



needed more time.

**Renew by May 4<sup>th</sup> to receive your May VEP News.**

We've had a good renewal rate so far, and really good new member numbers (welcome new members!).

When you renew, be sure to check off the volunteer activities you are interested in and give us any feedback in the comments section. Thanks for supporting VEP in our 38<sup>th</sup> year of service to our community. Help us break our membership records again this year.

**\*\* 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/mailing 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!

**Thank you, membership drive volunteers!**

*-Marilyn Rodgers*

In February, VEP launched its annual membership drive. Renewal remit envelopes were included in the February VEP NEWS and mailed to all current VEP members. A separate letter was mailed to all residents who were not currently members, inviting them to join their community association. This activity takes many volunteer hours to successfully accomplish.

Many thanks to the following dedicated volunteers who assisted in completing this important annual task:

- Ginger Cardona
- Jessica Cardona
- Jennifer Cardona
- Justin Cardona
- Debra Suydum
- Bob Aquino
- Christine Butler
- Josie Supencheck
- Linda Sandoval
- Chris Gray
- Jeanne Mullins
- Jeri Arstingstall
- Marilyn Rodgers



Busy VEP membership drive volunteers

**Garbage and recycling rate increases?**

*-Dave Fadness*

You have by now received in the mail from the city a notice describing details of proposed step-wise increases for San Jose *Recycle Plus* rates for garbage and recycling services over the coming three years. This rate notice is also posted online at [www.sanioseca.gov/esd/rates-notice.asp](http://www.sanioseca.gov/esd/rates-notice.asp).

Proposed increases are obviously the fallout of city council garbage contract shenanigans that made headlines last year. Rate-payers are now being asked to fund what amounts to an \$11+ million back-door wage hike.

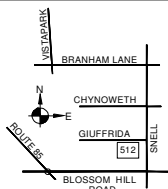
What's being proposed is increases for all types of services. For example, a **29% first-year increase is recommended for the curbside single-family household rate** (from \$20.15 to \$25.99 per month for a 32-gallon garbage cart). **The rate for an optional yard trimmings cart will rise 60%** (from \$2.50 to \$4.00 per month). Rates are also being proposed for commercial businesses and multi-family complexes.

**Oak Grove Veterinary Hospital**



**512 Giuffrida Avenue**  
San Jose, CA 95123

**Hours: 8 am - 6 pm**  
**Monday thru Friday**  
Early morning drop-offs  
are available



**Quality Care With Lots of TLC!**

Under new ownership since February 2001

**Dr. Timothy D. Thies (408) 227-1661**

Bring this ad for a free gift on your pet's first checkup (limit one gift per pet)

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

☺ **Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>** ☺

★ **VEP Community 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 28<sup>th</sup>** ☺

★ **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.]

The San Jose City Council will be holding a public hearing on May 8, 2007 regarding these proposals. That hearing will be held at 1:30 pm in the City Hall Council Chambers, 200 East Santa Clara Street.

If approved, the proposed rates for Fiscal Year 2007-08 will become effective on July 1, 2007. The May 8 public hearing will also cover proposed maximum increases for *Recycle Plus* in Fiscal Year 2008-09 and Fiscal Year 2009-10. **Proposed are additional increases of 10% in both 2008-09 and 2009-10.**

If you wish to protest the proposed Recycle Plus service rate increases, the city must receive your written protest prior to the close of the public hearing on May 8, 2007.

Mail or deliver your written protest to:  
Recycle Plus Rate Increase  
City Clerk

200 East Santa Clara Street  
San Jose, California 95113

Note: For your protest to be counted, you must indicate the Assessor's Parcel Number(s) of the San Jose property or properties you own that are subject to the proposed rate adjustment. The Assessor's Parcel Number for your property is shown on your property tax statement—and is included on the letter you received from the city. One letter can be used to protest increases on all of your San Jose properties, but all Assessor's Parcel Number(s) must be listed therein.

Please pass this information to your friends and family who own property in San Jose—urge them to file a written protest before the May 8 deadline.

\*\*\*\*

Here's a sample letter you may copy and use: (provide your own information where called for in **boldface italics**):

Cont'd next page...



## WALLACE MUSIC STUDIO

Piano and Voice Lessons

**Vanessa Wallace, Teacher**  
★ A VEP Member ★

★ 14+ years' experience  
★ All ages and levels  
★ Reasonable rates

Phone: (408) 265-6530 E-mail: wesvcs@mac.com

### Date

Recycle Plus Rate Increase  
City Clerk  
200 East Santa Clara Street  
San Jose, California 95113

Mayor and City Council:

I hereby formally protest any and all Recycle Plus rate increases for fiscal years 2007-08, 2008-09, and/or 2009-10. The Assessor's Parcel Number(s) for my property is/are: **(provide Assessor's Parcel Number(s) from your property tax records).**

Sincerely yours,

**Name**  
**Address**  
San Jose, CA 951XX

## VEP Community Calendar

Sat, Apr 21 @ 10 am – 3 pm = 3<sup>rd</sup> annual District 10 Youth Summer Job Workshop and Fair. (See *District 10 News* article in this newsletter for location and more information.)

Tue, Apr 24 @ 7:30 pm = VEP General Meeting in the Vista Park Community Room (see agenda on page 1).

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

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

Sat, Apr 28 @ 11 am – 4 pm = 19<sup>th</sup> Annual San Jose Children's Faire at Discovery Meadow. (See *District 9 News* article in this newsletter for more information.)

Tue, May 4 @ 9 pm = Deadline for articles for May NEWS. Send to Dave Noel at DNoel1234@aol.com.

Sat, May 5 (all day) = VEP Community Garage Sale.

Sat, May 5 @ 10 am – noon = 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Council District 10 Budget Forum at the Almaden Winery Community Center, 5730 Chambertin Drive. (See *District 10 News* article in this newsletter for more information.)

Sat, May 19 @ 9 am = City of San Jose *Great American Litter*

*Pick Up.* Meet at the Vista Park Community Room. Citywide volunteer luncheon will follow event. For details call Stephanie Holm (Council Member Nancy Pyle's office) at (408) 535-4982.

Sat, May 19 @ 11 am – 3 pm = 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Celebrate Cambrian Festival at the Camden Community Center. (See *District 9 News* article in this newsletter for more information.)

Tue, May 22 @ 7:30 pm = VEP General Meeting in the Vista Park Community Room. (See *President's Message* article in this newsletter for more information.)

Mon, May 28 = VEP Memorial Day Parade & Festival.

### VEP's new website

- Dave Noel

If you haven't seen our website in a while, check it out: [www.vepca.net](http://www.vepca.net). VEP's Webmaster **Adina Pierce** recently gave our website a new look. She's also doing a bunch of behind-the-scenes work on our website and electronic communications.

(Note: Although our official website address changed this month from [www.vepca.org](http://www.vepca.org) to [www.vepca.net](http://www.vepca.net), both addresses work.)

We'd also like to thank **Mark Schoenberg**, who served as our webmaster until recently. Mark also continues to help us behind-the-scenes.

### 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](mailto:cardona@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

### Get paid to exercise!

-Dave Fadness

Times Media, Inc. is looking for 1 to 3 reliable walkers to distribute the *Blossom Valley Times* each month in the VEP area. Their newspaper is distributed to approximately 2400 homes here during the second week of each month. Times Media will pay walkers (or donate to VEP) \$75 per thousand newspapers delivered.

Contact **Bill Bellou**, Publisher/CEO, Times Newspaper Group, 1310 Tully Road, Suite 107, San Jose 95122. Telephone: (408) 483-5458. Email: [william@timesmediainc.com](mailto:william@timesmediainc.com).

Do it today!

### Got electronic waste?

-Rob Iverson, Gunderson High School

Universal Waste Management, Inc. is sponsoring a free electronic waste collection event in the Gunderson High School parking lot on April 28<sup>th</sup>, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For information, call (888) 832-9839 or go to [www.unwaste.com](http://www.unwaste.com).



