

# THE VEP NEWS



## VEP Community Association

P.O. Box 18111 San Jose, CA 95158

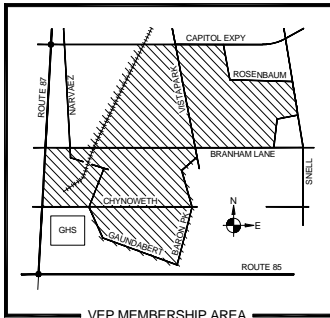
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Published monthly by VEP Community Association, a not-for-profit organization of volunteers established in 1969 to serve and represent more than 2000 homes in the Blossom Valley area of southern San Jose. VEP is dedicated to neighborhood maintenance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

in the

7:30 pm

March 24th Meeting

VEP'S

Be sure to

attend

attend

# VEP Community Calendar

## March / April 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 VEP General Meeting - Vista Park Community Center - 7:30 pm  Gunderson High School Blood Drive	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3 DEADLINE FOR APRIL ARTICLES	4
5	6 VEP Exec Committee Meeting - 7:30 pm - Vista Park Community Center	7	8	9	10	11
12 Easter	13	14	15	16	17	18
19*	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 VEP General Meeting - Vista Park Community Center - 7:30 pm	29	30	1	2 VEP Community Wide Garage Sale and E-Waste Event!

# VEP NEWS

## • VEP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION •

Representing More Than 2000 Families In The Blossom Valley Area Of South San Jose Since 1969

March 2009

Please make sure we have your membership renewal by April 1<sup>st</sup> to ensure you receive your April VEP news. The application form is available in this newsletter and on [www.vepca.net](http://www.vepca.net).

### VEP'S MEETING

7:30 p.m. Tuesday  
► March 24, 2009 ◀

Vista Park Community Room  
475 Hyde Park Drive

### AGENDA

#### ★ Disaster and Emergency Preparedness ★

A presentation by Alex Fraser  
Volunteer Trainer, San Jose Office of Emergency Services

#### ★ Crimestoppers ★

A presentation by Jim Cogan  
Silicon Valley President, Crimestoppers

#### ★ Rebuilding Together ★

A brief presentation by Tim Lynds

#### ★ VEP Business ★

Recognition and Appreciation  
of Normandin Chrysler Jeep

Application for 501(c)3 Tax Status  
Discuss and Approve Bylaws Modification

Councilmember Pyle's 5-Year City Plan  
Discussion of VEP Input

#### ★ Announcements ★

Memorial Day Festival and Parade  
VEP Membership Drive  
Call for Community Service Award Applicants  
Martial Cottle Park Design Plan

#### ★ Your Concerns and Ideas ★

Your chance to voice your opinion and/or to seek VEP's help.

Everyone is welcome. Invite your neighbors!

### VEP's March Meeting

by Marilyn Rodgers

Timely topics are planned for the March general membership meeting:

► **Disaster and Emergency Preparedness** – Guest Speaker **Alex Fraser**, Volunteer Trainer, San Jose Office of Emergency Services will provide a brief overview of what individuals, families, and neighborhoods can and should do to be prepared for disaster. Mr. Fraser will highlight information sessions planned for the whole family at the upcoming conference scheduled for Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>.

► **Crimestoppers** – **Jim Cogan**, VEP member and current Silicon Valley President of Crimestoppers, will give a presentation on this very successful volunteer crimefighting organization, including how their program and the reward system works in local neighborhoods and across the country.

► **Tim Lynds**, Community Outreach Coordinator for Rebuilding Together will provide a brief summary of their exciting programs. See article in this newsletter.

#### ► VEP Business

**Recognition and Appreciation of Normandin Chrysler Jeep.** VEP will be recognizing Normandin's 40 years of support for the VEP Community Association.

**VEP 501(c)3 Application – Modification of Bylaws.** Members will be asked to approve the proposed minor modifications to bylaws which is required to continue toward possible 501(c)3 status.

**Councilmember Pyle's 5-year City Plan – VEP Input.** Members will have an opportunity to discuss suggestions for inclusion in the Councilmember's plan.

► **Announcements** – of upcoming events or issues of interest.

► **Your Concerns and Ideas** - We always leave time to hear from you regarding concerns or issues that we can work together in resolving. This approach continues to make VEP neighborhoods strong, healthy, and attractive.

We look forward to seeing you, your family, your friends, and your neighbors at our **March 24th** meeting. Please join us!

### February General Meeting Synopsis

By Adina Pierce

There was a big turnout for the February meeting at the Vista Park Community Room. Our first guest was County Assessor, Larry Stone. He came and spoke about the home assessment process. For 2009, the valuation date is January 1. This year,

2009 is VEP's 40th year!

assessment cards will be mailed at the end of June instead of May, to allow more time for the county to appraise home values. Homes bought as far back as the year 2000 will be re-appraised. The appraisal is done free by county employees.

After you receive your card, you may file an assessment appeal between July 2 and August 15. To file an assessment appeal (if you think the county valued your home too high) visit the website [www.sccgov.org/portal/site/asr](http://www.sccgov.org/portal/site/asr) and click on "Assessment Appeals" in the right column. You may also call the office at 408/299-5500. There is a \$30 filing fee for each assessment appeal application.

Please be aware of property tax reduction scams. Many people have received letters in the mail, asking you to send in money to have your property tax reduced.

You can access current assessed property values online at: [eservices.sccgov.org/ari/home.do](http://eservices.sccgov.org/ari/home.do)

### **Martial Cottle Park Update**

Adina Pierce and Marilyn Rodgers gave an update on Martial Cottle Park. The February 10 Public Workshop had a large turnout, and a large majority of attendees were from VEP. Thank you for your support in requesting that they move the main entrance to Snell Avenue. See more information in this newsletter.

Charlie Friedericks gave an update on the survey he has been doing with neighbors along the western edge of the park. The design team is proposing a 45 foot buffer between the fence and the trail, and neighbors think that is not enough.

Here are the results of the 25 homes surveyed:

When asked "How would you prefer the land at the fence line be used?" 15 prefer farming just like it is now, 3 preferred trees, and the other 7 did not specify.

When asked about the proximity of trees to the fence: 14 wanted the trees far enough away that their view of the mountains would not be blocked, 6 wanted trees along the fence, and the other 5 did not specify.

When asked about the proximity of a trail to the fence: 9 agreed with VEP at 150', 3 said 300', one 600', one 700', one 100', one 50', two 45' and 7 did not specify.

When asked if they wanted or did not want a trail along the western border of the park: an overwhelming 22 said they did not want a trail along the western border, 2 wanted a trail and one was OK with a trail.

