



marching orders for VEP executives when acting on behalf of the membership. At the close our program year next spring, we report and grade ourselves on how well we met those G&O.

We will ask your input and vote on the following proposed G&O at our September 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. If any changes are adopted at that meeting, they will be published in our October newsletter.



VEP Board-Recommended

★ 2007-08 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.*
  - B. Leadership: Encourage regular turn-over of VEP Officers to impart broad, area-wide membership representation.
  - C. Membership: Monitor changes in paid VEP membership.
  - D. Meetings: Encourage attendance at VEP meetings and events.
  - E. Fiscal Health: Continue to maintain VEP's positive fiscal condition.
  - F. Communication:
    - a) Continue publishing the *VEP NEWS* nine times per year.
    - b) Continue development and encourage usage of VEP Website.
    - c) Utilize e-mail to communicate important VEP business with members.
    - d) Maintain relationships with local media outlets and submit for publication articles about VEP.
  - G. Strive to increase VEP's public recognition.
  - H. Volunteerism: Increase opportunities for VEP members to volunteer by:
    - a) Developing ad hoc committees that will expand leadership opportunities and cultivate new talent for future VEP Executive Board positions.
    - b) Maintaining a VEP database of volunteers by activity.
    - c) Developing and advertising additional volunteer activities.
  - I. Review and update VEP's Constitution and Bylaws to, as a minimum:
    - a) Consider changes in the composition of our Executive

- Board that could improve our effectiveness.
- b) Consider a formal structure for both standing and ad hoc committees.
- c) Consider changes to our Community Service Award program.
- d) Formalize a process for filling vacant Executive Board positions.
- e) Consider changing our program/fiscal year.
- J. Consider incorporating VEP as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

2. Promote Community Interaction, Pride, and Preparedness.
  - A. Encourage member participation in neighborhood safety programs, crime prevention, and disaster/emergency preparedness.
  - B. Organize and encourage participation in pruning, community cleanup, and maintenance projects.
  - C. Encourage graffiti removal when/where ever it occurs in and around our area.
  - D. Continue to sponsor, promote, and underwrite our Home Faire, community-wide Garage Sale, and Memorial Day event.

3. Work to Assure Local Government and Businesses' Responsiveness and Accountability to VEP Members.

- A. Sponsor Election Forums that heighten our members' awareness of candidates and ballot issues, and encourages their participation as informed voters in all elections.
- B. Work with City/County government and developers to install and/or maintain public landscaping in the VEP membership area.
- C. Work with the City to provide traffic safety measures on VEP area streets.
- D. Continue to monitor community impacts (including increased traffic and parking) resulting from uses of Gunderson High School and the new Vistapark Community Room.
- E. Encourage, monitor, and react to plans for urban development, transportation, libraries, parks and other public infrastructure changes in and around our membership area. Organize and communicate community priorities and concerns.



4. Monitor, Create, and Maintain High-Quality Public Services for VEP Area.

- A. Promote and participate in planning and development of the Martial-Cottle Regional Park (Lester Property).
- B. Continue VEP member involvement during the design and construction process of widening Branham between Vistapark and Snell Avenue, and other improvements between Vistapark and Narvaez.
- C. Work with the City to develop and maintain our neighborhood parks.
- D. Work with the City to develop a master plan for the immediate area surrounding the Vista Park Community Room.
- E. Monitor opportunities to build a city park at Capitol/Narvaez.
- F. Work for improvements in traffic level of service at Capitol/Narvaez/northbound 87 onramp.
- G. Work with the City to ensure that impacts of any proposed high-density development along the Guadalupe Corridor are fully mitigated.



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★ VEP MEMBER ★

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## Pearl Library donation recommended

-Ginger Cardona

Our Executive Board is recommending that VEP donate \$1000 to help furnish and equip the newly-constructed Pearl Avenue Branch Library. This recommendation will be discussed and voted upon at our September 25<sup>th</sup> general membership meeting. Please be sure to attend.



The small but perennially busy Pearl Branch has been our community library since it was first opened in 1971. The population here was much smaller then and our neighborhoods and demographics have changed dramatically. Our families grew up using "Pearl".

Fortunately, city voters approved bond money to enlarge it to about twice its original size on the same lot, next to the fire station on Pearl Avenue. You've probably noticed that it's nearing completion. A grand-opening is now scheduled for late-May 2008.

Unfortunately, general obligation bond money can't be used for furnishings, equipment (computers, etc.), and extended collections (reference books, DVDs, etc.), the things that successfully transform an empty building into a functioning library. Yes, there are city dollars and they'll be used, but they're limited. So, the non-profit *San Jose Public Library Foundation* is asking for the help of businesses, residents, and community associations like ours.

This approach has been working very well at other recently opened branch libraries like Almaden, Cambrian, and Vineland. People in the service areas for those libraries have given generously. The results are impressive—please make it a point to see for yourself. Similarly, to make sure it's a facility we can be proud of, many folks in our area have already donated to Pearl.



Donations over \$100 are publicly and permanently acknowledged in the library. Our \$1000 donation would not only greatly help the library, it will place our organization's name on the library's *Legacy Donor Wall*, a fitting and lasting tribute to VEP and its community-minded and always-generous members.

VEP has the money to do this and it's a good thing for our community. Please consider a vote in support of this proposal on September 25<sup>th</sup>.

Your own personal donation will be appreciated as well (for details, see the ad in this newsletter).

## VEP Community Calendar

Tue, Sep 25 @ 7:30 pm = VEP General Meeting in the Vista Park Community Room. (See agenda, page 1.)

Tue, Oct 2 @ 7:30 pm = VEP Exec Meeting in the Vista Park Community Room. (Call a VEP Officer for agenda details.)

Tue, Oct 9 @ 1 pm = VEP NEWS articles deadline. (Email your articles to Dave Fadness at drfadness@sbcglobal.net)

Tue, Oct 23 @ 7:30 pm = VEP General Meeting in the Vista Park Community Room. (Agenda TBA.)

## Pearl Avenue Library

*Needs your support...*

**Make a tax-deductible investment (large or small) in your own branch library's future. You can even arrange to donate in convenient periodic installments. Here is how...**

★ **Donate online at [www.sanjoselibraryfoundation.org](http://www.sanjoselibraryfoundation.org).**

★ **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).**

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

## VEP's new website

- Dave Noel

If you haven't seen our website in a while, check it out at **[www.vepca.net](http://www.vepca.net)**. VEP's Webmaster **Adina Pierce** has given our website a new look and is doing a marvelous job in keeping it up to date.

## Golf tournament will benefit kids

-Andrew Judge(\*)

"Overweight and obesity may soon cause as much preventable disease and death as cigarette smoking. People tend to think of overweight and obesity as strictly a personal matter, but there is much that communities can and should do to address these problems." -Former U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher, M.D.

In association with the Almaden Advisory Council, the Almaden Community Center is pleased to present the *First Annual Almaden Community Center Golf Tournament* to help fight childhood obesity. In an effort to better our local community, proceeds from this event will go to the Almaden Elementary School for programs to promote the health and well-being of their students.



Our goal of \$5,000 dollars will be used to provide healthier food choices, promote physical activity by bettering the physical education program, and an education program to teach the children healthy eating habits.

The Almaden Community Center is passionate about bettering our community and with your help we can make a difference by investing in a healthier future for today's youth. We are excited about this opportunity to work with Almaden Elementary through an event in which we can have a direct impact on the lives of children.

For more information on Almaden Elementary School, please visit their website: [www.almadenelementary.org/home](http://www.almadenelementary.org/home).

To make a donation to, participate in, or if you have any further questions about this golf tournament, please contact me at (408) 268-1133. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

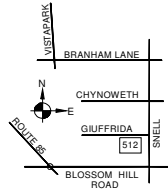
[Ed. Note: Andrew Judge is a Recreation Specialist for the City of San Jose's Department of Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services.]

# Oak Grove Veterinary Hospital



512 Giuffrida Avenue  
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Hours: 8 am - 6 pm  
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Early morning drop-offs  
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Bring this ad for a free gift on your pet's first checkup (limit one gift per pet)

## Oakridge Mall events for this autumn

-Jennifer Dacquisto (\*)

**Earning for Learning** (2007-'08 school year): This program encourages families to shop at Westfield Oakridge in order to earn money for their school. Oakridge Concierge will track receipts and schools will be assigned "points" based on dollars spent. At the end of the school year (May '08) \$15,000 in Westfield gift cards will be awarded to top schools. The Earning for Learning Program targets local elementary, junior high, and high schools.

**Adopt a School** (2007-'08 school year): Based on the suggestion of San Jose City Council Member **Nancy Pyle** and VEP Past-President **Marilyn Rogers**, Westfield Oakridge has adopted Carson Elementary School.