A state-approved electronic waste collector, Universal Waste Management, Inc. will take old computer hard drives and cases, monitors, keyboards, and mice. The agency also will accept power supplies, TVs, VCRs, DVD players, telephone equipment, fax machines, copy machines, cables, power cords, toner cartridges, cell phones, and audio-visual equipment.

This is a charity fundraiser for the Class of 2009 at Gunder-son High School. Please take advantage of this opportunity to get rid of your electronic relics—and do the students at Gun-der-son a good turn at the same time.

## Upcoming Volunteer Events

Unless otherwise specified, be sure to call any VEP officer (listed on mailing page of this newsletter) to find out specifics and/or to volunteer for these events.

- ✓ Volunteers are needed for distribution of VEP's 2<sup>nd</sup> Event Flyer to advertise our upcoming *Community Garage Sale* and *VEP Memorial Day Parade & Festival*. Flyer distribution will take place between April 20<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>. Contact Marilyn Rodgers at 225-7553 to volunteer.
- ✓ 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 May.
- ✓ City of San Jose *Great American Litter Pick Up*. Meet at the Vista Park Community Room at 9 am on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. Citywide volunteer luncheon will follow event. For details call Stephanie Holm (Council Member Nancy Pyle's office) at (408) 535-4982.
- ✓ VEP flyer distribution in May (Memorial Day Parade & Festival).

### Thanks, VEP volunteer flyer walkers!

*-Marilyn Rodgers*

During the last two weeks of March, seventeen VEP volunteers walked the entire VEP community to hand-distribute over 2500 flyers. The flyer provided information and announced three major upcoming events for VEP: our March 27 *Home Improvement Faire*; our May 5<sup>th</sup> *Community Garage Sale*; and our May 28<sup>th</sup> *VEP Memorial Day Parade & Festival*.

Thank you to the following volunteers:

- Peggy Golden
- Christine Butler
- Pat Souza Lewis
- Bob & Barbara Aquino
- Arlene Peterson
- Diana Muzyka
- Jim Hicks
- Debra Suydum
- Lisa Miller
- Don & Marilyn Rodgers
- Ginger Cardona
- Jessica Cardona
- Tara Eckert



## Renew your VEP membership today!

Special thanks to **Josie Supencheck** who walked two areas, and to **Bob Olsen** who did three areas!

If you would like to volunteer to help distribute flyers for upcoming VEP events, contact me at 225-7553 or MRodgersRN@aol.com.

### Become a *Tree Amigo*

*- Jake Miller (\*)*

Our City Forest's Spring 2007 *Tree Amigo* class starts May 9<sup>th</sup>. Cost: Free. Sign up now.

Description: Students will learn planting techniques, species identification, basic tree care, and how to help organize a community planting. There will be a tree nursery tour, a walking tree tour, and a tree planting project during the 18 hour class.

Class location: The classroom location is at Our City Forest offices at 595 Park Avenue, Suite 100, on the northeast corner of Park Avenue and Montgomery (Bird), just off Hwy 280 (Bird exit). There will be field training as well, with locations to be announced during the course.

To sign up or for information: E-mail Monica Nañez at mnanez@ourcityforest.org or call (408) 998-7337.

Schedule: Spring 2007 Tree Amigo Training

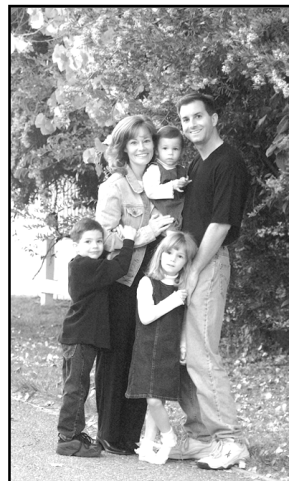
Classroom sessions:

- Session 1, Wednesday May 9, 6 – 8 pm
- Session 3, Wednesday May 16, 6 – 8 pm
- Session 5, Wednesday May 23, 6 – 8 pm
- Session 6, Wednesday May 30, 6 – 8 pm

Field sessions:

- Session 2, Saturday May 12, TBA
- Session 4, Saturday May 19, TBA
- Session 7, Saturday June 2, TBA

*[(\*) Ed. Note: Jake Miller is Director of Communications at Our City Forest. Contact: Phone = (408) 998-7337; Fax = (408) 998-1078; www.ourcityforest.org]*



*Precious Moments In Time*



Family and Children Portraits



Weddings and Special Events



Photography *by* Jeri Arstingstall

★ VEP MEMBER ★

(408) 281-3393

## Career Closet

- Dave Noel

If you have women's suits and business attire that you'd like to give away, consider the *San Jose Career Closet*, a volunteer-based organization that provides business attire and other services. They assist women to choose clothing that will help them gain and retain employment, advance their careers, and improve family stability.



Career Closet thrives with the help of dedicated volunteers and is committed to helping women be successful. Last year, they assisted more than 1,800 women for that all-important job interview.

For more information, visit [www.careercloset.org](http://www.careercloset.org) or call (408) 451-1200.

## 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](mailto: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).

This is my third notice regarding these tools. If I do not hear from their owners by our April meeting date, my intention is to leave them at the Branham-Narvaez site or donate them to a charity.

## Make our May 5<sup>th</sup> garage sale a **BIG** success

-Dave Fadness & Ginger Cardona

This year, our annual *Community Garage Sale* will be held on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. 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 priceless 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.

## 2007 Memorial Day Parade & Festival

-Dave Fadness

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

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 Choirs.
- Oak Grove High School Jazz Band.
- *Dance Kraze* Dancers.
- San Jose Police K-9 Unit.
- San Jose Police Horse-Mounted Unit.
- San Jose Fire Department (tentative).
- San Jose Firefighters' BBQ team.
- S.J. *Sharkie*.
- America Tae Kwon Do.
- DJ music by Mike Lopez.



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).

Having your help in taking care of one or two of these details



## HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL

+ Grades K - 8 +

### ★ Limited Openings for the 2007- 08 School Year ★

- ♥ Strong Catholic Identity & Excellent Academics.
- ♥ State-of-the-Art Computer & Science Labs and Library.
- ♥ Expect us to Develop Your Child's Potential by Touching Their Mind, Heart, & Soul.
- ♥ Award Winning Extracurricular Activities from Chess to Sports
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[info@hfsj.org](mailto:info@hfsj.org) [www.hfsj.org](http://www.hfsj.org)

**(408) 978-1355**

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.

## VEP Community Service Awards

- Dave Noel

\*\*\*\*\*

### NOTICE:

**VEP COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD APPLICATIONS ARE DUE AT 9 PM ON TUESDAY APRIL 24<sup>TH</sup>.**

(FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT WWW.VEPCA.NET)

\*\*\*\*\*

Applicants attending Gunderson or Andrew Hill should contact their administrators right away to make sure their applications are complete and signed off. The school administrators will nominate three deserving students and provide VEP with their completed applications by our April 24<sup>th</sup> deadline.

Applicants attending other schools and applying for our "At-Large" award should make sure their applications are completed and in our hands by April 24<sup>th</sup>. Applications may be delivered in person at our April 24<sup>th</sup> annual meeting. At-Large students must be residents of San Jose and nominated by a VEP member.

**VEP  
Community  
Service  
Awards**

Our community service awards reward graduating high school students for outstanding community service and volunteerism during their high school careers. This year VEP is offering these awards for our 21<sup>st</sup> consecutive year, and our awards will be \$1,000 for the winner in each category (Andrew Hill, Gunderson, and At-Large).

We will present our Gunderson and Andrew Hill awards at each school's respective senior awards night in late May and early June. We will present our At-Large award at our May 22<sup>nd</sup> general meeting. Our grants must be used for higher education or vocational training.

The designated administrators at Andrew Hill and Gunderson are:

**Lara Sandora** at Andrew Hill High School  
**Becky Bruni** at Gunderson High School (Career Center)

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~ Greg ~

★ A VEP member ★

Application forms for all three award categories are available on our web site at [www.vepca.net](http://www.vepca.net).