VEP stands by its original wish-list request made in January 2008, that we prefer a minimum 50 yard buffer zone, for security and privacy reasons. We also support having agriculture right up to the fence line.

**501c3** - Motion to approve \$750 out of VEP's savings to use to apply for 501c3 status. All in favor.

**Community Service Awards** - Update by Dave Noel (see article in this newsletter)

**Memorial Day Parade and Festival** - The Memorial Day Parade and Festival is on May 25, 2009. We are still looking for volunteers. (see article in this newsletter)

## **SeniorNet Offers Free Class on Discovering your Computer**

*by John McCulloch, SeniorNet Willows Publicity Coordinator*

SeniorNet will soon offer a new class to introduce prospective students to our program. The class is called "Discovering the PC and SeniorNet", and it will be free. It will be offered on two successive Mondays, March 30 and April 6, from 2 to 4 pm. It will be held at the Willows Senior Center, 2175 Lincoln Ave. (at Curtner Ave.), San Jose, 95125 in Room 7. This free class is an overview of the many courses offered at SeniorNet Willows; the student is given a course manual with the information discussed in class.



If you have a computer or have considered getting a computer, you have probably wondered what this magic box with Dual Core Processor, RAM, HD and LCD can do for you. What is all that stuff anyway? We will answer this question and much more.

The early part of this class will be devoted to introducing the student to computer hardware, the desktop, and mouse use. SeniorNet offers 3 levels of Introduction to Computers and we explain them. Then we will go on to discuss basic computer uses such as E-mail, Word Processing, Spreadsheets, Windows XP and File Management. We will then proceed to reveal the power of Organizing and Editing photos using Photoshop Elements; this class will go on to explain what is taught in each of the Four 8-week courses on digital photography.

An overview of the internet is provided as well as some remarks about courses utilizing the web such as: Best of the Internet, Fun with Google, Google Maps & Earth, Buying & Selling on E-bay, Digital Music Library, iTunes Searching Genealogy Online and Online Scrapbooks with Web Pages.

Soon you will realize that computers need some maintenance just like your car, but it's cheaper. SeniorNet offers a course in Maintenance and Security; we want you to be able to do online banking without giving away your password.

Somewhere among our 20 courses is one and probably many more that will interest you and open up doors to a new hobby to make your senior years more rewarding. If you would like to attend this free class, call John at (408) 978-5946. There is more information about SeniorNet at our website, [www.snicsj.org](http://www.snicsj.org)

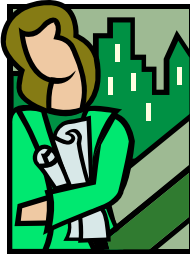
SeniorNet is a worldwide organization which supports over 140 learning centers. It is a non-profit organization founded in 1986. The purpose is to provide computer education and access to people over 50.

**Add VEP's website [www.vepca.net](http://www.vepca.net) to your "favorites"**

## VEP's input to Nancy Pyle's 5-Year Plan

By Dave Fadness

At VEP's November meeting, our City Councilwoman Nancy Pyle presented a draft of her comprehensive Five Year Plan for San Jose District 10. She expressed willingness that night to accept suggestions from us on items we'd like her to include.



Councilwoman Pyle's five year plan currently includes these five major goals:

Goal #1, Make San Jose an economically self sustainable city.

Goal #2, Become a leader in education.

Goal #3, Establish an international reputation for the City of San Jose.

Goal #4, Create an environmentally sustainable City by implementing the Green Vision.

Goal #5, Become a leader in emergency preparation at both a macro and micro level.

Using the Goals & Objectives and wish-lists our members have adopted over recent years, your VEP Board came up with the following list of suggestions. Please notice that we're also suggesting two additional major Goals #6 and #7.

This list of suggestions will be open for discussion, amendment, and adoption at our March 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. Upon adoption, our list will be submitted to Councilwoman Nancy Pyle. Someone from her office will be with us that night.

Bring your ideas. Help shape the Plan for our part of San Jose in the coming five years.

These are our suggested *additions* (shown in *italics*) to Councilwoman Pyle's 5-Year Plan:

Goal #1 - Make San Jose an economically self-sustainable city

- *To encourage the growth of new small businesses in San Jose, survey the business license fee structure of other Silicon Valley cities and make ours equal to or less than the least expensive of them. Embark on an education process that makes those who are opening a new business aware of the need for business licenses. Also, evaluate the excessive penalties charged to those who don't know a license is needed.*
- *Encourage the development of a Small Business Chamber of Commerce.*

Goal #2 - Help San Jose become a force for youth

*Encourage and support vocational training for non-college bound students*

*Provide incentives for private businesses to provide entry level jobs, especially in green technology*

Recognize the contributions of youth

- *Recognize youth for volunteerism*
- *Encourage community associations and organizations focused on volunteerism to give financial assistance (awards, scholarships) for college or vocational training*



- *Initiate a coalition of community associations, businesses, and schools to be a clearing house for both paid and unpaid work internships for youth*

Goal #3 - Establish an international reputation for the City of San Jose

Overhauling San Jose's visitor's bureau. *Develop San Jose Ambassador's program - provide education for business and professional people who have national and international contacts to market San Jose's attributes*



*Continue to strengthen relationship with colleges and universities, with a particular focus on San Jose State. Increase outreach to professional schools.*

Goal #4 - Create an environmentally sustainable City by implementing the Green Vision - Make San Jose the Green Capital of the US

Green Vision Goals:

6. Recycle or beneficially reuse 100 percent of our wastewater (100 million gallons per day); *change San Jose building and landscaping codes to implement this goal*
7. Adopt a General Plan with measurable standards for economic, fiscal, and environmentally sustainable development
8. Ensure that 100 percent of public fleet vehicles run on alternative fuels. *Reduce annual public fleet miles driven by 10% per year and reduce fleet size by 5% per year.*
10. *Direct more attention, education, and funding to maintain and improve our existing urban forest, particularly on our streets, in parks, schools, and other public places.*
12. *Continue to work with State and Federal governments to provide financial incentives for both businesses and individual homeowners to convert to green energy sources.*
13. *Make solar power initiatives more practical and incorporate them in all new public buildings and surface parking lots.*

Goal #5 - Become a leader in emergency preparation at both a macro and micro level

Need far more preparation at the neighborhood and individual level - *Develop a coalition of community associations, schools, churches, and staff of Parks (PRNS) representing city parks and community centers to develop plans for "community focused sheltering" in the event of a major disaster.*



*Have the newly forming Neighborhoods Commission take on emergency preparedness as a project.*

Goal #6 - Maintain and improve our urban infrastructure to support business development and excellent quality of life for residents in District 10

Work with the State, Santa Clara County Parks, and Supervisor Don Gage to complete a Martial Cottle Park master plan that reflects Walter Lester's vision and to expedite its development into a usable regional park facility.



