and some security issues. Captain Cavallero said he'd look into these concerns and get back to our VEP President Marilyn Rodgers. He left his telephone number (408-277-5530) for VEP members to call.

Our main speaker for the evening was County Assessor **Larry Stone**. He was elected in 1994 and has served four terms. Mr. Stone discussed several subjects, including his office functions, his staff, budgetary requirements, the housing market, and various ways to reduce property taxes. He also offered some reassessment tips.

Mr. Stone is responsible for managing a budget of \$24.6-million and a staff of over 243 employees. Santa Clara



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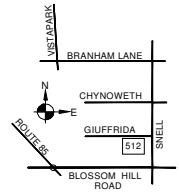
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County is the sixth largest California county and has some very highly-qualified personnel. He has 44 auditors and 71 Certified Assessors.

He mentioned that the assessment process begins each January 1st and ends each July 1st. County's assessed valuation is \$262-billion, with \$11.-billion of exemptions. Surprisingly, he claims his office is not concerned with revenue. Their focus is the assessed value of county properties.

Tax revenue is allocated to local governments approximately as follows:

- School Districts = 52%
- Redevelopment agencies = 12%
- Cities = 9%
- County General Fund = 12%
- Special Districts = 6%
- Community Colleges = 9%



For more information or to request a copy of the Assessment Information brochure, call 408-808-7900 or go to their website, www.scc.assessor.org.

Ms. Rodgers introduced, **Stephen Gregerson**, CFP, and FIC of Thrivent Financial, who gave attendees a comprehensive presentation of the long-term care program he has developed, offering a 5% discount to all VEP members. For more information on this unique program, please call Stephen at 510-405-8100.

Our meeting concluded with VEP business. The Branham/Narvaez beautification project exceeded the grant budget by about \$300.

VEP's annual membership drive and our annual Community Scholarship Award (CSA) application process are currently underway.

You can also report broken streetlights by email or fax. Visit www.sanjoseca.gov/transportation/s_streetlights.htm for more information.

If it's a routine repair or lamp replacement, the city estimates no more than seven days to repair it. More complicated repairs typically require no more than two weeks. My recent experience with street light replacement was very good—it only took a couple of days after my call.

THE VEP NEWS



VEP Community Association

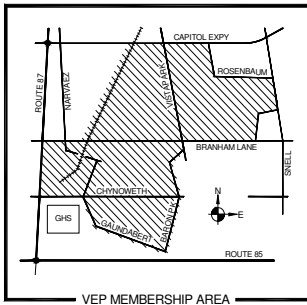
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Published monthly by VEP Community Association, a not-for-profit organization of volunteers established in 1969 to serve and represent more than 2000 homes in the Blossom Valley area of southern San Jose. VEP is dedicated to neighborhood maintenance and improvement in its membership area as well as to active involvement in civic affairs. This newsletter is mailed monthly to all members in good standing, to our advertisers, and to schools and government officials serving our membership area. For membership or paid advertisement information, contact our Treasurer or write to the address listed above.

VEP EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	MARILYN RODGERS	225-7553	mrodgersrn@aol.com
VICE PRESIDENT	CINDY BOSWORTH	972-2536	boz555@msn.com
SECRETARY	JIM HICKS	227-0590	kr8ve@ix.netcom.com
TREASURER	GINGER CARDONA	227-0222	cardona@sbcglobal.net
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