If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer to help the Community Service Awards selection committee, please contact me at (408) 266-7183 or [DNoel1234@aol.com](mailto:DNoel1234@aol.com).

## VEP President's message

-Marilyn Rodgers

April definitely reminds us that spring has arrived with the blossoming of flowers and the green leaves of trees in full view. April also signals an especially exciting and busy time for VEP.

**John Marks** organized our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual VEP Home Improvement Fair which was successfully held on March 27<sup>th</sup>. May 5<sup>th</sup> will be our VEP Community Garage Sale. May 28<sup>th</sup> heralds our largest annual event, the VEP Memorial Day Parade & Festival.



1. VEP's General Membership Meeting for April will be an exciting one. Council Member **Nancy Pyle** will be our keynote speaker. She will be providing us with information on issues of special concern, such as the status of the city's budget.

She will also be providing us with information regarding the city's plan for addressing the traffic congestion and gridlock at the intersection of Capitol Expressway, Narvaez, and the on-ramp to Hwy 87, a major interest and concern previously voiced by our members.

Our second presentation will be on the proposed rate increases for recycling and garbage collection.

2. VEP's annual membership drive is coming to an end. If you have already sent in your renewal, thank you for your support of VEP. If not, please do it today. It is very important that we receive your membership renewal no later than May 4<sup>th</sup> to ensure that you do not miss a single issue of the VEP NEWS or miss e-mail alerts (if you have provided us with your e-mail address).

3. If you would like to receive e-mail alerts from VEP, please provide us with your e-mail address. If you have changed your e-mail address, please notify us, as we are receiving a significant number of "bounced back" e-mail messages from members who have changed their address or spam settings.

4. With all of the exciting activities we have planned for April and May, we are eager to have you participate as a volunteer. . If you didn't already indicate your volunteer areas of

## VEP: Working for you!

interest on your membership renewal, contact any of the officers listed on the mailing page of this newsletter to let us know.

5. We are currently recruiting for new Executive Board members. Don't be afraid to jump right in! No experience is required. You will be mentored and provided with lots of support from current board members and other volunteers. Most of our current Board members started because they had a particular interest or issue of concern they wanted to work on--so come on, join us. You'll enjoy it!



6. Interested in helping clean up litter in the VEP neighborhood? The annual *Great America Pickup* is planned for the City of San Jose this year on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. District 10 will be kicking off the event at our very own Vista Park Community Center. So plan to come out to spend a few hours that morning making our community more attractive--and then enjoy a free lunch. Call **Stephanie Holm** (Council Member Pyle's office) at (408) 535-4982 for more details.

7. Do you know a high school senior that has done a great job as a volunteer? Had you intended to nominate them for VEP's *Community Service Award*, but got busy and forgot? Please do it now, as our application deadline is 9 pm on April 24.

VEP wants to honor high school seniors who have given back to their community through volunteer service. We've budgeted up to three \$1,000 scholarship grants this year, which student recipients use for vocational or academic education. (For more information, see *VEP Community Service Awards* article in this newsletter.)

8. *Memorial Day Parade & Festival* planning is in full swing. There are still many opportunities for volunteers, both for the day of the event, and prior to the event. (For more information, see *Memorial Day Parade & Festival* article in this newsletter.)

9. Our May 22<sup>nd</sup> VEP General Membership meeting will include presentations on the status of the Martial-Cottle Park. We'll also feature an educational forum on *Traffic Congestion at Rt. 87/Capitol/Narvaez: Problems and Possible Solutions*. Councilwoman **Nancy Pyle** and County Supervisor **Don Gage** will join city and VTA officials in this four-member panel discussion. We will also present our At-Large Community Service Award at this meeting.

Plan now to attend.

## Neighborhood scuttlebutt

- Dave Fadness & Dave Noel  
Branham Lane widening project: No news to report.

Chynoweth at Pearl: At our January 30<sup>th</sup> General Meeting, VEP members reported to San Jose Department of Transportation Neighborhood Traffic Manager **Laura Wells** that timing problems needed to be fixed at the Branham/Pearl traffic light. Laura Wells reported to VEP recently that the problem has been fixed, reducing the wait time for a green light when there is no cross traffic.



Chynoweth palm tree: On February 10<sup>th</sup>, another large palm tree was hit and destroyed in the Chynoweth median just east of Pearl Avenue. City Council Member **Nancy Pyle's** office is looking into getting the old stump removed and a new tree planted.

Branham median fence at Narvaez: In the February VEP News, we reported that a driver hit several sections of chain link fence in the median of Branham on the east slope of the Hwy 87 overpass west of Narvaez. San Jose's Department of Transportation repaired the fence in mid-February. At our request, they also extended the fence to the Narvaez crosswalk. Improving safety by encouraging pedestrians to cross Branham at the crosswalk instead of jaywalking has been a long-time goal of VEP's. VEP sent a letter of thanks to **Ray Martinez** of DOT.

Happy Hollow Park and Zoo: In July 2008, Happy Hollow Park and Zoo will close for eight months of major renovations. These are the first major renovations since the park opened 46 years ago. The park will get new rides and attractions, a restaurant, a redesigned main entry with colorful artwork, and a 550-space parking lot. If you have an old cell phone or pager you'd like to recycle, consider donating it to Happy Hollow's cell phone recycling program. You'll get a tax receipt and proceeds will support Happy Hollow. For more info, visit [www.hhpz.org](http://www.hhpz.org).

Route 87-Capitol-Narvaez: VTA's *Capitol Light Rail Station Area Preliminary Traffic Operations Investigation Draft Final Report* was released for our review early last month. This study was done in conjunction with VTA's proposal for high-density development to replace 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 included a preliminary list of possible remedies.

As expected, our first-hand experience was 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.).



VEP has reviewed the study with representatives of neighboring community associations. We decided to first invite **Nancy Pyle** to address our ongoing request to have the city's official level-of-service rating changed there to reflect existing conditions. We believe a solution will never be worked on until the problem is officially acknowledged by the City of San Jose.



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Professional Pet Nannies

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(209) 640-2007

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Our second step is to have a panel of city and county elected representatives and transportation officials participate in a panel discussion at our May 22 VEP meeting. They will present the study's findings to our members, answer our questions, and discuss possible solutions and a strategy to resolve daily traffic congestion at this notorious interchange.

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.

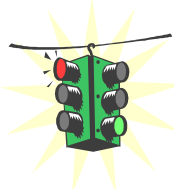
If you are among the thousands of poor souls who suffer the traffic at this location every day, please consider joining the VEP board in its efforts to find a solution. We need your help. Contact us today...

Dave Noel	(408) 266-7183	DNoel1234@aol.com
Dave Fadness	(408) 578-6428	drfadness@sbcglobal.net

### Update on Chynoweth-Pearl signal timing

-Marilyn Rodgers

At VEP's January meeting, one of the issues of concern voiced by members was the signal timing at the intersection of Pearl and Chynoweth; especially the long wait time for westbound motorists. San Jose's Department of Transportation (DOT) researched this problem and sent the following message to us:



"The DOT Signal Team has reset the signal timing at this intersection. The timing was previously set to return automatically to a green phase for the eastbound left-turn and through movements if no other vehicles were present in any of the other lanes, as these are the heaviest movements at this intersection. In addition, the minimum green time had previously been set to 20 seconds. The minimum green time has been reduced to 10 seconds, which will reduce the wait time for westbound motorists."

### Pearl Avenue Library update

- Domenic Onorato (\*)

The contractor is proceeding with building layout and excavation for perimeter footings. Pouring concrete footings, the floor slab, and electrical work will follow thereafter. Exterior wall framing will begin during the last week of April, weather conditions allowing.

For information regarding this project, please contact me at 535-8350 or by email [domenic.onorato@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:domenic.onorato@sanjoseca.gov). You may also contact Frank Church or Bill McClain of Bogard Construction at their on-site trailer by calling (831) 426-8191.

Photos of construction activities are available online at [www.NewSanJoseLibraries.com](http://www.NewSanJoseLibraries.com).