Work with Santa Clara County Roads, Supervisor Don Gage, VTA, and Caltrans to expedite funding for improvement of traffic safety and congestion conditions at the Capitol-Narvaez approach to northbound Route 87.

Work with Santa Clara County Roads and Supervisor Don Gage to expedite completion of planned improvements on Almaden Expressway between Blossom Hill Road and Branham Lane.

Work with Santa Clara County Roads, Supervisor Don Gage, VTA, and Caltrans to accelerate the development, approval, funding, and implementation of an improved interchange at Route 85 and Almaden Expressway.

Work with San Jose Public Works and Department of Transportation to improve surface conditions on major District 10 arterials like Chynoweth Avenue and Vistapark Drive.

Work to reinstate funding for the widening of Branham Lane to four lanes (Snell Avenue to Vistapark Drive) and to re-stripe Branham Lane to four lanes from Vistapark Drive to Route 87.

Build a city park on the southeast corner of Capitol-Narvaez, adjacent to Canoas Creek.

Complete the landscaping improvements planned for the Vista Park community room.

Provide more local dog parks and/or dog runs at city parks (one per district is not adequate).

Goal #7: Promote interaction, volunteer involvement, pride, and preparedness in our community

Work with community members to develop an updated city policy detailing both the kinds of city maintenance and improvement activities volunteers may be involved in and what level of support would be provided by the city.

Encourage citizen participation in neighborhood safety programs, crime prevention, and disaster/emergency preparedness.

Organize and encourage citizen participation in community planting, pruning, cleanup, and maintenance projects.

Identify and encourage graffiti removal when/where ever it occurs in and around our city.

[End]



### Susan Iverson

Independent Consultant  
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(408) 813-0592

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December 13 - 10 am to Midnight



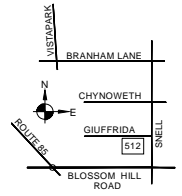
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## Gunderson High School News

By Trish Burtill

### POETRY SLAM

Gunderson High School will once again be presenting the POETRY SLAM. This event takes place at lunch in the theater during the week of March 30. Feel free to stop by and watch our talented students perform original poetry that is judged daily. The event culminates on Friday, April 3 with the student finalists performing their pieces. Additionally, a guest artist will be performing. This event is a wonderful and very popular Gunderson tradition. Tickets will be on sale at the door for on Friday evening. The event starts at 7pm.



### ACADEMIC AWARDS

Gunderson will host the annual Academic Awards Night on April 9 in the gym. This event is presented by the PTSA and begins at 7pm. Gunderson is proud to honor our student achievers.

### JEFFERSON AWARDS for PUBLIC SERVICE

A group of students will be attending the Youth Service Initiative conference in San Leandro on March 21. These students recently presented a project that they're working on to a panel of Jefferson Award judges, and in doing so, entered themselves in a competition for a trip to Washington, D.C. Gunderson High School hosted the competition at the end of February. These fine students have been working on a large scale Community Service Fair that will take place at Gunderson on March 25 from noon to 3, allowing all students the opportunity to learn about organizations that need their help.

### COMMUNITY BUDGET MEETING

There will be a meeting to discuss the \$16.5 million budget shortfall confronting San Jose Unified School District. This meeting will be held on March 19 at Pioneer High School, starting at 6:30pm. The superintendent and many board members will be on hand to hear your thoughts and answer questions.

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**Village Harvest**

If you have more oranges or other crops than you can use, Village Harvest will come pick them and donate them for you. Village Harvest is a nonprofit suburban harvesting cooperative in Santa Clara Valley which brings together neighbors and community organizations to provide food for the hungry, preserve our heritage and skills, and promote sustainable use of urban resources. Village Harvest organizes and coordinates backyard fruit harvesting, and provides education on fruit tree care, harvesting, and food preservation.

Village harvest works closely with County Agriculture officials to ensure that their Harvesting for the Hungry efforts are in compliance with local quarantines, providing special inspections to support their harvests.

For more information, call (888) FRUIT-411, or visit [www.villageharvest.org](http://www.villageharvest.org).

**San Jose Library Teen Graphic Novel Contest**

Youth between the ages of 12 and 19 are invited to create a graphic novel, up to 10 pages long on letter-size paper, to enter in a contest sponsored by San José Public Library Youth Services. Each submission must be the creative and original work of a single individual. Submissions may be dropped off at any San Jose branch library; limit one entry per contestant. Entries must be received no later than 6 p.m. on Friday, May 8, 2009.

Entries will be judged by a panel of library staff and community volunteers, based on the content and illustrations. Winners will be notified by May 29. Four prizes will be awarded:

- First prize - \$100 gift card
- Second prize - \$75
- Third prize - \$50
- Fourth prize - \$25

Up to 50 copies of the winner's book will be reproduced in black and white, and distributed free or charge. One copy per person may be picked up at the following branch libraries while supplies last: Almaden, Berryessa, Cambrian, Calabazas, Alum Rock, Evergreen, Hillview, Joyce Ellington, King, Pearl, Tully, and West Valley. For more information, call (408) 808-3030.

**Potential Elder Abuse Scam**

By Mona Favorite-Hill (\*)



San Jose Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services has gotten word from Willows Senior Center of a potential Elder Financial Abuse Scam in the area. Individuals identifying themselves as representing San Jose senior centers are calling Seniors Citizens asking them about their financial assets and offering to go to their homes to discuss their assets. If asked for more information they hang up. PRNS has:

- \* reported the incident to PD's Financial Crimes Division
- \* sent a Scam Alert to the media
- \* posted notices on their website and at their facilities

(\*) Mona Favorite-Hill is a Communications Manager for the City of San Jose Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services

**Combating Graffiti**

By Dave Noel

You probably know the key to defeating graffiti is to cover it quickly. We're fortunate to have some vigilant volunteers in our community who do this on our behalf. Here are some things you may not know.

First, often graffiti can be cleaned up with a solvent instead of painting over it, with much nicer looking results. San Jose provides training and free materials for anti-graffiti volunteers.

Second, graffiti clean-up falls into various jurisdictions, so by calling the correct number, it's likely to be cleaned up more quickly.

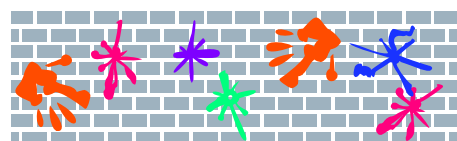
Finally, you can also take photos of the graffiti and report it to the police. That can help them track down the individual taggers.