Throughout the 2007-'08 school year, Westfield Oakridge will lend support to the Carson Elementary community through a variety of programs including providing backpacks and school supplies for Carson students. Additional programs include Westfield employees participating in the *Carson Walk-A-Thon* fundraiser, Westfield staff supervising the *Principle Play Day Lunch* and Westfield staff participating in the *Carson Elementary Jump Rope for Heart* fundraiser that benefits the American Heart Association.

**Christian Rock Concert**: On Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup> C28 will sponsor a Christian Rock Concert at Westfield Oakridge. This FREE concert is geared toward families and Christian Rock fans in the South Bay. The concert will be held at the corner of Thornwood and Winfield in the Westfield Oakridge parking lot.

**Haunted House--Gyro's Scream Fest**: Beginning on October 10<sup>th</sup>, Westfield Oakridge will feature a haunted house in the mall parking lot at the corner of Thornwood and Winfield. Operating days/hours will be Sunday-Thursday from 7-10 pm and Fridays and Saturdays from 7-12 midnight. This family event will come just in time for Halloween!

**Halloween Event** (10/31): On the evening of Halloween, Westfield Oakridge will open their doors to all the ghouls and goblins! Continuing the tradition, Westfield Oakridge will provide the community with a safe, well lit indoor venue for trick-or-treating. Retailers will be encouraged to participate by passing out candy at their stores. Participating retailers will be listed on a flyer handed out to all trick-or-treaters.

[(\*)Ed. Note: Jennifer Dacquisto is Marketing Manager at Westfield's Oakridge Mall.]

## Paid 10-month internships available

Here's a great opportunity for anyone who has thought of joining the Peace Corps or VISTA but would rather stay close to home. Persons of all ages are welcome and encouraged to apply.

*Our City Forest*, a non-profit urban forestry and environmental action organization serving the greater San Jose area, is accepting applications for 22 paid community service positions. These full-time positions offer an \$8.50/hr living allowance plus health insurance and education scholarship.

This program starts October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007. Applicants must be 18 years of age but there is no upper age limit. Apply now.



Successful applicants will receive specialized job training while serving their community. Activities include coaching neighborhood and school tree plantings, teaching tree care techniques to residents, recruiting community volunteers, mentoring youth, conducting tree care projects, teaching in classrooms, and developing/publishing educational materials. Interns will receive technical training in all aspects of urban forestry, community service and applicable computer software.

Successful applicants must commit to completing 1,750 hours over ten months, typically working five days per week, Tuesday through Saturday. Program begins 10/1/07 and ends 8/9/08.

All interns receive:

- \$15,000 stipend for ten months of service (living allowance valued at \$8.50/hr).
- \$4,725 AmeriCorps education scholarship after completion of the program.
- Health insurance.

For additional information, visit [www.ourcityforest.org](http://www.ourcityforest.org). To apply, e-mail your resume with a cover letter to Monica Nañez at [mnañez@ourcityforest.org](mailto:mnañez@ourcityforest.org).

## YMCA Adventure Guides for fathers and kids

Dads, are you looking for a special way to bond with your son or daughter in kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade? Then consider joining us this year! We have father/son and father/daughter groups with immediate openings!

The YMCA *Adventure Guides* program (formerly known as "Indian Guides") is all about father/child bonding. The Y emphasizes community, nature, family, and friendship (particularly friendship between dads and their kids). As such, there isn't the same rigor as with some scout programs. Instead, they just want the kids to have a good time with their dads, including a great deal of one-on-one time that you won't find in other activities!



This program is comprised of small groups who meet on a monthly basis, typically held in the evenings after work. Normally, each father/child pair volunteers to take one month, so we pass the responsibility around.

Meetings give the kids an opportunity to talk about something "good" they did since the last meeting, listen to a

story, plan for upcoming events, and participate in arts and crafts (with dad's help). Many groups also do an informal outing up to once a month, to do something fun as a group.

*Additionally, the YMCA has a number of activities planned this year, in which all the groups can participate, including:*

- Fall Campout
- Spring Campout
- Hike
- Ride in the Los Gatos Holiday Parade
- Bike Ride
- Skate Night
- Bumper Bowling
- Pinewood Derby
- Pancake Breakfast
- Memorial Weekend Roughout at San Jose Family Camp for the entire family
- Sock Hop

Don't feel overwhelmed--every one of these activities is OPTIONAL, so you can do as much or as little as you want. It's YOUR (and your child's) program!

To register, visit the YMCA office at 5632 Santa Teresa Boulevard (between Coleman and Blossom Hill). Or, for additional information, feel free to contact Tim Davidson (YMCA representative) at [t davidson@scvymca.org](mailto:t davidson@scvymca.org), or Joe Tajnai (dad volunteer) at [joe@tajnai.com](mailto:joe@tajnai.com).

We look forward to seeing you soon!

### Our special thanks to a Vista Park volunteer

*-Dave Fadness*

You may have seen the senior gentleman who needs a walker to get around, faithfully picking up litter and cleaning out the water fountains at Vista Park every day. That man is **Tetsuo Saito**. He deserves our kudos for doing this job for us month after month.

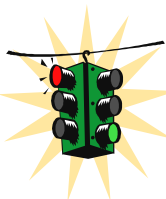


Without dedicated volunteers like him, our world would be far less perfect than it is. We thank you, Mr. Saito!

### Red light runners beware!

*- Dave Noel*

You may recall that the city of San Jose recently installed "rat boxes" at key intersections in the fight against red light running. Rat boxes are small lights that shine out the back of traffic signals so a police officer can watch for red light runners safely from the far side of the intersection and then nab the scofflaw.



For a list of intersections in Santa Clara county with rat boxes, visit [http://bayareanewsgroup.com/multimedia/mn/news/ratbox\\_locations\\_080807.pdf](http://bayareanewsgroup.com/multimedia/mn/news/ratbox_locations_080807.pdf).

### Chynoweth clean-up day

*-Dave Fadness*

Morning broke cool and sunny on August 11. VEP volunteers gathered in the Gunderson High parking lot to have coffee and a breakfast snack before setting to work cleaning-up the ped/bike path between Chynoweth Avenue and Route 85.

The weather became warm as the day drew on, but a pleasantly cool breeze made it perfect for an outdoor workday.

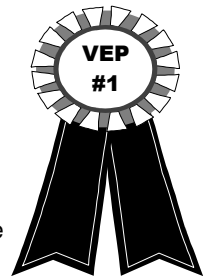
Our second year tackling this job, we got an incredible amount of work done between 9 am and 3:30 that afternoon. We pruned trees, picked up trash (along Chynoweth, too), whacked weeds, and raked debris into piles for removal by Caltrans. Visibility and safety along the path is improved and it looks *very* nice again.



Hats off to these people who gave their time on a Saturday to make your neighborhoods better:

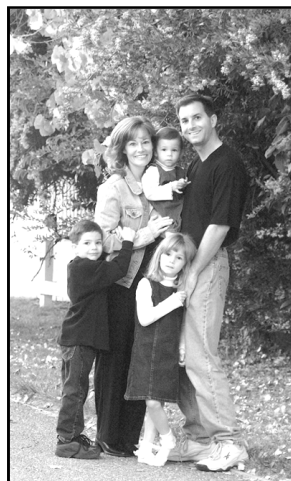
- Debra Suydam and Jeff Ismael**
- Dale and Joell Gluck**
- Justin Elmensdorp(\*)**
- Angelo and Louis Patti(\*)**
- Frank Kistler**
- Dave Noel**
- Bob Shoberg**
- Jim Hicks**
- Dave Pfaff**
- Marylou Avanzino**
- Josie Supencheck**
- Gil Salazar**
- Joe Tajnai**
- Katy and Mindy Tajnai(\*)**
- Aiko Fadness**

(\*)Our special thanks to these youngsters.



Our original plan was also to prune the 170

(Cont'd next page...)



*Precious Moments In Time*

Family and Children Portraits

Weddings and Special Events

Photography *by* Jeri Arstingstall

★ VEP MEMBER ★

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palm trees in the median of Chynoweth Avenue that weekend. Fortunately, the City of San Jose's Department of Transportation came to our rescue in doing that huge job for us. After twelve years of twice-annual pruning, some of those palm trees are now too tall for our volunteers to prune safely. Employing a cherry-picker lift, a shredder, and a hard-working crew, the city finished this task in two days—and did a *great* job.

VEP salutes its volunteers and DOT workers for making this major western gateway into our community look first-rate again. Our thanks to Caltrans for promptly picking up pathway debris for us, too.

\*\*\*\*

Note: If you know of a public area in our community that needs to be cleaned up and are willing to help organize a workday, please call me at 578-6428. Because we exist to make and keep our area one of the very best in San Jose, this is a role that VEP is eager to get involved in--with you.