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

### You can name a new San Jose library

The San Jose Library Commission invites your suggestions for a suitable name for the new 22,000 square-foot library



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currently under construction at the southeast corner of Monterey Road and Branham Lane.

There are two avenues for submitting a suggestion:

- Print a copy of the nomination form posted online at [www.sjlibrary.org/about/sjpl/bond/index.htm](http://www.sjlibrary.org/about/sjpl/bond/index.htm). Complete the form and submit it to the City Clerk's Office (200 E. Santa Clara Street, 95113) before May 9.
- Dial (408) 535-8450 before May 9 to call in a suggestion.

The Library Commission will review and discuss all submissions at its May 9 meeting in order to formulate their recommendation to the city council. This public meeting is scheduled at Santa Teresa Branch Library (290 International Circle), beginning at 7 p.m.

The new Edenvale neighborhood library is one of six new branch libraries that will have been added to the San Jose Public Library system by the year 2010, as a result of the Branch Development Bond Measure passed by voters in November 2000. The program also authorized reconstruction and expansion of 14 existing branch libraries. At this juncture, nine projects have been completed and another eight are in some phase of design or construction. The Edenvale library is expected to open late fall, 2007.

### Book sale

-Dave Fadness

Friends of the Vineland Branch Library are holding a book sale at Vineland (1450 Blossom Hill Road) on Saturday, May 5 from 9 am until 3:30 pm.

They also accept donations of paperback and hard cover books in good condition (only)—no textbooks or magazines. Tax receipts are given.

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# 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. Let us know of any special accommodations you may require by contacting Steve Ryan at [steve.ryan@sanjoseca.gov](mailto: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	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



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(408) 265-8466

~ EXTENDED HOURS OPTIONS ~

Course	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 4<sup>th</sup>.

~ 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



Parks, Recreation and  
Neighborhood Services

~ 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.

## Weekend fun and volunteering

Imagine a weekend camping in a beautiful place without having to make the reservations yourself, without having to worry about food cooking or packing. Now, add the satisfaction of a great workout and making a lasting contribution.

### Coyote Lake ~ Harvey Bear Ranch

May 5-6, 2007

Santa Clara County Parks  
Morgan Hill  
(250 volunteers needed)

Enjoy a rewarding weekend and help build trails in an area not yet open to the public. V-O-Cal volunteers will construct a section of single-track on Valley Oak Trail and install trail drainage on the new Calaveras Trail. Volunteers will camp and have spectacular views of Coyote Lake.

### Discover Sky Ranch

June 2-3, 2007

Muir Heritage  
Land Trust  
Martinez  
(250 volunteers needed)

Join us the weekend of National Trail Days as we create a 2-

mile signature trail loop to honor Tina Batt. Perched high upon the Franklin Ridge, enjoy world class views of the Carquinez Strait and Mount Diablo from one of the Muir Heritage Land Trust's premier properties. Come have fun, work hard, and be part of creating this new section of the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

Sign up online at [www.v-o-cal.org/proj/current.html](http://www.v-o-cal.org/proj/current.html)

~ Become a crew leader! ~

Crew Leaders receive special training in leadership, safety, tools, and technical skills. If you enjoy being a volunteer on projects and are interested in leadership, then enter the Crew Leader program. It is a fun, educational and rewarding experience!

~ Get involved and find out more ~

Volunteers for Outdoor California (V-O-Cal) engages the community to build and maintain trails and restore natural habitat. We work in partnership with public agencies other non-profit organizations and conduct large-scale weekend volunteer stewardship projects all over Northern California.



V-O-Cal is a non-profit organization entirely funded by grants, individual contributions, and sponsorships. Become one of the donors who make this great work possible.

Call (650) 298-9774 or visit [www.v-o-cal.org](http://www.v-o-cal.org)

## District 9 news

-City Councilmember Judy Chirco

As spring arrives with sunshine and warm weather, it is a perfect time to get outdoors and enjoy the wonderful events and parks we have here in San Jose. I want to share some great family events that you will want to mark on your calendar to attend.

~ 19<sup>th</sup> Annual San Jose Children's Faire ~

As council liaison to the Early Care & Education Commission, I look forward to April where we recognize the Month of the Young Child. The Month of the Young Child has focused public attention on the needs of children and their families, particularly the need for quality early childhood education.

# D-9

On the local level, there will be a San Jose Children's Faire to highlight the Month of the Young Child. Join me on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> from 11 am to 4 pm at the Discovery Meadow (located in front of the Children's Discovery Museum) for a day of free family fun. This event features educational booths, arts and crafts, and free entertainment throughout the day. You can get more information at [www.moyc-csj.org](http://www.moyc-csj.org).

~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Celebrate Cambrian Festival sponsors needed ~  
The Grand Opening of the Camden Community Center will be celebrated with a Fun Walk and Festival on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> from 11 am to 3 pm. Business and community sponsors are being sought for this great event that raises funds for the Camden Community Centers programs and equipment.

Last year's event raised more than \$12,000. Sponsorship levels range from \$750 to \$150. For further information please contact Vickie Johnson at (408) 369-1842.

This Festival will include a community resource fair, musical entertainment, free children's activities, and demonstrations

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of various classes offered at the center. A free hot dog lunch will be offered. There will also be the opening of the new public art designed by students at San Jose State University. Their art highlights the history of area including the legacy of Camden High School.

Please come and learn more about what District 9 has to offer as we as have a good time with friends old and new. Camden Community Center is located at 3369 Union Avenue. Overflow parking will be accommodated next door at the Campbell Union High School District Office parking lot.

~ Parks Department information telephone ~

Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services has one number to call for information about picnic reservations, bounce house/air jumper requests, park locations, special attractions, special park use, family camp, and to report park concerns. The number is 27-PARKS (277-2757). This service is offered 24-hours per day, seven days per week.

If you wish to receive periodic emails from my office please visit the District 9 website at [www.sanjoseca.gov/district9](http://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](mailto:District9@sanjoseca.gov) or (408) 277-5275.

## District 10 news

- City Councilmember Nancy Pyle

2007-08 City of San Jose Budget - On February 20<sup>th</sup> the city council, council appointees, and senior management staff participated in an all day retreat to develop and discuss our city's three-year goals:

- Maintain our status as the safest big city in America.
- Eliminate the structural budget deficit.
- Reduce deferred maintenance and the infrastructure backlog and develop a strategy to improve the infrastructure.
- Increase economic vitality.
- Provide full funding for parks, pools, community centers and libraries, including maintenance operation and development.

# D-10

On March 9<sup>th</sup> our mayor released his Draft Budget Message for city council approval. The purpose of the budget message is to provide guidance to the city manager while he prepares his Draft Budget in May.

I am happy to say that Mayor Reed included a number of proposals I have been pushing, including an improved retail

strategy and streamlining the permitting process. His budget message also included:

- Investing in energy efficiency
- Park maintenance improvements
- Additional police officers
- Solar Power opportunities
- Additional Code Enforcement
- New funding for emergency preparedness
- Master plan for street improvements

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, the city manager will release his Draft Proposed Budget based on these recommendations. To ensure that District 10 residents have a chance to weigh-in, I will be hosting my

~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Council District 10 Budget Forum ~  
 Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> from 10 am until noon  
 Almaden Winery Community Center  
 5730 Chambertin Drive

Deputy City Manager, **Mark Linder** will present the city manager's proposal. After the presentation, Strong Neighborhoods Manager Laura Lam and my Chief of Staff, Leland Wilcox, will lead a discussion and priority-setting session with District 10 residents.

My office will team with **David Burke**, General Manager of Westfield Oakridge Mall and *Work2Future* (formerly the Silicon Valley Workforce Investment Network) to host the

~ 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual District 10 Youth Summer Job Fair ~  
 Saturday, April 21  
 Westfield Oakridge Mall (at the Target entrance)

- 10 am to Noon = Workshop featuring *Work2Future*. Learn how to fill out a job application and have a successful job interview.
- 1 pm to 3 pm = Job Faire!