**To Report Graffiti...**

**Phone #**

Vandalism <i>in progress</i>	9-1-1
Vandalism <i>from a cell phone</i>	277-8911
Vandalism <i>after the fact</i>	3-1-1
On libraries, parks & community centers	277-4741
On painted curbs & on the street	277-3626
On street signs	277-4691
On all expressways	494-1307
On bus stops	321-5800
On light-rail	321-2300
On Highway signs	(510) 536-0413
On Highway roads	436-0930
Taggers <i>anonymously</i>	947-7867
San Jose Information Center	535-3500
Anti-Graffiti Hotline	277-2758

Many thanks to long-time VEP member **Rob Giannoccaro** for this helpful information.



## Removing Your Swimming Pool? Here are the Rules...

By Dave Fadness(\*)

Not using your swimming pool as often as you did in the past? Growing tired of the maintenance issues, costs, and liabilities associated with your swimming pool? Some of our neighbors are, and wonder what the requirements are for removal.



As was the case when your pool was built, a city permit and inspections are required to have it removed (or filled in).

When an in-ground swimming pool is removed, the area of backfill must be designated a "non-build" area or the fill must be properly compacted and the backfill operation observed by a State licensed soils engineer. The permit process and inspections are slightly different depending on which path is chosen.

Here's what city code requires:

~ Pool demolition permit (for a non-build area) ~

1. If the pool is going to be filled in and the area is not going to be used for building in the future, then all that is required to obtain a permit is a plot plan. That plan must show your entire lot with all buildings shown to scale and the location of the pool shown with dimensions from all property lines and structures clearly indicated. The area of the pool excavation must be clearly marked with the words, "Non-Build Area".
2. If there is a gas boiler associated with the pool then this must be indicated and the gas line must be disconnected at the source and properly capped off. A copy of the site plan will be kept in the Building Division files.
3. After obtaining a permit, the pool owner (you) or permit holder (your contractor) must call for an inspection. The inspection can be before or after the pool has been filled, but it must be obvious to the inspector where the pool was located. It is recommended that large holes be punched through the bottom of the pool for drainage. The inspector will verify that the plot plan is accurate and that the gas line and electrical wiring (if applicable) is capped off. If these things are approved, the inspector will finalize the permit.

~ Pool demolition permit (supervised backfill) ~

1. If any of the area where the pool was located is going to be built on in the future, a plot plan must be provided that details the location, size, and depth of the area to be filled in as well as a demolition, drainage, and compaction plan prepared by a State licensed engineer.
2. A special inspection form also must be submitted prior to permit issuance, designating the supervising engineer or special inspection agency that will be doing the backfill compaction observation and providing a compaction report in order to declare the abated area as a buildable area.
3. One inspection is performed by the City of San Jose Building Division for pool abatement where the backfill and compaction will be supervised by a Special Inspection Agency. The purpose for permit issuance is to document the location of the removal and to review compaction documentation. The special inspection final inspection letter, certifying that the excavation was compacted to 95% will be accepted as the final inspection. The gas line and electrical wiring (if applica-

ble) must be capped off as well to obtain a final inspection.

\*\*\*\*\*

Additional information can be obtained by calling our Information Inspector's voice mail at (408) 535-7601 and leaving a detailed message, or by visiting [www.sanjoseca.gov/building](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/building). In addition, you may visit the Building Division in City Hall at 200 East Santa Clara Street.

[(\*)Ed. Note: The preceding article was taken from City of San Jose Building Division Informational Handout #1-12, Pool Demolition Requirements, revised 3-21-08.]

## Free Home Repair and Accessibility Modifications

By Tim Lynds (\*)



Rebuilding Together is a non-profit organization that brings together volunteers to provide repair and safety modification work for low to moderate income homeowners, particularly the elderly and disabled. All work is provided at no cost to the applicant.

All repair work focuses on neighborhood revitalization and safety improvements, such as grab bar, railing and ramp installation and minor repairs in plumbing, flooring, electrical & carpentry. Additional work may also include interior or exterior painting and yard clean-up. Applications are accepted year round.

Each year over 2500 local volunteers are involved with Rebuilding Together Silicon Valley. Volunteers assist with our twice a year Rebuilding Day projects as well as office support, language translation, project selection, etc.

We are currently recruiting volunteers for our April 25th Rebuilding Day as well as volunteers who are willing and able to volunteer one day a week on a regular basis to help with year round accessibility modification projects in our Neighbor to Neighbor program. Experience in construction/home repair is helpful but not necessary.

We are also currently looking for homeowners who need warmth, safety, and independence repairs. Applications are accepted year round.

For an application for home repairs, or information on volunteering, please call Rebuilding Together Silicon Valley at (408) 578-9519 or visit us at [www.rtsv.org](http://www.rtsv.org).

[(\*)Ed Note: Tim Lynds is the Community Outreach Coordinator for Rebuilding Together Silicon Valley. He can be contacted at [tylds@rebuildingtogether-sv.org](mailto:tylds@rebuildingtogether-sv.org) or (408) 578-9519.]

## ENCORE POOL CABANA CLUB



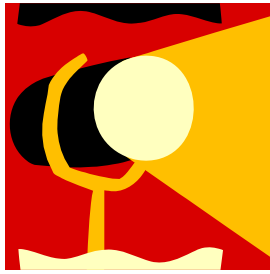
Summer Membership Available  
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## Advertiser Spotlight

Each month we will be presenting an article on a VEP advertiser. Our advertisers are key to our ability to provide a quality monthly newsletter, and encourage our members to patronize them whenever they have the opportunity.



Normadin Chrysler has supported VEP since its inception, even providing meeting space when it was needed.

Amable Normadin was his given name but everyone called him "Amos". He began as a blacksmith's apprentice in Montreal, Canada, and with the money he earned building sleighs he came to California.

In 1870 on his arrival in San Francisco, Amos Normadin opened a blacksmith shop. Five years later in 1875, with F. D. Hatman, a skilled woodworker, he formed a buggy and harness business partnership in San Jose. They called it the Pacific Carriage Factory and would produce only vehicles of high quality. The business was originally located at 411 2nd Street.

The business was moved to 208 W. Santa Clara St. where it continued to grow, enabling it to become distributor for eastern made vehicles. It was here in the spring of 1882 that Amos Normadin and his partner began building to order a surrey for T. C. Colombet. It was completed in time to be used for the July Fourth celebration that year. Mrs. Colombet, years later, turned it back to Amos Normadin's son, Louis. The surrey was then elevated to a lofty perch with a weathervane atop the building. From then on the little surrey became the Normadin trademark.