## Speaking of volunteers...

-Dave Fadness

The Vistapark Drive/Branham Lane area is being kept neat and tidy by the ongoing volunteer efforts of **Dennis & Dianna Peters, Marilyn Rodgers, and Jeannette Moghrabi.**

Dennis, Dianna, and Jeannette pick up trash in that area. Jeannette also pulls weeds along the Las Brisas sound wall. Marilyn is one of the adopters of the Vistapark Drive cul de sac, where it ends south of Branham Lane—you can't help noticing how nice the landscaping looks there these days.



Several days after our last community garage sale, Jeannette took it upon herself to remove the signs our neighbors posted. Removing signs is the responsibility of those who post them; it's illegal to post signs on any public property, not only because they're a visual blight but because they tend never to be taken down by those who put them up. Please remember...

**If you put up a sign in a public place,  
remember that it's YOUR responsibility to  
take it down!**

## VEP Community Service Awards

- Dave Noel

As the 2006-2007 school year came to a close, VEP's president **Marilyn Rodgers** and VEP's secretary **Jim Hicks** proudly presented our annual Community Service Awards at the Senior Awards nights of Andrew Hill and Henry Gunderson high schools. This was VEP's 23<sup>rd</sup> year of granting stipends for post-secondary or vocational training to graduating high school seniors with exceptional volunteer service.

**VEP  
Community  
Service  
Awards**

Congratulations to our 2007 winners, who each received \$1,000 towards their ongoing education.

- Gunderson: **Amie Fong.** Amie volunteered over 400 hours to a wide array of organizations including Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, Brainchild Education Center, San Jose Public Library, Our City Forest, Sacred Heart, Second Harvest Food Bank, VEP, and several more. For her public service, she was awarded the Presi-

dent's Student Service Award in each of her four years at Gunderson, and she also won the 2007 Jefferson's Award for Public Service and the Henry T. Gunderson High School's 2007 Volunteer of the Year award.

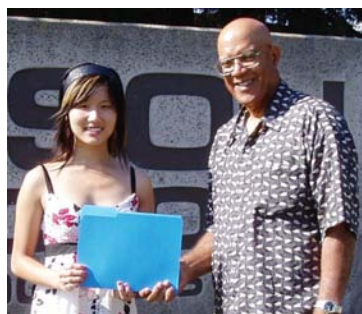
Amie is now attending University of California, Los Angeles and majoring in Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology.

- Andrew Hill: **Sandy Ngo.** Sandy volunteered over 1000 hours to our community during her high school career. In her extensive work with the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross, she was responsible for over 500 volunteers, oversaw 20 other high school Red Cross clubs, and served with increasing levels of responsibility on the Youth Executive Board. She has also volunteered considerably at Regional Medical Center, Valley Medical Center, and also Washington Elementary School, where she tutored migrant education students in their Math and English Enrichment Program



Sandy is now attending the University of California, Berkeley and majoring in Public Health.

- At-Large: We did not grant an At-Large award this year.



**Amie Fong with VEP  
VEP Secretary Jim Hicks**



**Sandy Ngo with VEP Past-  
President Marilyn Rodgers**

I'd like to recognize and thank our 2006 Community Service Award Selection Committee: **Jeri Arstingstall, Cindy Bosworth, Ginger Cardona, Aiko Fadness, Dave Fadness, Jim Hicks, Steve Kinsey, Adina Pierce, Joe Tajnai, and Louise.**

I'd also like to thank administrators **Becky Bruni** of Gunderson High School and **Lara Sandora** of Andrew Hill High School for nominating three candidates per school.

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

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

We plan to consider changes to our Community Service Award program this year. Please contact me at (408) 266-7183 or DNoel1234@aol.com if you have suggestions on how to improve this program. Any proposed changes will be

published in the VEP News and brought forward for a vote of the membership at a VEP general meeting.

## VEP's 3<sup>rd</sup> Memorial Day Parade & Festival

-Dave Fadness

More than 2000 people enjoyed VEP Community Association's *Memorial Day Parade & Festival* this year. Stepping off from Carson Elementary School on the morning of May 28, the parade was led by Command Sergeant Major **Demetrio Moreno's** Andrew Hill High School JROTC Color Guard, Honor Guard, Drill Teams, and Drum Corps, smartly in step with uniformed Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force personnel.



Joining them were Director **Allison Brooks'** Fair Middle School choir and marching band, followed by a choir comprising Carson and Parkview Elementary School students led by volunteer Directors **Jim Sealy** and **Tanya Summers** and the Parkview *Yankee Doodle Band*. Adding to the fun were S.J. *Sharkie*, *Sunny & Twinkles* and eight Gunderson High School clowns, Scout troops, SJPJ and SJFD personnel and vehicles, custom and classic cars, and hundreds of colorfully costumed kids of all ages with their decorated bikes, trikes, scooters, and coaster wagons.

Our Festival began upon arrival at Parkview Elementary School. An opening patriotic ceremony featured JROTC Color Guard's flag salute, brief speeches, and inspiring traditional music by the Carson-Parkview Choir and Fair Middle School musicians, featuring *Taps* soloist **Marc Joseph Dela Rea**.

Entertainment commenced with the granting of costume awards:

**Best Family:** **David, Debbie, Gabrielle, Ethan, and Zachary Danitz**, and the kids' Irvine grandparents **Don & Joan Mar-ske**.

**Most Patriotic:** Andrew Hill JROTC, U.S. Army Cavalry Sergeant **Brian Ditzler**, and the Fair Middle School Band.

**Funniest:** Gunderson's Drama Club clowns (coached and groomed by Sunny & Twinkles, our volunteer *Caring Clowns*).

**Most Original:** The **Tajnai** Family and Boy Scout Troops 234 and 278.

**Most Beautiful:** Little Princess, **Sabrina Nijmeh** and Brownie Troop 91.

**Best Bicycle or Tricycle:** **Ellie & Kyler** and **Julia Kurz**.

**Best Coaster Wagon:** Girl Scout Troop 1220, **Isaac Delacruz**, and **Alexandra Galleja**.

**Craziest:** The Carson-Parkview Choir and Carson kindergarten teacher **Sue Carroll**.

**Most Colorful:** Cub Scout Troop 278.

**Most Unusual:** The **Dance Kraze** dancers.

**Judge's Choice:** The Carson Choir and Brownie Troop 91.

Director **Chris Moura's** 22-member *Oak Grove High School Jazz Band* performed brilliantly, delivering total audience satisfaction. *Dance Kraze* dancers followed with skilled and enjoyable recitals led by Owner/Director **Sandy Kaiser**. Master Instructor **Andrew Suh** showcased his *America Tae Kwon Do* students' stunning martial arts routines. Disc Jockey **Mike Lopez** stepped in between acts with music and audience par-



# 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
- ♥ Extended Care: 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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participation games. Display and game booths, refreshments, face painting, and field games rounded out the offerings for a day of family fun.

A total of 237 students performed for us that day. Counting those who helped with set-up, booth duty, clean-up, and the host of tasks necessary for a successful event, we had 287 student volunteers. VEP is very grateful to these students and the many adults who stepped forward to make this event a complete success.

Special thanks to our BBQ crew: **Kim Borreson** and seven of his *San Jose Firefighters Union Local 230* colleagues volunteered to cook our hot dogs and hamburgers that day. They also donated coolers, their barbeque trailer, and the propane gas.

Co-sponsored by VEP, Carson and Parkview Elementary, and Gunderson High Schools, net proceeds from and donations to this all-volunteer event benefited Carson and Parkview Schools.

## Donors support VEP's Memorial Day Festival

-Dave Fadness

The following community members and local businesses contributed generously to our Memorial Day Parade & Festival:

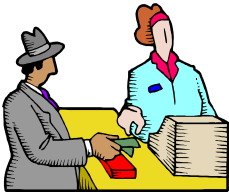
- Safeway, Inc. (Mark Bowers, Manager, Branham Store).
- Westfield Oakridge (Jennifer Dacquisto, Mktg Director).
- Albertson's (Dan Murphy, Manager, Capitol Expy Store).
- Wesley W. Terrell, Century 21 Champion (\*)
- Precious Moments in Time, Jeri Arstingstall (\*)
- Caring Clowns, Gordon & Willa Markley
- Chesnos Painting, Bob & Joyce Chesnos (\*)
- Normandin Chrysler-Jeep (\*)
- Keith Bowles Pest Control, Inc.
- Tupperware, Lucy Perez
- Summerwinds Nursery
- Make It Mine (Logos/Banners/Printing)
- Brian's Fish World
- Wag'n My Tail, Amy Hite (\*)
- Century 21 Realty, Sandra Sample
- Cal. Bathroom & Kitchen Remodeling, Allyn Johnson (\*)
- Day & Night Heating & Air Conditioning, Wayne Wood



(Cont'd next page...)