Participating businesses include: Albertsons, California Pizza Kitchen, City of San Jose Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services, PW Supermarket, Safeway, SaveMart, South Valley YMCA, Tuxedo Warehouse, and Westfield Oakridge merchants and representatives.

For more information regarding this Youth Summer Job Fair, please contact my office at (408) 535-4910.

City Service	Phone
Call Center	535-3500
Police (Non-Emergency)	311
Anti-Graffiti/Litter	277-3208
Animal Care	578-7297
City Arborist	277-2762
Crime Prevention	277-4133
Crime Stoppers	947-STOP
Drug Hotline	971-DRUG
Department of Transportation	277-4373
Environmental Services	535-8550
Hazardous Materials	277-4659
Housing	535-3860
Neighborhood Development Center	723-4114
Parking Enforcement	534-2900
Vehicle Abatement	277-5305
Gang Hotline	293-4264

# Be a VEP volunteer!

## A message from County District 4

- County Supervisor Ken Yeager

Reducing greenhouse gases is a huge issue even for governments to handle, but all residents in Santa Clara County can do their part to help maintain and improve our environment.

## County D-4

Earth Day will be observed on April 22 this year, and it's a good time to think about ways we can reduce our waste and preserve the earth's resources. If you'd like to get involved, check out the Calendar of Events below for some ways to make difference. Here are three easy tips for how you can celebrate Earth Day every day:

- Cut up plastic 6-pack drink rings. Birds and small animals can get caught in the rings and suffocate.
- "Just say no" to junk mail. Millions of trees are killed to produce the tons of paper sent out in these mailings. For instructions on how to remove your name from junk mail lists including unsolicited credit card offers, go to this website:  
[www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/alerts/alt063.htm](http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/alerts/alt063.htm).
- Water your lawn in the morning or the evening, when temperatures are usually cooler and you will lose less moisture to evaporation.
- Buy products in bulk. Larger containers use less packaging than several smaller containers.
- If you can't get a leaky faucet fixed right away, collect the water in a container and use it for cooking, drinking or watering household plants.
- Buy rechargeable batteries. These will save you money in the long run, and you'll keep toxic disposable batteries from ending up in landfills.
- Keep the tires on your car properly inflated to maximize your gas mileage.
- Switch to compact fluorescent light bulbs. These need less energy to provide the same amount of light as an incandescent bulb.



Please feel free to contact me, Supervisor Ken Yeager, 70 W. Hedding Street, San Jose, CA 95110. Phone = (408) 299-5040. Fax = (408) 299-2038. Email = [ken.yeager@bos.sccgov.org](mailto:ken.yeager@bos.sccgov.org). Website = [www.supervisoryyeager.org](http://www.supervisoryyeager.org).

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◆ Refacing		◆ References

## Meet SJPD Captain Dave Cavallaro...

-Dave Fadness

Our new SJPD Captain, **Dave Cavallaro** is a native San Josean who currently resides in Campbell. He was born and raised on the west side of San Jose, and attended Blackford High school, graduating in 1972. He's been married to his wife Sheila for 34 years; they have three grown children.



Captain Cavallaro earned an A.S. degree from West Valley College. He's currently enrolled in an on-line degree program at Cal State Long Beach where he hopes to earn his Bachelors degree in business very soon.

Prior to joining the Police Department, he worked for McDonald's Hamburgers for a number of years, rising to the position of store manager after about five years. His wife also worked there, and it was she who suggested that he might be suited to be a police officer, as many officers stopped in for coffee or lunch or dinner and spoke with them on a daily basis. So, he applied and after a very extensive process, was hired on June 28, 1982.

Captain Cavallaro is coming up on his 25-year anniversary with the San Jose Police Department.

Cavallaro's assignments as an officer included: Patrol, Information Center, Field Training Program (training new officers), and as an undercover Vice officer investigating prostitution, gambling, and violations of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Act.

He was promoted to sergeant in October 1993. As a sergeant, he worked the following assignments: Patrol, Field Training Program, and Vehicular Crimes (Auto Theft & Traffic Investigations).

Promoted to Lieutenant in September 2001, he worked the following assignments: Patrol, Internal Affairs, the Gang Investigations Unit, and the Vice and Intelligence Unit.

Cavallaro was promoted to Captain on February 11, 2007 and is very pleased to be back in the Patrol Division--especially glad to have been assigned to Command the Southern Division (where we live), as that is where he first worked as a young officer on the graveyard shift.

Captain Cavallaro plans to attend our Memorial Day Festival on May 28. Make it a point to be there to meet him.

## Carson School Update

- Irene Shoberg (\*)

Carson's Open House will be held on April 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

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

## Oak Grove School District news

-Manny Barbara, Superintendent

Are you a parent of a kindergarten student eligible to start school in the Fall of 2008? If your child's birth date is between September 1 and December 2, there may be an option for you to consider.

At its March 22 regular meeting, our Board of Trustees approved in concept a junior kindergarten option for eligible kindergarten students who fall in the younger range. This option would allow eligible kindergarten students a prior kindergarten experience (similar to preschool, but at no cost). Students would then move on to regular kindergarten, or even first grade, the following year.



An information meeting for parents of eligible students is scheduled for Tuesday, May 1 at 7 p.m. at our District Office, located at 6578 Santa Teresa Boulevard.

~ Extended day kindergarten ~

Parents are currently registering kindergarten students at schools. We are proud to offer extended day kindergarten at all our schools, one of only two districts in Santa Clara County to do so. While the State requires kindergarten students to attend school for 200 instructional minutes daily, our students attend for 260 instructional minutes.

~What about the Arts? ~

All grade 4-6 students are exposed to instrumental, vocal, and art/music appreciation instruction.

~ High achievers ~

As for students who are high achievers, the Oak Grove School District has been a leader in the number of students successfully completing high school level geometry by the end of 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

For information about the Oak Grove School District, check out our web site at: [www.ogsd.k12.ca.us](http://www.ogsd.k12.ca.us).

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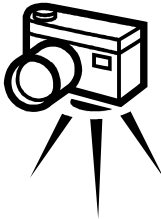
### Sharpen your image--and more

-John McCulloch, SeniorNet

So, your kids bought you a digital camera for your birthday. You took some pictures. Now what do you do? To learn how to transfer this pot-full of pixels, come join **SeniorNet**.

**SeniorNet** offers three classes on digital images. The first, *Digital Photography*, teaches the student how to use *Picasa*, free software used to transfer images to your computer and organize them. A second class uses *Photoshop Elements* to organize and improve pictures.

But that's not all. You will learn how to brighten them up, increase their contrast, resize them, improve their focus, and crop them. A third class, *Photoshop Elements-Editor*, teaches the student how to delete that distracting tree or power line in the background.



You will soon discover that you could have a whole new hobby just modifying every photo to your liking. Then you can go back and scan-in that scratched black and white picture of your Great Aunt Bertha and make it look like new.

These aren't the only classes taught at Willows **SeniorNet** Learning Center. We offer a range of classes from *Introduction to Computer* to *Web Page Design*, from *E-mail* to *Searching with Google*. Check out the classes offered at our website at [www.SNLCSJ.ORG/Willows](http://www.SNLCSJ.ORG/Willows).

Registration for our next session of classes is 9 am Saturday, May 19 at the Willows Senior Center, 2175 Lincoln Avenue (at Curtner Avenue). The sign-up for *Introduction to Computers* is at 10:30 am on the same day. More questions? Call us at 364-1430.

Each class is held once a week for two hours for up to eight weeks; some are shorter. The price for a typical course is \$20. Each student works from a designated computer, following the steps the instructor displays in front of the class. Coaches are available to keep everybody on the same page.

Five sessions of classes start during each year, so if you don't get the class you want this time, come back in ten weeks to sign-up.

**SeniorNet** is a worldwide organization which today supports over 240 learning centers. It is a non-profit organization founded in 1986. Its purpose is to provide computer educa-

tion and access to people over age 50. There is an annual fee of \$40 to join **SeniorNet**. All our learning centers are run by volunteers.