In 1903 the Normadin-Hatman partnership was purchased by Fritz Campen, Peter Maloney and Louis A. Normadin. On July first that year, the carriage firm became Normadin-Campen. What was considered a revolutionary step in the fall of 1906, the business was extended to deal in horseless carriages.

Continuing to expand, the firm moved to 220 W. Santa Clara St. in 1911 and became the agency for the now obsolete Hudson and Essex autos. By 1926, dealing directly with the factory, Normadin became the distributor for the four central coast counties. Branch agencies were opened in Watsonville and Santa Cruz.

One of San Jose's largest mercantile transactions of the day occurred when Louis O. Normadin, in December 1931, bought the interests of his two partners of twenty-eight years. Peter Maloney stayed on with the firm as sales manager. The remainder of the purchase was made from the estate of the late Fritz B. Campen. By July 1932 the firm's name was shortened to Normadin with Louis A. Normadin the sole proprietor.

Since 1933 the company has been associated with the Chrysler Corporation. The next progressive move of the company was to larger quarters at 405 W. Santa Clara St. The day after Christmas in 1934, a destructive fire caused considerable damage to both stock and structure.

On May 1, 1940, Irving Normadin was appointed sales

manager by his father, Louis O. Normadin. Louis Normadin was a respected leader among the business men of the community, On his death, sons Irving L. and Clair A. Normadin became managers of the business

The four generations of the Normadin family have operated their business with the same care and concern fostered by Amos Normadin over a century ago. Lon Normadin, great grandson of the founder, has joined the family owned business to continue into a second century of providing best quality vehicles and service in the Normadin tradition.

In 1969 the little surrey of 1882 was again moved to occupy a more sheltered place of honor in the spacious new Normadin quarters at 900 West Capitol Expressway.

Today Normadin's is primarily a dealer in Chrysler, Plymouth and Subaru automobiles, but services all makes of cars. Many of its employees have been with the company more than 20 years, and today they use up-to-date electronic and mechanical equipment which is a far cry from the equipment of the carriage builder of a century ago.

This article is reprinted from "A Century of Service -- San Jose's 100 Year Old Business Firms, Organizations and Institutions" published by the San Jose Bicentennial Commission in 1977.



*Amable Normadin (Amos) and wife Salina (Pinard)  
Photo taken about 1880,*

**Be a VEP volunteer!**

## Thank You to Normandin Chrysler Jeep

by Marilyn Rodgers

At VEP's March 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, we will be recognizing and thanking **Normandin Chrysler Jeep** as a long time supporter of our community association. (See article by Dave Fadness on Normandin's history in the valley.) VEP celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year, and Normandin has supported us from our inception. In addition to being an advertiser in the VEP Newsletter for 40 years, Normandin provided support in several additional ways. In the early years of VEP, Normandin subsidized the printing costs of the VEP newsletter, and also provided free meeting room space for our meetings. In more recent years, they have been business supporters of the VEP Memorial Day Parade and Festival, providing both a car for VEP Executive Board members use, and in driving classic jeeps as participants in the parade. Thank you for your support of the community and for your ongoing support of VEP!

## Thank You to VEP Advertisers

by Marilyn Rodgers

VEP wants to say **thank you to our advertisers**. Several of our advertisers have been loyal supporters of VEP for many years. Their financial contribution is invaluable to VEP's success and longevity. Please take a minute and browse through the VEP News, with an eye to the variety of businesses represented. Be sure to **contact them first** when you, or your family and friends, have a need for their type of service or product. Also, don't forget to let them know that you saw their ad in the VEP News, and how much their support is appreciated!

VEP has developed additional opportunities to increase our advertisers' visibility with our members. These include providing links to their business from our website at [www.vepca.net](http://www.vepca.net), and spotlighting one business each month at our general membership meeting, and in the VEP News.

We currently have space for a few more advertisers. If you own a business, or know of a business that would benefit from advertising in the VEP News, please contact us.



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## VEP Membership Drive – Ends April 1st!

by Marilyn Rodgers

March is the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final month of VEP's annual membership drive. If you have not already done so, please take a moment to fill out the membership application/renewal, and mail it in with your check for \$20.00 to VEP Community Association, P.O. Box 18111, San Jose, Ca. 95158. Be sure to let us know if you are interested in:

- 1) Volunteering a few hours of your time to VEP – please check the box for the activity(s) that you would be interested in helping with,
- 2) Provide us with your e-mail address – this helps us keep you informed about issues in between newsletters (very important during the summer months), and
- 3) Let us know if you are interested in the option to receive the VEP Newsletter via email (check the “prefer” box). If you would like this option, but forgot to check the box when you sent in your membership, just send an e-mail to [vepca@vepca.net](mailto:vepca@vepca.net).

The first of April is when the VEP membership database files will be purged. While we accept memberships anytime during the year, to prevent any disruption in membership or in receiving the VEP Newsletter, please be sure to send in your membership by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you for your continuing support of VEP!

## VEP Membership Drive – Member Comments

by Jeri Arstingstall and Marilyn Rodgers

VEP's annual membership drive is now in its third and final month. If you have already sent in your renewal, thank you for your continuing support of VEP! Many of our members include comments on their renewals. Here is a sample:

Appreciate all your hard work!

Appreciate your efforts to make this a better community to live in.

I Love VEP!

I would love to help, but I am having hand surgery. Thank you for all you do.

Interested in Martial Cottle Park

Keep up the good work

Keep up the good work & thankx!

Keep up the good work. Thank you.

Sorry we can't help at this time but Really Appreciate the work of so many!

Thank you

Thank you !!

Thank you for the continued communication Thank you!

Thanks

Thanks again for all you do. You are all very much appreciated.

Thanks for ALL you do!

Thanks for all your work!

Thanks for what you do to improve the community Thanks to all the staff at VEP news for doing such a good job.

Thanks!

Too old and disabled to volunteer, but wish I could. 93 years member since 1972, Feb We're outside the area but enjoy getting the newsletters.

What a wonderful job you all do. Thank you.

You do a great job!

**Invite your neighbors  
to join VEP**

## Gunderson High School Sports

By PJ Daley

Our winter sports season just ended but it was a fantastic ride! We enjoyed great success on and off the playing field. On the academic side, we did tremendously. We only lost 2 athletes to grades and gained 7 students back who were previously ineligible. This is a great testament to the student-athletes, parents, teachers, and coaches who have stressed the importance of academics.



We added a junior varsity girls soccer team for the first time in nearly ten years. Our varsity girls soccer team had more success this year than any in recent memory. They tripled their win total from a year ago and return many players next year. Our varsity boys soccer team narrowly missed the CCS playoffs with an 8-3-3 record. For the first time in school history, we also hosted two soccer night games, both of which were huge successes.