- Wallace Music Studio, Vanessa Wallace (\*)
  - Randazzo's Water Conditioning, Rick Randazzo (\*)
  - BH&C Air Conditioning, Greg Bagan (\*)
  - Peninsula Piano Brokers, Greg Wurm
  - American Eagle Properties, Brian Bonnifield (\*)
  - Royal Knight Roofing, Marvin Morazan
  - Smart & Final
  - Jim & Debi Del Biaggio
  - David & Debbie Danitz
  - Dave & Aiko Fadness
  - Rana Sakkab
  - VEP Community Association members
- (\*)These are *VEP NEWS* advertisers.

Please join us in thanking these caring individuals and companies. Be sure to give your business to them whenever you need the products and services they provide—and tell them you're a customer because you appreciate their support for our community.



As a result of generous price discounts and in-kind and cash donations from those individuals and businesses, Festival sales exceeded the net cost of our event. VEP pledged early-on that any and all net proceeds would be donated to Carson and Parkview Schools; VEP gave each school \$1011.07.

Their participation in this event also attracted anonymous donations to our schools. Carson and Parkview parent-teacher groups each received \$125. Gifts of \$250 each were also given to the Fair Middle School Music Department, the Oak Grove High School Jazz Band, and the Gunderson High School Drama Club.

### Found on Memorial Day

-Arlene Peterson

The following clothing items were left behind at our Memorial Day Festival. They are now all washed and ready to be claimed.

#### Children's clothing:

- Toddler size T-shirt with "Blame My Sister" logo on front.
- Toddler size zip-up sweater with attached hood.
- Toddler size Gap "cargo" pants w/drawstrings.



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#### Adult clothing:

- 2 school color guard belt/sashes.
- 2 men's T-shirts with *Rampone Electric* logo.
- 1 bandanna.

To claim these items, call Arlene at 978-1713 and tell her their colors.

### Crime in VEP neighborhoods—Part One

-Tanya Summers

In our neighborhood this summer, a couple with two young children that go to Parkview were on vacation for three weeks when someone pried open a locked window and broke into their house. The thieves stole EVERYTHING of value then trashed their home. They had and still have access to the family's computer, palm pilot, email, credit cards, passwords, social security numbers, birth dates, birth certificates, etc.



The crooks probably found a travel itinerary on their computer, so knew the family would be gone for a few weeks. They used those three weeks to order things on-line and have them delivered to the family's home, used their credit cards locally, changed their email address and passwords, and requested many new credit card applications to be mailed to them.

I saw pictures of the family's home after the crime. Every single drawer was opened and dumped, every vent was pulled open, they even went through their freezer, either looking for money or eating the food. Chances are the thieves may even have stayed in the house during this time.

Upon return from vacation, the family reported this crime. Although their home was finger-printed and evidence has been gathered, no one has yet been apprehended. It's easy to understand the family's impatience with the ongoing police investigation; no one seems to take this crime as seriously as they do, yet it's difficult for cops who are barraged with cases like this every day.

The family and neighbors have supplied evidence to the police. A neighbor saw an old white truck in their driveway, but didn't call the police because he thought it may have been a relative. Other neighbors saw this truck driving around during that time and earlier. Messages were left for them on the family's answering machine and emails were sent. The investigating detective said a similar case also occurred just across Capitol Expressway this summer.

This family is understandably very concerned because the thieves know so much about them and have their birth certificates, social security numbers, etc. They don't want this to happen to anyone else in our community.

\*\*\*\*

[Ed. Note: VEP doesn't want this to happen to anyone, least of all those who live in our membership area. We urge you to take the first step today. Get to know your neighbors. Set up a Neighborhood Watch program on your street—it's easy to do (go to our website, [www.vepca.net](http://www.vepca.net) and check our January 2007 newsletter article "What is Neighborhood Watch?" for details.)

*Burglaries and other crimes are on the rise in our community. Solving crime is difficult, time consuming, and often far less*



than satisfying to victims, as lost and/or damaged property often cannot be recovered. The time to deal with crime is before it occurs—prevention is crucial, but easy and very effective.

For more information or to request a Neighborhood Watch meeting, call the San Jose Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit at (408) 277-4133.]

## Crime in VEP neighborhoods—Part Two

-Jeri Arstingstall

~ Home invasion lessons learned ~

Our home was burglarized in May, between 11am and 12:45pm. Entry was gained through the locked window of the side garage door. The thieves went through every drawer. They hit our master bedroom the worst. I now wish I had paid more attention to Oprah who warns against storing your jewelry there. The thieves got away on our two bicycles and used our backpack to carry the items they stole.



I was pleasantly surprised in June when I received a call from a very nice SJPD detective saying that they had caught the individuals. He invited us down to identify our property. I must commend the police department on this process, as a majority of the other victims were there as well—a part of the healing process.

While talking with the other victims we found out that the suspects were Santa Teresa High School seniors. They'd hit us all at the same time of day over a period of about six weeks. Because we recovered some of our belongings, we were among the "luckier" victims.

The funniest part of this process was another victim recovered his digital camera and when he turned it on guess what was on there? Yes, the suspects had taken pictures of themselves and left them in the camera. We all had a great laugh at that.

The police detective helped clear up some issues that had been lingering in our minds. Was our home being watched? No, was his answer. He said these thieves would randomly knock on doors and if someone answered they would ask for a certain person then apologize saying they had the wrong house.

When the detective told me that, I went cold; I remembered that happening three weeks earlier. I didn't know that I should have called 911. He also told us that thieves would watch the neighborhood by posing as utility workers. Again this freaked me out because a week before our break-in someone "with the water district" was measuring our street. I had questioned that individual but didn't get their information. I wish I had.

One of our other questions was how did they catch the thieves? They had received a tip. The thieves had made a big mistake in burgling the homes of VEP and Santa Teresa people who sent out alerts via email and flyers to neighbors.



Here are a couple of tips that we have learned through this ordeal:

- Take photographs of your valuables and keep them in a safe place (off-site would be best). Having photos also helps

in case of a fire or other loss.

- Check your insurance. If you have jewelry, make sure it is well documented and that you have separate riders covering the pieces you will want/need to have replaced. Most insurance companies only cover up to \$500 if not separated out. The same goes with a coin collection.
- If you submit a claim of more than \$2001, your insurance rates will be increased. (For that reason, we didn't file an insurance claim.)

We are now in the healing process and working with the District Attorney's office to ensure that these young men serve their time.

[Ed. Note: I hope you're now convinced that it's time to get involved in Neighborhood Watch—and in your neighborhood (including VEP). Let's work together to p-r-e-v-e-n-t crime.]

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## Free directory assistance

- Dave Noel & Arlene Peterson

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.

AT&T recently announced another free directory assistance service allowing you to search local and nationwide listings by name or category. Call 1-800-YellowPages (1-800-935-5697) from any phone to find restaurants, shops, hotels and more.



## Sunday Hours at San Jose Public Libraries

- Dave Noel

The following libraries are open 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on all Sundays, except those preceding a Monday holiday:

Berryessa Library, 3355 Noble Ave  
Dr. Roberto Cruz - Alum Rock, 3090 Alum Rock Ave  
Rose Garden, 1580 Naglee Ave (opening late 2005)  
Santa Teresa, 290 International Circle  
Tully Community, 880 Tully Rd  
Vineland, 1450 Blossom Hill Rd  
West Valley, 1243 San Tomas Aquino Rd

These libraries offer their full complement of services during their Sunday hours. To make this possible, Monday hours at all branches citywide have been changed to 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., ensuring that libraries are still open during after school hours. For more information, visit [www.SJLibrary.org](http://www.SJLibrary.org).



## Pearl Avenue Library update

- *Domenic Onorato (\*)*

The contractor is proceeding with the exterior of the building and installing window frames. The glass should be installed by beginning of September, and they will then begin with installation of sheetrock in the interior of the building.

Roofing membranes are being installed on the sloped and flat roofs. Metal roof installation will begin in the second week of September.

Vertical siding has been installed. Stucco will be applied to exterior walls where siding and slate are not called for. Preparation is complete for installing exterior slate wall surfaces.

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.]*

## District 10 news

- *City Councilmember Nancy Pyle*

The newspapers have been full of editorials and articles about the serious condition of the city budget. There are simply not enough dollars coming into the city to maintain parks and provide essential services at an acceptable level. As your city council member my job is to balance the city budget and provide services that you need in your neighborhood.

# D-10

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The key question at this time: How do we increase the city revenue without raising taxes? As chair of the Community and Economic Development Committee, I know that there are simple steps we can take as a community to increase our city budget. As a city, we need to keep more of our own retail tax dollars and stop sales tax leakage. San Jose collects only \$82 per person in sales tax while Palo Alto collects \$222. We can all help close this gap by spending our money in San Jose. Increased sales tax dollars collected can be used to extend library hours, pave streets, maintain parks and provide services and programs for our youth and seniors.