### Text message scam

- Dave Noel

Here's another scam to watch out for. A thief or pickpocket steals your cell phone, then looks through its contact list for a name such as "Hubby". The thief sends a text message to that number asking for private information, such as your bank account PIN number. By the time you realize what happened, your bank account is empty.

To prevent this type of scam, avoid disclosing the relationship between you and the people in your contact list. Avoid using names like Home, Honey, Hubby, and sweetheart, Dad, Mom etc. Also, if you get a strange request by text message, confirm by calling back.

### Annuals for the summer

-John Marks (\*)

By now the perennials and bulbs you planted are in full swing! Continue to care for these plants, providing them proper nutrients, moisture, light, and protection from pests and diseases. The last step in completing your planting is to add annuals and roses to the garden. Consult your garden plan before heading off to pick up these plants. Know what types of annuals and roses will grow healthy and successfully in your garden.

- There are so many varieties to choose from, consult a plant encyclopedia to choose the best annual and rose varieties for your garden.
- When selecting annuals at the nursery or garden center review plants to see that they are pest and disease free, with no holes in the leaves or discolored edges: look for healthy leaf color, and see that the roots are not overcrowded.
- Once you have your annuals home from the nursery get them into the ground or container as soon as possible. Planting will allow you to get the annuals the proper nutrients and moisture they need to begin developing roots.
- When planting annuals, make sure to properly amend your existing soil. We recommend using *Miracle-Gro Garden Soil for Flowers and Vegetables* to improve the condition of the soil and provide essential nutrients needed by your plants.
- To make the most of the annuals you have, plant them in groups or staggered, depending on the size of the garden.
- If you are planting in containers try to place the annuals that will grow tallest in the center and from there, plant the remaining plants in descending height toward the edge of the container. This will keep shorter plants from competing for light with the taller plants.
- Before placing annuals into the soil, gently break apart roots that have become overgrown. Removing the matted tangles before planting will allow roots to grow strong once in the ground.
- Keep your annuals growing strong and healthy with the proper nutrients. Feed them every other week with *Miracle-Gro All Purpose Water Soluble Plant Food*.



Another booster for your roses and annuals is a homemade start-up meal. Mix one tablespoon of liquid dish soap, one ta-

blespoon of hydrogen peroxide, one teaspoon of vitamin B-1 starter, and one teaspoon of whiskey in a half-gallon of warm water. Treating your plants occasionally will help them perk up and bloom.

~ Black mold on oranges ~

When you go to pick your oranges, you may notice black "dirt" on the oranges and leaves. You may also notice a lot of scale all over the trees.

The "dirt" is called sooty mold. The scale comes from aphids, mealy bugs and other sap-sucking insects that eat more sap than they can digest and exude the excess. It all falls to the fruit and leaves below, and a fungus grows on this exudate. Sooty mold grows only on the surface and can be washed off. The exudate is sweet and serves as a food source for ants.



To control the scale, prevent ants from climbing the tree, and natural predators will usually take care of the scale. To stop ants, wrap a three-inch-wide band of masking tape around the trunk and spread sticky goo (tanglefoot) on the tape. Although the ants can't cross the tape, they will look for other ways to get at the food that they scent. You have to remove any branches, twigs or leaves touching any structure or another shrub or tree, as they will follow the scent.

~ Degenerate tomatoes ~

Tomatoes in our area can be infected by two soil-inhabiting fungi, verticillium wilt and fusarium wilt. Both can cause the fruit to become deformed, stay small, and the leaves turn brown, but the most likely culprit is fusarium wilt. These two fungal disease persist in the soil for up to 20 years and affect many other plants, as well.

Do not plant tomatoes in the same place in your garden. Rotating the area where tomatoes are to be planted is an old but effective practice. If possible, plant only those that are labeled VFN (verticillium-, fusarium- and nematode-resistant). These will help prevent the spread of the diseases.

▶ **FREE POTTED CANNA LILLIES** ◀

Call John @ 629-6433.



*[(\*)The articles above on orange mold and tomato infections were condensed from the San Jose Mercury News, 3/28/03.]*

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## Upcoming gardening tasks...

~ 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 are easy from seed--grow the gorgeous soft yellow climber called "Moonlight" on a fence or trellis. Plant sunflowers in stages so you'll have continuous blooms throughout the 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. Mid-month, 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](http://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 the Going Native Garden Tour, April 29 in locations all over Santa Clara County (details: [www.goingnativegardentour.org](http://www.goingnativegardentour.org)).

~ MAY ~

**SNAPSHOT:** We're in full swing now. Water deeply (don't just sprinkle). Smart buys: sun-loving tomatoes and peppers.

**FLOWERS:** Plant now: hot-weather annuals such as asters, cosmos, marigolds, petunias and portulacas. Pinch azaleas, fuchsias, mandevillas and marguerites for bushier plants. Give roses a good feed.

**VEGETABLES:** Reseed or transplant seedlings every three weeks for successive harvests of beans, corn and squash. Plant pumpkins, melons, and gourds. Put in extra and designate it for the Good Neighbor Gardens project, where gardeners donate their produce to help out food banks and community centers. For a free starter kit from the Mercury News, call (408) 920-5241.

**TO-DO LIST:** Build water basins around shrubs, trees and roses to catch every drop, and add mulch to hold in moisture. Plant avocado, citrus, and other tender trees. Watch for snails and slugs; handpick, if you can stand it. Otherwise, the safest product on the market is iron phosphate.

*[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 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.net](http://www.vepca.net)).

## Home maintenance

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

~ 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.

~ May ~

**TOP JOB:** Check furnace filter. Clean or replace if necessary. Do furnace or central air-conditioning maintenance recommended by the unit's manufacturer.

**ALSO:** Clean and prepare swimming pool, pond or fountain. Repair cracks in driveways, walkways and sidewalks.

Check that vent screens to attic or crawl space are not damaged. Repair or replace as needed. Remove accumulated mineral deposits from shower heads and aerators by soaking them in or scrubbing with white vinegar. (Wear eye protection.)

~ 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 facilities 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](http://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](mailto:kheuer@rebuildingtogether-sv.org) or (408) 578-9519.]

## Don't make it easy to steal your wheels

In the United States, a vehicle is stolen every 21 seconds. Stolen cars, vans, trucks, and motorcycles cost victims time and money--and increase everyone's insurance premiums. They're also often used to commit other crimes.

Don't become a victim of this serious crime.

~ The basic prevention policy ~

- Never leave your car running or the keys in the ignition when you're away from it, even for "just a minute."
- Always roll up the windows and lock the car, even if it's in front of your home.
- Never leave valuables in plain view, even if your car is locked. Put them in the trunk or at least out of sight. Buy radios and tape and CD players that can be removed and locked in the trunk.
- Park in busy, well-lighted areas.
- Carry the registration and insurance cards with you. Don't leave personal identification documents or credit cards in your

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vehicle.

- When you pay to park in a lot or garage, leave just the ignition (or a "valet") key with the attendant. Make sure no personal information is attached. Do the same when you take your car for repairs.

~ Add extra protection ~

- Install a mechanical locking device --commonly called clubs, collars, or j-bars--that locks to the steering wheel, column, or brake to prevent the wheel from being turned more than a few degrees. Use it!
- Investigate security systems if you live in a high-theft area or drive an automobile that's an attractive target for thieves. You may get a discount on your auto insurance.
- Look into CAT (Combat Auto Theft) and HEAT (Help Eliminate Auto Theft) partnership programs where individuals voluntarily register their cars with the police, and allow the police to stop the car during certain hours when they normally would not be driving (such as midnight to 5 am). All participants display decals in a designated area on their vehicles.



~ What about carjacking? ~

Carjacking, stealing a car by force, has captured headlines in the last few years. Statistically, your chances of being a carjacking victim are very slim, and preventive actions can reduce the risk even more.