Both our varsity girls and varsity boys basketball teams made it to the second round of CCS playoffs. The boys, rolled to a 12-1 league record and clinched their first division title in over a decade. The varsity basketball team was also given the tremendous honor of being featured on Cal High sports. In addition, the girls Coach, John Drake, was nominated for CCS honor coach and the boy's coach, Kevin Blunt was named BVAL West Valley Division coach of the year.

Additionally, our wrestling team has also had success this winter. We had four athletes qualify for CCS.

Our spring sports have begun practicing and many will participate in pre-season games next week. Our spring sports include: track and field, badminton, Junior varsity and varsity boys volleyball, swimming, boys tennis, boys golf, Varsity baseball, junior varsity and varsity softball. All spring contests are admission free so we'll see you at the game! a large scale Community Service Fair that will take place at Gunderson on March 25 from noon to 3, allowing all students the opportunity to learn about organizations that need their help.

## San Jose Unified, Trustee Update

By Veronica Grijalva Lewis

### State Budget and Impact to SJUSD

#### State Budget

The California State Budget is a two year shortfall that includes \$14.4 billion in temporary revenue and \$11 billion in borrowing, leaving \$15 billion in cuts. On May 19<sup>th</sup> there will be a Special Election that will have five specific proposals that are needed to implement the budget plan.

Total cuts to K-12 education in the current year will be about \$2.3 Billion, split between base Revenue Limits and State Categoricals. In the budget year 2009-10 previous budget cuts continue with an additional cut to Revenue Limit of \$45 per student and an additional 5% cut to Categoricals

#### San Jose Unified Budget:

##### Current year: 2008/09

Total projected revenue loss- **\$12.6 million** = 5.2% loss in State Revenue, split about 40/60 between Base Revenue Limit and State Categoricals.

Revenue Limit loss \$160 per student = \$4.8 Million.  
State Categorical 15% loss for SJUSD = \$7.8 Million.

##### Budget Year 2009/10

Total projected revenue loss- **\$16.5 Million**= 6.8% loss in State Revenue. Revenue Limit loss \$205 per student Equals \$6.1 million.

State Categoricals 20% loss + \$10.4 million.

#### Federal Stimulus Package:

The estimated, one time allocations, which will need to be spent in two years : Title I- \$4,287,000 and IDEA- \$6,918,000. The goal is to get these funds to the states in 30 days and then to districts in another 30 days.

#### San Jose Unified Positives

Unrestricted reserves – 9% = \$27 Million. This reserve was established in 2005-06 from the mandated costs we collected from the state.

#### Fiscally Conservative :

.68 Revenue Limit COLA held in reserves = \$1 M  
7% of state categorical reserved + \$4.4 M  
Expenditure freeze, estimated savings+ \$4 M  
Employee Work Furlough days= \$1.5 M

We are havng Community Budget meetings in March; the next three start at **6:30 PM** on:

**March 19<sup>th</sup> @ Pioneer**

**March 24 @ San Jose High Academy**

**March 30 @ Willow Glen High**

To see the presentation log onto [www.sjUSD.org](http://www.sjUSD.org) and click onto Budget Update in upper left corner. If you wish to take our survey you can click on to Community Budget Survey. We will be gathering input from all stakeholders as we create the budget for the 2009-10 school year.

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## March Madness

By John Marks

Haven't you noticed, weeds come slithering out of the soil with the slightest tug. Now's the time to scout around gathering up those milk weeds, so start pulling up those milk weeds and others you can spot.



But what about those little six-packs of tomatoes and peppers that are beckoning from the nursery shelves? Go ahead and buy them, but keep them indoors in a sunny window to help them grow bigger and stronger (you'll save a bundle from what you'd have to pay later for the same size plants). Move them to four-inch containers, then to one-gallon buckets outside as we move towards May.

What exactly are we waiting for before planting them? Day-time temperatures of 70 degrees. Cold, damp weather will bring out snails and slugs in droves. They will feast on the tender new growth of bulbs and winter plants. Hand pick, or use a bait, but don't let them go unchecked because they will mow down the garden. You can prune now, also, especially roses and fruit trees. Right now, plant winter vegetables such as broccoli, cabbage, peas and beets for a spring harvest. Put in pansies, snapdragons and calendulas.

When will the soil be ready for general planting? squeeze a handful of soil, and if it sticks together like putty, it's too wet. If it crumbles and falls from your hand, it's OK to dig and plant. It takes at least five rainless days for soil to dry out. Rake up leaves you might have missed earlier, to help the soil dry out, and get them off the lawn. Leaves provide hiding spots for overwintering insects.

And what about feeding the birds? They're building nests and starting families. You can attract hummingbirds to fee in your garden by planting fuchsias. Planted now in partial shade away from drying wind, fuchsias will bloom from early summer until frost. Fuchsias can be planted in the ground or in containers, and trailing types do well in hanging baskets.

The trick to fuchsias: lots of moisture using a potting mix that retains moisture. They also benefit from mist spray. In containers, use wood or light colored plastic; dark plastic pots retain too much heat, and feeder roots can be burned. Encourage bushy, flowery growth by pinching dead blossoms, and use liquid fertilizer. The more small pinches you make now on growing tips, the more flowering branchlets this summer.

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Use herbs as landscaping plants. Chives and parsley add attractive foliage among blooming flowers. Rosemary and woolly thyme will take off and make attractive, drought-tolerant ground covers. Wildflower seeds can still be sown and are suitable in many areas where other plantings don't seem to thrive. Plant summer-blooming bulbs, corms and tubers, including begonias, calla lilies, canna lilies, dahlias and gladioluses.

## March Events at the Pearl Avenue Branch Library

By Jane Cronkhite, Librarian



Parents are invited to learn healthy eating and exercise habits for toddlers and preschoolers at **Healthy Habits on Wednesday, March 25 at 6 p.m.** The class includes activities and stories for children, including older siblings. Class size is limited, so sign up at the library.

Preschoolers-sixth graders are invited to **Reading Buddies every first Thursday and third Friday of the month 4-5 p.m.** Read your favorite books and discover new stories with the library's teen volunteers.

Teens and adults are invited to take our **Women's History Quiz** all month long and return it at the service desk for a chance to win a \$25 Target gift card.