I invite you to let me know what type of shopping you prefer by participating in a retail survey that will focus on the Almaden and Blossom Valley and south San Jose neighborhoods. The results of this survey will help me and the Community and Economic Development Committee to better understand the retail needs of our residents.

Survey results will be presented at my "Retail Coming Attractions" forum on Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup> in the theater at Pioneer High School. In addition to survey results, there will be a presentation on the importance of retail sales to our city budget and updates on the Via Valiente Shopping Center Pilot Improvement Project, Whole Foods, and new retail at Westfield Oakridge.



Please take a few minutes to complete the survey at [www.sanjoseca.gov/district10](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/district10). There are only eleven questions, but the information gathered will be very useful to San Jose as we look forward to solving our city budget deficit through an increase of revenues. This survey will close on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

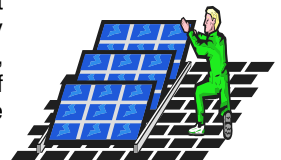
As a special incentive, ten \$100 gift cards to Westfield Oakridge Mall will be awarded on a random basis to those who complete the survey.

## San Jose Unified School District news

- *Veronica Lewis, Board Trustee*

San Jose Unified School District entered into an innovative partnership with Chevron Energy Solutions and Bank of America to establish the largest solar power and energy efficiency program in K-12 education in the United States.

This program will include installation of five megawatts of solar power, expected to reduce the district's demand for utility power by 25%, provide more than \$25-million in energy cost savings over the life of the solar power system, and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 37,000 tons, equivalent to planting 400 trees. There will be no upfront costs to the district. Chevron Energy Solutions will design, build, operate, and maintain the system. Bank of America will finance and operate the service contract.



"This program is a result of years of research and commitment on the part of the San Jose Unified Board and is the living proof that schools can improve their facilities and help the environment without tapping their capitol budgets", said Board of Education President **Jorge Gonzalez**. "It's also an educational opportunity--it can help teach our school commu-

nities about energy efficiency and renewable power.”

The first phase of the program will include installation of two megawatts of solar arrays, on the rooftops of Gunderson and San Jose High, and parking lot shade canopies at Gundersen, Pioneer, Leland, and San Jose High school parking lots.

~ Stadium lights are coming ~

After months of community meetings, an environmental (CEQA) study, and a Mitigated Report issued to the Board of Education, installing stadium lights at all of our high schools was unanimously approved. The Board of Education created a Board Policy and Administrative Regulations that set the guidelines for the use of stadium lights and speakers. As part of this policy, the schools must submit a plan for how they will implement the mitigation measures of the CEQA report. We are currently awaiting approval of plans from the Department of State Architecture.



For more information see our web site [www.sjUSD.org](http://www.sjUSD.org). Contact me at [veronicaglewis@yahoo.com](mailto:veronicaglewis@yahoo.com).

## Carson School update

- Betsy Doss, Principal

The Carson School community is looking forward to a great year.

We are off to a wonderful start with all of our construction nearly completed. There are new walls in our formerly open classrooms, a new pre-school playground and new cabinets and windows all around. A big "Thank you" to all the Carson staff, District staff and parents who worked together to get our school ready for the year.

We also have great news to share regarding our academic performance. Our students improved in both Math and English Language Arts on the California Standards tests. Congratulations to ALL!

The *Carson Walkathon and Harvest Festival* will be held starting at 5 pm on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is welcome.

## Oak Grove School District news

-Manny Barbara, Superintendent

Welcome to the 2007-08 school year!

Even though the 2006-07 school term ended in June, school district work continues throughout the summer. Two types of summer school were held this past summer. One provided additional assistance in reading and mathematics for approximately 1200 students, including programs for special education and English Learner students. We also held our first Summer Language Camp for high achieving students. This was a hugely successful program wherein students enrolled for classes in Spanish, Vietnamese, and Mandarin Chinese. Another accelerated program included an advanced math curriculum.



At its August 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting, our Board of Trustees heard initial staff recommendations on our Five-Year Plan, an annually revised document that reflects District priorities for the coming

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year.

Two other significant issues were considered at that meeting. The first involves a possible bond election. In 1994, our community supported a \$75-million bond election, enabling the upgrading and modernization of our school facilities. All schools have benefited significantly from the passage of this measure through new playgrounds, roofs, painting, earthquake retrofitting, and upgrading of classrooms and libraries, among other things.

That \$75-million will be expended by the end of the 2007-2008 school year. However, those funds have not been sufficient to complete all of the needs at the sites, while new facility concerns due to normal wear and tear are already evident. On August 23<sup>rd</sup>, our Board of Trustees considered a proposal for a "no tax increase" bond election, to be held in February in conjunction with the State primary election. They are expected to consider taking action at their September 27 regularly scheduled meeting.

Another significant proposal involves a potential sale of property. Due to a fortunate set of circumstances, special legislation was passed on behalf of the Oak Grove School District allowing us to sell surplus property and to use the proceeds in support of District programs. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to add additional resources, as the bill sunsets in 2010.



Our goal is to provide the best educational experience for all of our students. We are proud of current District programs that are particularly valued by both our staff and community, such as extended-day kindergarten; the low teacher-student ratio at grades K-3 of 20-1; and the grades 4-6 Visual and Performing Arts Program. We also want to continue with accelerated enrichment programs, such as this summer's language camps. The possible sale of one of our surplus properties can establish a funding source that will support existing and new programs for years to come.

Our Trustees heard preliminary information on both the possible bond election and the sale of surplus property on August 23. Please note that all Board meeting agendas and minutes are posted on our District web site at: [www.ogsd.k12.ca.us](http://www.ogsd.k12.ca.us). Board meetings are usually held the second and fourth Thursday of each month, with public session starting at 7:30 p.m. You can also reach me directly at: 227-8300 x202, or by e-mail: [superintendent@ogsd.k12.ca.us](mailto:superintendent@ogsd.k12.ca.us).

## San Jose State's Homecoming 2007

-Pat Lopes Harris(\*)

Plan now to attend San Jose State's Homecoming 2007 on October 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. The weekend will begin Friday with the second annual Campus *MovieFest*-a film festival featuring five-minute shorts by SJSU students--followed Saturday by the Alumni College 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tailgate Party and, of course, the game against University of Idaho.

Pre-register now for the Alumni College, which will feature an all-star line up of free, one-hour classes by SJSU instructors on popular topics including wine appreciation, climate change, interstellar space, and swing dancing. Then take a free shuttle bus to the tailgate party and game, where fans will receive a commemorative bandana and see a halftime show featuring SJSU football greets.

Learn more at [www.sjsu.edu/homecoming/](http://www.sjsu.edu/homecoming/).

[(\*)Ed. Note: Pat Lopes Harris is the Media Relations Specialist for SJSU.]

## Autumn gardening

-John Marks

~ Fall checkup ~

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



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

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

~ Fall Plantings ~

September is a good month for planting cool season veggies including beets, carrots, lettuce, parsnips, certain types of peas, and Swiss chard. Broccoli, cauliflower, kohlrabi, rutabaga and turnips also do well. Leaves, stems, flower heads and roots are the edible portions of these versatile vegetables, depending on the species.

Anything grown from seed (most of the above) can usually be started in August or September. Those bought as nursery-grown seedlings are usually better transplanted in September, since the same warm weather that stimulates fast seen

germination can cause tender, thirsty seedlings to wilt or burn.

Such root crops as carrots and parsnips require full sun, sandy or loamy soil, and regular irrigation. When sowing carrot seeds keep the soil moist and never let a crust form on top, or the seeds have difficulty sprouting (start indoors?). Unfortunately, parsnips never get as much good P.R. as their orange cousins. Parsnips' creamy white to yellow roots have a unique, mild flavor and can be baked, fried, mashed, or cooked in soups or stews. Cold weather makes them sweeter.



Another favorite is the humble beet. For absolute cut beauty and flavor, go for the Chioggia, also called Bull's Eye, an unusual Italian heirloom beet with concentric white and red rings inside. Albina Verduna is a sweet white beet that grows well here, and Sangria is a classic deep red, like the wine. Because it develops its shape early, Sangria also makes a good "baby beet" when pulled early.

Swiss chard, a leafy vegetable, is actually a type of beet without the tasty bulbous root, and is beautiful on the dinner table served raw, steamed, or stir-fried. It's also an attention getting ornamental in the garden, when you're touring with friends. The Bright Lights variety is especially attractive, showing up with crimson, yellow and white stems.

The obvious leafy vegetable choice is lettuce, which comes in four varieties: crisphead, like iceberg and butterhead, Bibb loose leaf, Oak Leaf, and Romaine, which grows in vertical stocks.