- Etch the vehicle identification number (VIN) on the windows, doors, fenders, and trunk lid. This helps discourage professional thieves who have to either remove or replace etched parts before selling the car. Copy the VIN and your tag number on a card and keep it in a safe place. If your vehicle is stolen, the police need this information.
- Approach your car with the key in hand. Look around and inside before getting in.
- When driving, keep your car doors locked and windows rolled up at all times.
- Be especially alert at intersections, gas stations, ATMs, shopping malls, convenience and grocery stores--all are windows of opportunity for carjackers.
- Park in well-lighted areas that have good visibility and are close to walkways, stores, and people.
- If the carjacker has a weapon, give up the car with no questions asked. Your life is worth more than a car.

~ Beware of the "Bump-and-Rob" ~

It works like this: A car, usually with a driver and at least one passenger, rear-ends or "bumps" you in traffic. You get out to check the damage. The driver or one of the passengers jumps into your car and drives off.

If you're bumped by another car, look around before you get out. Make sure there are other cars around, then check out the car that's rear-ended you and who's in it. If the situation makes you uneasy, stay in your car and insist on moving to a police station or busy, well-lighted area to exchange information.

~ Be on the lookout ~

- If your car is stolen, report it to the police immediately. Also, report abandoned cars to the local agency that handles removal.



- When buying a used car from an individual or a dealer, make sure you have the proper titles, that the VIN number is intact, and that the "federal sticker" is on the inside of the driver's door. That sticker should match the VIN.



**Wesley W. Terrell**

★VEP Member★  
Vista Park Specialist



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- Suggest that any dealer, rental car agency, or auto repair shop that you use display auto theft prevention information in their waiting rooms.
- If joyriding is a problem in your community, work to improve recreational programs and job opportunities for young people.

*[Ed. Note: This article was taken from a National Crime Prevention Council brochure. For more information, write to 1000 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20036 or visit [www.ncpc.org](http://www.ncpc.org).]*

### VEP's Home Improvement Faire

-Jim Hicks, VEP Secretary

Instead of our usual monthly VEP Community Meeting, VEP hosted the annual Home Improvement Faire at Gunderson High School on March 27. This event brought our members together with 26 local vendors, providing a convenient way to find needed products and services. Vendors made many appointments, so the event was a success for them, as well.



One of the highlights of each year's event is our cash raffle. Tickets were given free to those visitors in attendance (yes, the tickets were free). Each ticket-holder got a chance to win \$50 in cash. There were fourteen winners--one person opting for a potted plant from one of the vendors. The evening was filled with many smiles, including those from these lucky winners:

- Mike Bousman
- Paul Nichols
- Jeri Arstingstall
- Roland
- Gerhard Lueneburger
- Joe Tajnai, Jr.
- Steve Kinsey
- Bob Aquino
- Angie Thomas (Potted plant)
- Chuo Han Lee
- Ed Warner
- Ben Andrews
- Stacey Steffens
- John Marks



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Watch this newsletter for the date of next year's Home Improvement Faire. Be sure to attend so you, too, can visit with our vendors and to try your luck for cash prizes.

## Year-end evaluation: VEP Goals & Objectives

-Dave Fadness

During the summer months each year, VEP executives prepare a set of Goals & Objectives for the coming year. These G&O are presented to our members, debated, amended, and approved by formal vote at our September meeting. Although they can be amended at any regularly scheduled meeting by a vote of members, these G&O set the course for VEP activities until another set is formally adopted.



You'll notice that some of our G&O are more general in nature (like, for example, Goal 4. "Monitor, Create, and Maintain High-Quality Public Services for VEP Area.") So, beyond simply being a task list, these more general G&O also allow our executives to act in members' behalf when issues arise unexpectedly between monthly meetings.

VEP's G&O have always stretched the limit on what can reasonably be expected from an all-volunteer organization--we aim high. Whereas most organizations, even governments and businesses, have a mere handful of such directives, VEP takes on many—some say, too many. Keep that in mind as you read through the following evaluation; whereas we failed to take action on each and every item, there were many—and some are actually multi-year tasks.

All are worthwhile, but our success in achieving "a straight-A" report card relies on member involvement. Our small and very busy executive committee cannot do it without a broad network of neighbors who are willing to help.

If you see something listed that you wish had received more attention, or know of something that should be added, please come to any VEP meeting, bring it to our attention, and volunteer to help. Together we can make a big difference, much more so than if "you go it alone".

For your review, here's our self-evaluation. Please bring your comments and suggestions to our April 24 meeting.

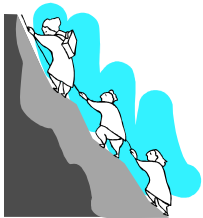
### ~ VEP 2006-07 Goals & Objectives ~

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. [Grade = A.]
- 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. [Grade = C. While we have expanded our board with new members and fresh ideas, and increased representation of the east-of-Vistapark area, we did not groom new members or have a succession plan for 2007-08.]
- C. Membership: Continue to increase paid membership. [Grade = B.]
- D. Meetings: Encourage attendance at VEP meetings and events. [Grade = A.]
- E. Fiscal Health: Continue to maintain VEP's positive fiscal condition. [Grade = A.]
- F. Communication:
  - a) Continue publishing the VEP Newsletter nine times per year. [Grade = A.]
  - b) Continue development and encourage usage of VEP Website; develop a content guide. [Grade = A. We launched and kept up-to-date a new website, held two Electronic Communications Committee meetings, and transitioned to a new webmaster, who attends executive board meetings and is willing to serve as an elected officer if we add a Director of Electronic Communications position in our By-Laws.]
  - 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). [Grade = C; work in process. We have discussed concepts at committee meetings and researched and tested e-list software options.]
  - d) Utilize e-mail messages to communicate with members, particularly in months when our newsletter is not published. [Grade = A. In addition to sending timely and well-edited emails, we also implemented an automated method of sending them.]
  - e) Continue to develop relationships with local media outlets and submit for publication articles about VEP. [Grade = A. We've had exemplary success in our relationship with the Blossom Valley Times, getting many cover stories on VEP events, VEP guest articles, and regular coverage of our calendar of events.]
- 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. [Grade = A. We updated VEP signs to reflect our new meeting location. We widely promoted our Election Forums and Branham-Narvaez planting event city-wide. We distributed several flyers to the community to promote VEP events, recognition, and membership. We invited members of Rancho Narvaez Neighborhood Association to join VEP.]
- 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. [Grade = C.]
  - b) Supporting our Volunteer Coordinator. [Grade = C. Our Volunteer Coordinator resigned. We updated our remit envelopes and membership database to identify specific member volunteer interests.]



- c) Supporting our Hospitality Coordinator. [Grade = C.]
- d) Continue developing, and share with committee chairs a VEP database of volunteers by activity and time preferences. [Grade = D. We updated our remit envelopes and membership database to identify specific member volunteer interests; however, we still need to improve our process of connecting volunteers with project leaders.]
- e) Continue developing and advertising additional volunteer activities, e.g. structured committees. [Grade = D. We list current volunteer opportunities in our newsletter and on our website, but we have not yet established any new structured committees.]
- f) Schedule one major event per year to recognize and thank VEP volunteers. [Grade = A. We held our first annual volunteer recognition celebration at our January General Meeting.]
- g) Continue process of thanking volunteers for their time and talent in VEP communications. [Grade = A.]
- h) Improve/formalize the process of hospitality/outreach to new residents of VEP. [Grade = C. The database person enters new owners from the Mercury News Real Estate section and mails them a newsletter.]



- i) Develop a VEP brochure describing VEP's history and mission, including information on committees and major yearly events. [Grade = Inc. (No activity.)]
- 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). [Grade = Inc. (No activity.)]
  - 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. [Grade = Inc. (No activity.)]
  - 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). [Grade = Inc. (No activity.)]
  - d) Formalize the process for filling vacant Executive Board positions. [Grade = Inc. (No activity.)]
  - e) Consider an organizational name change to Vistapark Community Association (a geographically recognizable moniker). [Grade = Inc. (No activity.)]

## Pearl Avenue Library

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- ★ Print donation form from [www.sanjoselibraryfoundation.org](http://www.sanjoselibraryfoundation.org).
- ★ Write a check payable to "San Jose Public Library Foundation." Mail it to 150 E. San Fernando Street, San Jose, CA 95112-3580.
- ★ Call or email Dave Fadness to get a donation form and mailing envelope (578-6428 or [drfadness@sbcglobal.net](mailto:drfadness@sbcglobal.net)).