### Story Times:

- **Chinese Story time** for all ages is on **March 24 at 7 pm.**
- **Preschool Story time** for ages 3-5 is every **Wednesday at 11:30 am.**
- **Toddler Story Time with Stay and Play** for ages 18-36 months is every **Friday at 10:30 am.**
- **Family Story time** is held on **Saturdays at 10:30 am.**

### Regular events and workshops:

- **Free2Succeed: Resume Reviews** are available all month long; submit your resume to [pearlavelibrary@gmail.com](mailto:pearlavelibrary@gmail.com).
- The **ESL Conversation Club** meets on **Mondays at 5 pm.** This one-hour session is a great way to practice your English and to make friends at the library. No pre-registration required.
- **Survival English** is a beginning/intermediate class designed for non-native speakers who want to improve their skills in listening and speaking English. The class is offered every **Tuesday and Thursday from 9-11 am.** Enrollment is open through [www.metroed.net](http://www.metroed.net) or (408) 723-6450.
- The library now offers **Internet Básico en Español at 6 pm on Tuesdays.** Sign up for at the service desk or by calling (408) 808-3053.
- **Wii Gaming for Teens** is every **Thursday at 4 pm.**
- **Wii Fitness** is light exercise for adults and seniors on **Thursdays at 11 am.**
- The **Pearl Avenue Book Club** meets **Tuesday, March 24 at 6:30 pm.** We will read *Three Cups of Tea* by Mortenson and Relin.
- **Read and Win Game** is for children in grades 4-6 on **Monday, March 30 at 3:30 p.m.** This month we read *The Island of Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell and play reading Jeopardy for prizes.
- This month's **Children's Craft** will be a spring surprise craft on **Friday, March 27 at 4 p.m.**

## VEP's 25th Annual Community Service Awards

By Dave Noel

For our 25th consecutive year, VEP will offer grants towards higher education or vocational training for up to three graduating high school seniors with exceptional records of volunteer community service.



▶▶ APPLICATIONS ARE DUE APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup> ◀◀

At our January general meeting, members unanimously approved a plan to award up to three CSAs of \$650 each for graduating high school students from Gunderson High School, Andrew Hill School, and "At-Large" (or \$1000 each if we grant only one or two awards). Our At-Large award is available to students who live in the VEP area, or who are children of VEP members and live in San Jose.

Applications were distributed to Gunderson and Andrew Hill High schools in mid March and are also posted on VEP's website. VEP has asked each school to nominate at least two students and provide us their completed applications by April 30<sup>th</sup>. If you know a Gunderson or Andrew Hill student deserving consideration for this award, please encourage them to talk to their designated administrator:

**Andrew Hill = Joe Ortega**  
**Gunderson = Nabil Shahin**

Our At-Large application form was published in the February VEP News, and is available on VEP's website.

We will present our Gunderson and Andrew Hill awards at each school's respective senior awards night in late May or early June. If we have an At-Large winner, we will present that award at our May 26<sup>th</sup> general meeting.

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

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## Community-Wide Garage Sale on May 2<sup>nd</sup>

By Dave Fadness & Ginger Cardona

**Save the date:** Our annual *Community Garage Sale* will be held on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

We want to get everyone in our community to have a garage sale on the same day. The best way to find a new home for your unused stuff is to increase traffic to your home. So, VEP will advertise this event in local newspapers and by distributing flyers around our neighborhoods.

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 home and putting extra money in your pocket.

As we did last year, we'll try to have a charity such as the Salvation Army come out to collect unsold treasures in return for tax deductible receipts.

## e-Waste pick-up set for May 2<sup>nd</sup>

By Dave Noel

VEP is teaming up with Gunderson High School and *Earthcare Recycling* to hold an e-waste pick-up from 9 am until 3 pm on Saturday May 2nd, the same day as VEP's *Community-Wide Garage Sale*. Special thanks to VEP resident and Gunderson teacher **Rob Iverson** for being our GHS sponsor, and **Steve Ramona** at Earthcare Recycling.

This will be a win-win event. Here's why:

- ☺ Gunderson High School will receive funds from the recycling value of the e-waste.
- ☺ Gunderson students will distribute flyers to the VEP community to advertise both events.
- ☺ After your garage sale, you can drop off your recyclable e-waste at Gunderson instead of putting it back in your garage.

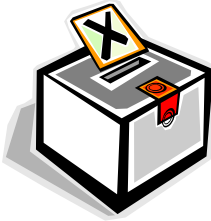
For more information on the e-waste recycling event, and for complimentary home or business pickup during the week before the event, contact Steve Ramona of Earthcare Recycling at 408-943-9943 or stever@earthcarerecycling.com. Note that all e-waste recyclers are now required to collect donor information for all TVs and computer monitors.

Press releases for the e-waste event will also promote the Garage Sale.

## Upcoming VEP Board Elections

by Marilyn Rodgers

In May, VEP will be electing members to sit on the Board. Changes to the VEP Constitution and Bylaws, recently approved by the membership, increased the number of seats on the Board from five to seven. We currently have an open seat on the VEP Executive Board.



Have you considered serving on the VEP Board? It is a great opportunity to serve your community, while learning more about your neighborhood and your city. It is also a fun and rewarding way to meet many of your neighbors. If you have an idea or project that you feel passionate about, or would like to see VEP sponsor, join the Board. For additional information, please contact any board member. Come on, join us, its fun!

## San Jose Named a "Tree City USA"

By Nancy Pyle, Councilmember, District Ten

For the 27th consecutive year, San Jose has been named a "Tree City USA" by the Arbor Day Foundation. The "Tree City USA" designation is a coveted national award showing a city's commitment to community forestry and recognition of the benefits that trees provide towards producing a livable city. Due to continued budget cutbacks, which included the elimination of the City's Tree Crew, earning this award was a challenge this year. However, the City's non-profit urban forestry partner "Our City Forest" and their legions of "Tree Amigo" volunteers worked together to continue tree planting, young tree pruning and community-building educational activities.

## New Pedestrian Ramps

By Nancy Pyle, Councilmember, District Ten

The City of San Jose strives to be a pedestrian friendly, walkable city that is also accessible to people with mobility impairments. To that end, the city installs approximately 250 accessible pedestrian ramps on street corners every year. This year, the city is installing 83 ramps in District 10. This year, ramps will be constructed on Bellis Court, Branham Lane, Chesbro Avenue, Redmond Avenue, Evangeline Drive, Franciscan Way, Hancock Avenue, Lillian Way, and other locations within District 10. For more information about specific locations and timelines, please contact the District 10 office.



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## HSSV OPENS NEW "GREEN" ANIMAL COMMUNITY CENTER

By Debra Suydam

March 28 2009, Humane Society Silicon Valley is going "green" and is "thinking outside of the cage" with its new Animal Community Center. This regional center will serve people and pets throughout the Bay Area. The 48,000 square foot center will be the first Gold LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified animal welfare agency in the country to combine an adoption program with a full spectrum of pet and community oriented services under one roof.



Addressing pet overpopulation and euthanasia in Silicon Valley calls for a revolutionary approach to the way our community cares for its pets, starting with a deeper understanding of the animals that share our lives and the gifts they offer us.