\*\*\*

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

## Upcoming gardening tasks...

~ SEPTEMBER ~

**SNAPSHOT:** Call this the swing shift, when you will be harvesting some of the last-of-summer veggies and planting fall-winter crops. Nurseries are stocking up for the big fall planting season. Smart buys: spring-flowering bulbs.

**FLOWERS:** Freshen up containers with late-summer annuals such as salvia and chrysanthemum. Perk up the planting mix while you're at it. Trim bearded iris foliage. Plant day lilies. Trim roses, feed and water. Check to see that watering basins are intact.

**VEGETABLES:** Plant broccoli, cauliflower, radishes, beets, spinach, lettuce, peas, and chard. Sow herb seeds or buy herb transplants.

**TO-DO LIST:** Clean up fallen fruit. Plant new trees, shrubs, ground covers, lawns, perennials and vines. Fertilize lawn about mid month, or roll out new sod. Divide and replant crowded perennials.

~ OCTOBER ~

**SNAPSHOT:** Warm early in the month, turning to brisk days

and cool nights. If you're planning a landscaping project, get it going now so tree and shrub roots can get off to a good start before winter. Install hardscape and irrigation systems.



**FLOWERS:** Cool-season annuals do great. Try coneflowers, pansies, primroses and Iceland poppies. Scatter wildflower seeds. Add some low-water-using California natives. Plant spring-blooming bulbs in containers. Work in compost.

**VEGETABLES:** Sow or transplant cool-season crops, along with artichokes, established herbs, garlic, parsley, spinach and onions. Don't forget to plant a little extra in your Good Neighbor Garden.

**TO-DO LIST:** Get ready to say ta-ta to the summer garden; pull up spent plants and clean up. Compost only pest-free plant debris. Plant lawns from seed or sod by mid-month. Plant shrubs, trees, and ground covers. Feed over-wintering plants with low-nitrogen fertilizer to help them become cold-hardy. Spread compost or composted manure over all planted areas.

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



**No Topping**

**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)).

### Buyers beware—contractor scams

-Dave Fadness

We've heard reports about scam "contractors" in our neighborhoods this summer and folks who lost their money by paying up-front to have work done by them. VEP has cautioned against this many times, so if you missed reading about it...

Never succumb to anyone who knocks on your door, uninvited, offering any kind of service. Whatever their story, and no matter how low-priced they are, don't ever let them convince you that you need the work done now, before they withdraw their offer. Spending any substantial amount of your money deserves looking around, checking the yellow pages, and consulting with neighbors and your community association, for starters.

Better yet, before you hire any type of contractor, do these two things:

1. Check on them in the Superior Court Records of Santa Clara County at [www.sccaseinfo.org](http://www.sccaseinfo.org).
2. Be sure to check with the *Contractor's State Licensing Board* to see whether the contractor you want to hire has a li-

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cense, is insured, and/or has any claims or complaints filed against them.

The Contractors State Licensing Board has an office at 100 Paseo De San Antonio (in downtown San Jose), 277-1244. They have excellent free information on your consumer rights and how to protect yourself against unscrupulous contractors. Get and read this information before you hire a contractor. Or, if you've already been burned, call them to report it and see what remedy you may have.

Do these easy checks **BEFORE** you sign a contract. You will be happy you did—you could be **VERY unhappy** if you don't.

★ 10 tips to avoid a contractor scam ★  
(Source: California Contractors State Licensing Board.)

- Hire only licensed contractors.
- Check contractor's license number at [www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov) or (800) 321-2752.
- Get three references and review past work.
- Get at least three bids.
- Get a written contract and don't sign anything until you completely understand the terms.
- Pay 10 percent down, or \$1,000, whichever is less.
- Don't let payments get ahead of work. Keep records of all payments.
- Don't make final payment until you're satisfied with the job.
- Don't pay cash.
- Keep a job file of all papers relating to your project.



Be especially careful if sub-contractors are involved in doing labor or supplying materials. Even if you pay your contractor in full, if your contractor doesn't pay their subs, **YOU** are liable. You can end up paying twice, end up with a lien against your property, or spend precious time and money in court. A little due-diligence up front will save you money, headaches, and many sleepless nights.

### Neighborhood Scuttlebutt

- Dave Noel

**Pearl Ave Firestation:** T-Mobile Wireless has applied for a permit to install a 60 foot high, 24 inch diameter flag pole at the firestation. The flagpole would double as a cell phone basestation antenna.

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## Home maintenance

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

~ September ~

**TOP JOB:** Inspect water heater for leaks and flush tank. Test temperature and pressure relief (TPR) valve according to the manufacturer's instructions.

**ALSO:** Paint the inside of your house if needed. Remove and clean "pop-up" drain plugs.

Inspect grout around sinks, tubs and showers. Repair or replace damaged areas.

Clean patio furniture and prepare for winter storage. Protect metal.

~ October ~

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

**ALSO:** Insulate outdoor pipes to avoid freeze damage.

Clean gutters. Leaves and other debris will hamper drainage and may promote rusting. Compost the leaves.

Inspect and clean the fireplace and flue before lighting your first fire. Hire a professional if needed.

Stack firewood away from the house.

Check furnace filter. Clean or replace if necessary.

~ 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.

## Trash & recycle collection reminders

There will now be two different trucks collecting garbage and recycling. Green and white *Garden City* trucks only pick up garbage. Gray *California Waste Solutions* trucks collect your recyclables. These trucks may come by anytime between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. Please wait until 6 p.m. before calling in to report a missed pickup on either of your carts.

Setout reminders...

- Set out all carts no later than 6 a.m. on your collection day to avoid a missed pick-up. Collection may be anytime from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Please leave your carts out until they are emptied.
- Set out yard trimmings or carts no earlier than the day before collection to minimize unsafe driving and biking conditions.
- Completely close the lids of all carts when you set them out for collection to avoid spills or, in some cases, non-collection.
- Park the back wheels of carts against the curb and keep the carts 2-feet away from cars or other carts to give automated truck arms space to maneuver.
- Flatten and cut cardboard to fit loosely in your recycling cart so they will not jam when being emptied.
- Keep yard trimmings piles at least 5-feet away from parked cars, carts, or other piles.
- Only use FREE City-issued oil jugs and oil filter bags at curbside to avoid spills. Drivers will leave empty replacements after collection. Call the Recycle Plus Customer Contact Center for oil jugs and filter bags.



### What's Garbage?

Use your garbage cart for food waste, disposable diapers, pizza boxes, broken glass, toys, shoes, garden hoses, empty toothpaste containers, etc. If your cart is full, place extra garbage in a 32-gallon plastic garbage bag on the curb near the garbage cart. Attach an Extra Garbage sticker that can be purchased at all San Jose libraries plus Safeway and Albertsons stores in San Jose.

### What's Recyclable?

Please don't contaminate recycling carts with non-recyclable or hazardous materials. Not certain if something is recyclable? Check first by visiting our website at [www.sjrecycles.org](http://www.sjrecycles.org). Place extra recyclables in paper bags on the curb next to your recycling cart.

### What are Yard Trimmings?

Lumber and fruit are not yard trimmings. For a list of what can and cannot be collected as yard trimmings, visit [www.sjrecycles.org](http://www.sjrecycles.org) or return the attached postcard to request a free Recycling Guide.

### What's Hazardous?

Some common items are too hazardous for garbage and recycling carts and must be taken to a household hazardous waste facility. Otherwise, they could endanger your neighborhood, the drivers, or the sorters at the recycling facility. These include household chemicals (pool, photo and gardening) and cleaners, batteries, syringes, propane tanks, paint, fluorescent bulbs etc. Call the Santa Clara County Household Hazardous Waste Program at (408) 299-7300 for a FREE drop-off appointment or for more information.

### Street Sweeping...

Your street will be swept on your scheduled day each month. For cleaner streets, remember to move your car off the street by 7 a.m. on your sweep day. If you need a schedule magnet, call the Customer Contact Center.

### Large Item Pick-up...

Mattresses, sofas, refrigerators, tires and other large items can be scheduled for curbside pick-up for an extra fee. To schedule a pick-up appointment, call the Customer Contact Center.



What's the best way to place my carts out for service?

Place them in the street with the rear wheels touching the curb. Carts should be at least a couple of feet apart and should not be near a parked car or other obstacle so that automated truck arms have space to maneuver. Also, make sure cart lids completely close.



This is the right way to place your carts



These are the wrong ways to place your carts

### Will you collect extra garbage?

We will if it is bagged and bears an official "extra garbage" sticker. Stickers can be purchased at all San Jose libraries, and Albertsons and Safeway stores, as well as at certain 7-Eleven stores. If you have large items that won't fit in your cart or in an extra bag, consider requesting an oversized item collection. Call (408) 535-3500 for more information.

What happens to any recyclables placed in my garbage? Once GCS collects them, they go straight to the landfill. So please be sure to put all your recyclables inside your recycling cart and not in the garbage.