**Be sure to specify** that your gift is for our Pearl Avenue Branch Library. Do it today!

## Gunderson High School Theatre Program

proudly presents



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**MAY 31, 2007**

**7:30 pm**

\$5 GENERAL ADMISSION

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

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

- f) Consider and propose changing our program/fiscal year to begin with May (rather than the current month of April). [Grade = Inc. (No activity.)]
- J. Consider and propose incorporating VEP as a 501c3 non-profit organization. [Grade = Inc. (No activity.)]
- 2. Promote Community Interaction, Pride, and Preparedness.
  - A. Encourage member participation in neighborhood safety programs, crime prevention, and disaster/emergency preparedness. [Grade = C. We had presentations on Neighborhood Watch and Crimestoppers, but did not launch any new initiatives.]
  - B. Participate in at least two major beautification projects, such as San Jose Beautiful's annual Daffodil Day planting; and landscaping the vacant parcel at Branham and Narvaez. [Grade = A. Participated in Daffodil Day; installed irrigation, planted 40 trees, and mulched at and near Branham-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. [Grade = A. We pruned Chynoweth palm trees and the Hwy 87 bike path behind Gunderson, maintain the Vistapark Drive cul-de-sac, maintain the oleanders on Vistapark Drive, maintain trees at Parkview School, and maintain the median islands on Narvaez/Branham and Chynoweth/Pearl. (A VEP Beautification & Maintenance Committee is needed.)]
  - D. Continue encouraging graffiti removal when/where ever it occurs in and around our area. [Grade = B. We paint-out graffiti at Vista Park, on the Canoas Creek Bridge, and on the Branham Lane sound wall.]
  - E. Continue to sponsor, promote, and underwrite these annual VEP events: the Home Faire [Grade = A], our Community-wide Garage Sale [now scheduled for May 5], and our Memorial Day Parade & Festival [now scheduled



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## CRIME STOPPERS

for May 28].

### 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. [Grade = A. VEP led a joint VEP/Almaden Valley Community Association forum for mayoral and water district candidates. VEP also held a DA candidate forum. VEP had newly elected Mayor Chuck Reed as a speaker at our January General Meeting.]
- 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) [Grade = A. VEP signed an Adopt-A-Street agreement with the city in which VEP will supply the labor and the city will provide supplies needed for maintaining this landscaped area.]
  - b) Vistapark at Branham (along the new wall) [Grade = B. City performed irrigation repairs. Some oleanders still need to be replaced. Trees in median south of Branham need pruning.]
  - c) Capital Expressway medians [Grade = Inc. (No activity.) Pruning needed.]
  - d) Chynoweth medians [East of Pearl, Grade = A. West of Pearl, Grade = C; dead shrubs, lots of weeds. VEP

rescued a tree west of Pearl that was hit by a car. Most but not all palm trees east of Pearl that were destroyed by auto accidents were replaced by the city.]

e) Narvaez median [Grade = A. Several shrubs need replacing, but this site looks very well maintained.]

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 [Grade = A. Brought VEP membership to a consensus on traffic calming implementation specifics, including a decision not to pursue a single-lane option at this time. The city made many changes in signage and striping and installed automated speed monitoring signs. Still waiting for bike lanes.]
- b) Hyde Park between Chynoweth and Vistapark (to Branham) [Grade = Inc. (No activity.)]
- c) New Compton to Massachusetts to Chynoweth and



visa-a-versa [Grade = Inc. (No activity.)]

d) Bluefield to Rosenbaum to Capitol and Snell [Grade = Inc. (No activity.)]

e) Kingspark Drive [Grade = Inc. (No activity.)]

D. Continue to monitor community impacts (including increased traffic and parking) resulting from uses of Gunderson High School and the new Vistapark Community Room. [Grade = A. Advertised and participated in Gunderson stadium lights community meetings.]

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. [Grade = A.]

### 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). [Grade = A. In monthly contact. Submitted candidate volunteers for citizen committee. Waiting for county to move forward with project planning.]

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. [Grade = A. In monthly contact. Waiting for city to move forward with project planning.]

C. Monitor and provide input to the City's Capital Improvement Plan for our neighborhood's needs. [Grade = Inc. (No activity.)]

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. [Grade = A.]

E. Work with the City to develop a master plan for the immediate area surrounding the Vista Park Community Room. [Grade = C. VEP proposed this. PRNS and council office has agreed to do it, but no action has been taken by the city to date.]

F. Monitor opportunities to build a city park at Capitol/Narvaez. [Grade = A; VEP work in process but no official acceptance to date of concept.]

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. [Grade = C. Although our Adopt-A-Park volunteers are doing a good job, not all area parks have been adopted yet.]

H. Monitor opportunities for improvements in traffic level of service at Capitol/Narvaez/northbound 87 onramp. [Grade = A; work in process. Participated in VTA meetings regarding proposed development at the south park-n-ride lot,

causing the project to be delayed while the proposal process is improved and traffic considerations are evaluated. Working with Nancy Pyle to correct a traffic level-of-service error that fails to require mitigation for traffic impacts to northbound Hwy 87 traffic gridlock caused by area development. Hosting a City/County/VTA panel discussion on traffic solutions at our May General Meeting.]

I. Work for measures aimed at eliminating red-light running on Capitol Expressway. [Grade = Inc. (No activity.)]

J. Work for improved street conditions and strict enforce-



ment 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. [Grade = B. Worked successfully for safety improvements on Chynoweth Avenue. We hosted a Street Smarts presentation at our September General Meeting.]

- K. Work with the City to ensure that impacts of any proposed high-density development along the Guadalupe Corridor are fully mitigated. [Grade = A; work in process. See item 4H.]
- L. Monitor design, development, and building of new library facilities at Pearl Avenue and at Branham and Monterey Road (the new Edenvale facility). [Pearl, Grade = A. Edenvale, Grade = F (no VEP activity).]
- M. Monitor and encourage continued construction of wheelchair access ramps on street corners in our neighborhoods. [The city is doing this; no VEP activity.]



# Bulletin Board Ads

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The VEP Executive Board reserves exclusive right to 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 15 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.

## Useful stuff...

- Dave Noel

~ Free Directory Assistance ~

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.

~ Free Access to Mercury-News Archives ~

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: <http://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 4 digits of your telephone #, unless you've changed it)
  - Click on *San Jose Mercury News*
  - Search for your article
- Happy hunting!

# "VEP" Community Association

**What does "VEP" stand for?**

**How did we get that odd name?**

"VEP" represents the first three letters of our original subdivision names started here in 1969:

- V** = Vistapark;
- E** = Encore (and Echo Valley); and
- P** = Parkview Valley.

That's all there is to it!

Of course, we've grown over the years to include the Blossom Heights subdivision and others, including Las Brisas in 2004. But our original VEP name stuck, and we've been known by it for 36 years. Some like to think of us as...

**Very Energetic People**

See the mailing page of this newsletter for a map of VEP's core membership area. We also welcome members from outside these boundaries who share common interests.

# THE VEP NEWS



## VEP Community Association

P.O. Box 18111 San Jose, CA 95158

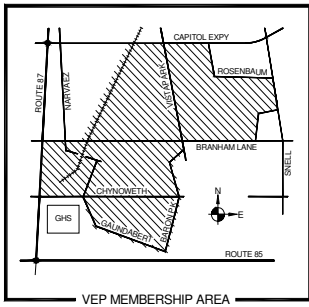
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Published monthly by VEP Community Association, a not-for-profit organization of volunteers established in 1969 to serve and represent more than 2000 homes in the Blossom Valley area of southern San Jose. VEP is dedicated to neighborhood maintenance 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.

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Check our website: [www.vepca.net](http://www.vepca.net)

Community Room

Vista Park

7:30 pm in the

April 24th Meeting

Be sure to attend VEP's