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### What holidays are observed?

Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Years Day. If one of those holidays falls on a weekday, service from that day forward will be one day behind until the next week.

### Contact Information

To report missed collections or other service issues, call the companies listed below.

Garden City Sanitation at (408) 988-4500

- To report missed garbage collection
- To request a garbage cart repair

California Waste Solutions at (408) 213-7800

- To report missed recycling collection
- To schedule a large item pick-up
- To request a recycling cart repair

Green Waste Recovery at (408) 283-4800

- To report missed yard trimmings collection
- To request a yard trimmings cart repair
- To ask about street sweeping schedule or service problems

Recycle Plus Customer Contact Center at (408) 535-3500

- To make account inquiries
- To pay your bill by phone using a credit card, debit card, or bank account
- To change the size of your cart

For web self-service, visit [www.sanjoseca.gov/customerservice](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/customerservice) or go to [www.sjrecycles.org](http://www.sjrecycles.org).

### VEP's May 22 meeting

-Jim Hicks, VEP Secretary

VEP President Marilyn Rodgers opened our meeting with a warm welcome.

**Jane Mark**, Senior Planner with County Parks & Recreation Department started the meeting with a brief presentation about the Martial Cottle Park Master Plan.

Her summary addressed the large property located along Snell between Branham Lane and Chynoweth. A contract has been signed with consultants *Wallace Roberts & Todd* to conduct the Master Plan. Public input will be part of a 2-1/2 to 3 year planning process. Public workshops will also be held by the County Parks Commission and the Board of Supervisors. The resulting joint plan with Regional Parks will span a ten to fifteen year period.



**Walter Lester** gave a total of 288 acres as a gift to Santa Clara County and the State of California. A regional Historic Agricultural Park will be developed on 136 acres at the southwest end, near Chynoweth. There are deed restrictions. No high-activity uses are allowed. Part of the park will be dedicated to community gardens consisting of 30 to 40 plots.

An advisory community task force of 12 to 14 members will be appointed. For more information, see the Santa Clara Park's Website [www.parkhere.org](http://www.parkhere.org). Click on the "Martial Cottle Park Master Plan" link.

Santa Clara County Open Space Authority is the funding source for the Master Plan, Phase One trail access, and community gardens.

\*\*\*\*

Next on our agenda was a panel discussion on 87/Capital/Narvaez. Assisted by **Carolyn Gonot**, VTA's Chief Development Officer, **Carey Ameto** presented a PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Summary of Operational Analysis of SR 87/Narvaez Avenue Area." It focused on the current traffic problems in that area and recommendations in a consultant's analysis. Some preliminary solutions were discussed.

Bottom line: the various agencies must work out a solution to traffic congestion before the proposed residential/commercial project on the VTA parking lot at Narvaez and Capital can go forward.



Standing-in for Councilwoman Nancy Pyle, her Chief of Staff **Lee Wilcox** said that traffic solutions would require an Environmental Impact Study. He also mentioned that VEP's request for a small park (east side of Narvaez at Capitol) is still under consideration, but not yet included in a development proposal.

**Hans Larson**, Deputy Director of San Jose's Department of Transportation admitted that the Route 87 interchange is a problem. Solutions are competing for funds with some twenty other interchange issues within the city. Mr. Larson offered some possible fixes:

- This project must be made a regional priority. It needs to be listed in VTA's 30-year plan, which today it is not. State funding is needed. Private developers must contribute to a plan devised by VTA and the city to effect traffic solutions.
- San Jose will submit to VTA a draft recommendation for this project in July 2007. If adopted, 87/Capital/Narvaez improvements would become part of VTA's long-range plan.

County Supervisor-VTA Board Member **Don Gage** was successful in stopping the the Narvaez/Capital project. Two contractor bids were canceled last December and VTA has adopted a new process for bidding. He agreed that we need a regional solution.

\*\*\*\*

**Jim Hicks** presented the annual Treasurer's Report for **Ginger Cardona**, who was unable to attend. The account was \$377 over last year's budget. The biggest expense items were the newsletter, our Memorial Day Parade & Festival, and our Community Service Awards. The Treasurer's Report was approved by those present.

The following officers were unanimously elected for VEP's 2007-08 fiscal year:

President = **Arlene Peterson**  
 Vice President = **Joe Tajnai**  
 Secretary = **Jim Hicks**  
 Treasurer = **Ginger Cardona**  
 Editor = **Dave Fadness**

Outgoing President **Marilyn Rodgers** was presented a plaque for her dedication in leading VEP in 2006-07.

Our meeting adjourned at approximately 9:10 pm.



Incoming board members **Arlene Peterson, Jim Hicks, Joe Tajnai and Dave Fadness** present a plaque to outgoing president **Marilyn Rodgers**

## VEP's 2007-2008 Executive Board

- *Marilyn Rodgers*

At the May General Membership meeting, VEP elected a new Executive Board. They will serve the remainder of 2007 and through May 2008. The following is a brief introduction of each member of the Executive Board, and key committee chairmen:

**Arlene Peterson, President.** Arlene has resided in San Jose since 1969. She has three children, two college bound, and one still in high school. She is currently employed with the Public Guardian/Administrator's office of Santa Clara County as an Estate Administrator. Prior to transferring to this position, she worked in the Office of the County Counsel as a Senior Paralegal. She has been involved with VEP for the past year, coming from the Rancho Narvaez Neighborhood Association, where she served as President until they dissolved. She is looking forward to a new life with her fiancé and his son, in the coming year. (**Note: Arlene resigned at the end of August due to recent family health issues.**)

**Joe Tajnai, Vice President (and acting President).** You may remember Joe and his family in his late Grandfather's 1955 Thunderbird in the Memorial Day Parade. In 1999, Joe relocated from Fremont to San Jose with his wife Nancy, and their two daughters, Katy and Mindy. This allowed him to be closer to his job in Marketing and Engineering at ICS – a semiconductor company located on the old site of the Saddle Rack. Joe has been a long time VEP volunteer. After initially seeing VEP meeting signs in front of Gunderson High School, he began attending meetings regularly. One month the sign was missing. He asked then President Greg West about it, and was immediately drafted into service. He still has that sign and puts it out in front of Gunderson for every VEP meeting. Joe also previously served as VEP Treasurer, and helped move the organization into the 21st Century, by starting VEP e-mail distributions. Joe now has a third child, Joseph, and his former company was acquired by IDT. He works at IDT in a new location (the old Electro Glass building) in South San Jose. He divides his time between family, career, VEP, and

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# VEP: Working for you!

the father/child organization YMCA Adventure Guides, where he is responsible for recruiting (see separate article on this wonderful program).

**Jim Hicks, Secretary.** This is Jim's second year serving as Secretary for VEP. Jim moved to San Jose in 1977 to continue his career with IBM. He later moved to "VEP Country" in 1980, and immediately got involved with VEP as its Treasurer, and served VEP for many years. He and his wife have been married for over 28 years, and they have two grown children, both living in Southern California. Both Jim and his wife are retired from Lockheed Martin, and both are very active volunteers in the community, including VEP. Jim is also very active in Toastmasters, and is an accomplished speaker. He is a member of the Supervisory Committee for the Meriwest Credit Union, and has been very active with the credit union for over 11 years. His hobbies include photography. He also spends much of his time trading in stock options, which are mentally challenging and creative, as well as financially rewarding. He is not, however, a day-trader.

**Ginger Cardona, Treasurer.** This is Ginger's third year serving as Treasurer. Prior to that, she served as VEP's Secretary for three years. Ginger is a third generation San Josean. She and her husband Allan, have three children. Ginger is employed as a Project Manager for a medical software company. Ginger originally became active in VEP and the Executive Board when high-density development was proposed for the (then) golf driving range on Capitol Expressway and Vista Park Drive – across from where she lives. She has been a staunch and effective advocate for improvements to sound walls and landscaping there. She also coordinates the activities for the annual VEP Neighborhood Garage Sale, and has been a very active volunteer for the annual Memorial Day event.

**Dave Fadness, VEP NEWS Editor.** Now retired, Dave and his wife Aiko have lived in the San Jose area since 1966. Dave became actively involved with VEP as soon as they moved to Vista Park in March, 1974. He served as President of VEP in 1976-77, and again in 1983-84, and in 1984-85; Vice President in 1981-1983; and as VEP's News Editor from 1979-1981, 1987, 1988, and from 1992 to present. Volunteer civic and community service have always been an important and very satisfying part of his everyday life.

**Marilyn Rodgers, Immediate Past President.** Marilyn served as President for one year, and as Vice President prior to that. A registered nurse, she currently works part time for the Institute for Business Performance, teaching courses to adults hoping to transition into a second career in healthcare. She also works out of her home consulting in the areas of risk management/legal nurse consulting, and health and wellness. She and her husband Don have been VEP residents for over 30 years, moving to South San Jose after both graduated from San Jose State University. She is concerned about traffic and safety, and disaster preparedness. As a homeowner, who's property is adjacent to the Lester property, she hopes to actively participate in the planning and development of the soon to be Martial Cottle Regional Park. Other volunteer activities include Adopt-A-Street (cul du sac on Vista Park Drive), and

City of San Jose Anti-Litter Program. Marilyn also sits on several high school and college/university advisory boards.

**Jeri Arstingstall, Past President.** Jeri served as President of VEP for two years, and as Vice President for one year, prior to that. She is a professional photographer who is celebrating her 17th anniversary as owner of Precious Moments in Time. She, and husband Walt, met 27 years ago while both were working for the (then) Frontier Village Amusement Park. Jeri manages the VEP membership database. She is a very energetic and involved community leader, who enjoys volunteering and helping others.

**Dave Noel, Past President.** Dave has served on the VEP Executive Board since 1999. He served first as Vice President for 2 years, and then as President for 3 consecutive years. He remains active as a board member, leading our Community Service Awards, and various other activities throughout the year. He also contributes several articles for the VEP News each month, and serves as Co-Editor. Dave has been a local resident since 1971, taking time off between 1979 and 1983, to study Electrical Engineering at Cal Poly Pomona. He briefly settled in Santa Cruz, before returning to the area in 1987. Dave and his wife Maureen have been married 23 years, and have two sons, both in college. Dave's "day job" is Customer Service Manager for Aeroflex Cupertino, a manufacturer of electronic test equipment for broadband applications such as satellite communications, military radios, and digital television.

**Adina Pierce, Webmaster.** This is Adina's second year of serving as Webmaster. She has lived in the VEP neighborhood since November 2005, but has lived within three miles of the area her entire life. She met her husband Russ at Pioneer High School and has been married for 10 years. They have two children – Juliana (age 6) and Kevin (age 2). After graduating from San Jose State University, she worked at Hewlett Packard for 9 years. She became a victim of company-wide layoffs, and now works for Cisco as a web development contractor. Her main interest in the VEP community is the development of Martial Cottle Park. Since her family lives on the edge of the property, she is passionate about providing input and feedback for future plans. In her spare time, Adina enjoys digital photography, scrapbooking, cruising, cooking, swimming with her kids, and maintaining the Hacienda Science Magnet website.

**Debra Suydam, Hospitality Coordinator.** Debra is a very active VEP volunteer. She currently serves as the hospitality coordinator, and has also served as the Volunteer Coordinator in the past. She coordinated the beautification project – Daffodil Planting for the last two years. Debra moved to San Jose and VEP in 1995. She and her partner, Jeff Ismail, have a dog and 3 cats. Debra is employed by Stanley Tools as the Northern California Sales Representative for the electronics division. In addition to all of her activities for VEP, she also is a dedicated volunteer for the Humane Society of Silicone Valley. She enjoys traveling and playing tennis.

Please welcome our new board members, and thank our continuing members for their energy and commitment to VEP.

## Be a VEP volunteer!

## Great American Litter Pickup

-Marilyn Rodgers

On May 19<sup>th</sup>, VEP residents participated in the Great American Litter Pickup campaign. The event was sponsored by the City of San Jose. Each city councilperson facilitated participation in their respective districts.

Councilperson **Nancy Pyle** planned the District 10 kickoff at the Vista Park Community Center. More than 25 residents came to the center to sign in, pick up equipment, and visit over a cup of coffee before heading out on their mission to clean up litter in our neighborhoods.

Councilmember Pyle was assisted by her own staff and employees from the city's AntiLitter program.

VEP residents spread out over several designated areas. A determined crew of seven people zeroed-in on Chynoweth Avenue, between Hyde Park and Pearl Avenue. The results were pleasing to the eye.

This event is sponsored annually, so plan to join the fun next May and help make our neighborhoods more attractive!



## 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. They are a volunteer-based organization that provides business attire and other services. We 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, call (408) 451-1200, or visit [www.careercloset.org](http://www.careercloset.org),

## Introducing the Class of 2011

- Dave Noel

Each summer **Beloit College** in Wisconsin issues their Mindset List. A creation of Beloit's Keefer Professor of the Humanities **Tom McBride** and Public Affairs Director **Ron Nief**, it looks at the cultural touchstones that have shaped the lives of today's first-year students, most of whom were born in 1989. Below is a sampling of this year's list. For the whole list, visit [www.beloit.edu/~pubaff/mindset](http://www.beloit.edu/~pubaff/mindset).

1. What Berlin wall?
2. Humvees, minus the artillery, have always been available to the public.
4. They never "rolled down" a car window.
9. Nelson Mandela has always been free and a force in South Africa.
10. Pete Rose has never played baseball.
13. "Off the hook" has never had anything to do with a telephone.
16. Women have always been police chiefs in major cities.
22. No one has ever been able to sit down comfortably to a meal of "liver with some fava beans and a nice Chianti."
23. Wal-Mart has always been a larger retailer than Sears and has always employed more workers than GM.
27. Al Gore has always been running for president or thinking about it.
33. U2 has always been more than a spy plane.
34. They were introduced to Jack Nicholson as "The Joker."
35. Stadiums, rock tours and sporting events have always had corporate names.
37. Commercial product placements have been the norm in films and on TV.
39. Fox has always been a major network.
46. Most phone calls have never been private.
49. Virtual reality has always been available when the real thing failed.
53. Tiananmen Square is a 2008 Olympics venue, not the scene of a massacre.
54. The purchase of ivory has always been banned.
61. They never saw Johnny Carson live on television.
64. Chavez has nothing to do with iceberg lettuce and everything to do with oil.
66. The World Wide Web has been an online tool since they were born.
69. Dilbert has always been ridiculing cubicle culture.
70. Food packaging has always included nutritional labeling.



**Wesley W. Terrell**

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## VEP

### \*\* Membership Application \*\*

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

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

Last name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

First name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email address(es): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Comments): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Can you give VEP a few volunteer hours? \_\_\_\_\_

**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!

### What is VEP Community Association?

- VEP is an all-volunteer organization of your neighbors working to improve our neighborhoods; VEP is our community's "homeowner's association".
- VEP volunteers participate in a variety of activities, all of which originate in and benefit our neighborhoods.
- VEP volunteers make our neighborhood's views and needs known to government at all levels.
- Founded in 1969, we are one of the largest, most successful, and most active and enduring grass roots volunteer organizations in Santa Clara County.

### Why join VEP?

- To receive our newsletter nine times a year, keeping you up-to-date and informed.
- To participate in and support neighborhood activities and representation.
- To contribute to our annual VEP Community Service Awards for area high school graduates.
- To be part of an outstanding community organization with a long record of success for our neighborhoods.



# Bulletin Board Ads

ACCORDIAN DOORS: Free. Wood, excellent condition, for 80" high x 61" wide doorway (Arcadia Olympic master BR). Ready and easy to install. Call Dave @ 578-6428.

HANDY-MAN: Mr. Fix-it will repair leaks, sticking doors, locks, latches, lights, and life's little ills. No job is too small. Call John @ (408) 629-6433.

Use the following form as a guide for submitting an ad:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE# \_\_\_\_\_

AD WORDING: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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.

# Invite your neighbors to join VEP

# THE VEP NEWS



## VEP Community Association

P.O. Box 18111 San Jose, CA 95158

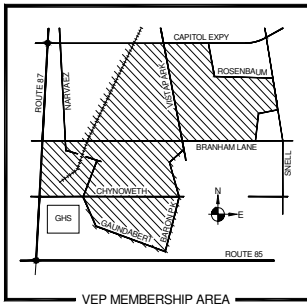
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Published monthly by VEP Community Association, a not-for-profit organization of volunteers established in 1969 to serve and represent more than 2000 homes in the Blossom Valley area of southern San Jose. VEP is dedicated to neighborhood maintenance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

### VEP EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President	Arlene Peterson	978-1713	<a href="mailto:arlene.peterson@sbcglobal.net">arlene.peterson@sbcglobal.net</a>
Vice President	Joe Tajnai	578-5882	<a href="mailto:joe@tajnai.com">joe@tajnai.com</a>
Secretary	Jim Hicks	227-0590	<a href="mailto:kr8ve@ix.netcom.com">kr8ve@ix.netcom.com</a>
Treasurer	Ginger Cardona	227-0222	<a href="mailto:cardona@sbcglobal.net">cardona@sbcglobal.net</a>
Editor	Dave Fadness	578-6428	<a href="mailto:drfadness@sbcglobal.net">drfadness@sbcglobal.net</a>



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

Community Room

Vista Park

7:30 pm in the

September 25th Meeting

Be sure to attend VEP's