Humane Society Silicon Valley is committed to cultivating deeper human-animal bonds through our Animal Community Center - a new and inspiring model of humane care for shelters everywhere. Home-like habitats for dog, cat, and rabbit visitors; affordable spay/neuter services; innovative education programs; a healthy and humane pet supply store; dog grooming and day care; a dog park and pet-friendly cafe -- these are just a few of the features that will make Humane Society Silicon Valley a place where people can find, bring, care for, learn about, and celebrate the animals that enrich our lives.

### Features

- Adoption Galleria with home-like habitats for dogs, cats and rabbits
- Boarding facility
- Doggie daycare
- Grooming center
- Dog park and training center
- Medical Center with an affordable spay/neuter clinic
- Veterinary hospital with a public viewing room
- Pet store
- Pet-friendly cafe
- Education center
- Community Events Center

The Animal Community Center will be able to accommodate up to 10,000 animal adoptions a year. With its enlightened architecture and design, the center will replace traditional chain-link cages with healthier, friendlier habitats — comfortable, home-like enclosures for dogs; condos and colonies, complete with climbing trees, for cats; and a rabbitat designed to reflect the warrens rabbits naturally inhabit. Animals will also have the opportunity to socialize and learn from each other, making them more adoptable. These new habitats will reduce stress and decrease incidents of illness for animals and will make HSSV a more people-friendly environment, facilitating more human-animal matches. We believe this innovative center will be an inspiring model of humane care and community involvement for shelters nationwide.

The Animal Community Center will be built on 4.8 acres of land near Milpitas Boulevard and Montague Expressway and is accessible to Highway 101 and Interstates 680 and 880.

## Heritage Trees – Worth A Look-See

By Our City Forest

Throughout San Jose, we are graced by beautiful, growing reminders of nature's importance in the city. Big and small, young and old – these trees are integral to the health and well-being of our community. Trees provide shade for family picnics, offer their limbs to climbing children and beautify our too-gray concrete surroundings. The environmental, social, economical and psychological benefits provided by trees make them priceless.



Within San José's urban forest are 650 trees in a class to themselves. They are our "Heritage Trees". What does it take to become one? It can be one or more of several factors and not necessarily those of age or height, as one might think. It can also be because of the tree's special history, a wide girth, rare species or other unique quality.

In recognition of this, the City of San José provides individual tribute and protection to these trees. Heritage trees are safeguarded against illegal removal or pruning by specific laws and regulations, with fines ranging from \$10,000 to \$30,000 for violation.

To locate a **Heritage Tree** near you, visit the city's website at [www.sanjoseca.gov/tree/trees\\_heritage.asp](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/tree/trees_heritage.asp). The detailed map includes pictures and information on over 650 local specimens!

Don't see your favorite city tree on that list? Nominate it for **Heritage Tree** status! Citizens can submit public and private property trees for consideration. The City Council evaluates these requests and officially designates those chosen as **Heritage Trees**. To nominate a tree, contact the City Arborist at (408) 277-2762 or [arborist@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:arborist@sanjoseca.gov). If the tree is not on your property, written permission is required from the owner.

Why not check out some of these beautiful trees? For starters, take a drive down University Avenue where 12 Heritage Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) tower above nearby homes and power lines. And it's nearly impossible to miss Heritage Tree "06-022", an impressive California Sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*) on Willow Glen Way. This incredible specimen measures over 6 feet across and 226 inches around.

Our City Forest conducts Tree-Mobile Tree Tours, including Heritage Tree Tours, for groups of up to 16 people. Call 998-7337 x107 for more information, or catch a tour at OCF's Green Fair event in Willow Glen on April 18<sup>th</sup>! Join us at Treehouse in the Glen for food, fun and entertainment – including our first-ever silent auction!

**Renew your  
VEP membership  
today!**

## VEP Memorial Day Parade & Festival

By Dave Fadness

This year's *Memorial Day Parade & Festival* will be held on Monday, May 25. The welcome addition of new ideas and new talent is what makes this event get bigger and better every year. Last year, more than 3000 people attended.



This year, our fifth, we expect to exceed that number--and **you** can be a part of this success. Planning is already underway, but your involvement is needed and encouraged.

Let me (578-6428) or **Dianne Conry** (224-8456) know if you or someone you know will add to the fun. We need entertainers and parade participants. If you belong to a service group, are involved with Scouts, a school group, a sports league or any other organization, we'd like to have you there with us—especially if you'd be in uniform or in costume. 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. Consistent with safety and its family nature, we're open to anyone and anything that will add interest and color to our event.

We also need crafters. If you are or know someone who makes and sells crafts, please call **Ginger Cardona** (408) 227-0222 for information on free booth space at our Festival.

We need sponsors and donors. The net proceeds from this event are given to Carson and Parkview Elementary Schools, so we try our best to keep costs low for VEP (for event participants, too). Donations are what make this possible. Give **Marilyn Rodgers** (225-7553) or **Irene Shoberg** (225-3477) a call if you have a business or have contacts with businesses that would be willing to make a cash or other donation to our event. We will acknowledge all donors in our Memorial Day Program and in our VEP newsletter.

We need hands-on volunteers. Call **Helen Castillo** (981-5902) if you are available...

To help with ideas for event games and attractions.

To pick up and return equipment the day before and/or after.

To post parade route "NO PARKING" signs the day before.

To help with set-up/tear-down the day of the event.

To help with booth duty, ticket sales, and event games.

To help clean-up during and after the event.

Your help in taking care of one or two of these details will lighten our load and make this event successful for kids of all ages in our community. Remember, none of us gets paid--everyone works as a volunteer in VEP activities.

Call me at 578-6428 or email me at [drfadness@sbcglobal.net](mailto:drfadness@sbcglobal.net) if you're willing to help even in a small way. Don't wait because you think someone else will step forward or because Memorial Day is long from now; we need your ideas and to know now whether your help will be available.

Above all, please be sure to mark your calendars, spread the word, and plan to attend with your family and friends on Monday, May 25, 2009.

## Vista and Cilker Parks

By Dave Fadness

Three two-year old redwood trees were recently donated for use in Cilker Park by its namesake, Bill Cilker. He moved them from an area in Sunnyvale where recycled water appears to be killing off redwoods. That water and the long move imposed a good deal of stress on these new trees.



Our San Jose Parks & Recreation friends planted them and applied a fertilizer which, along with rain and local, untainted water will hopefully revive them. VEP volunteers have offered to continue watering and nursing them back to good health. Let's hope we're all around long enough to see these trees grow old!

\*\*\*

There's been a rather large pond at Vista Park recently. Apparently there is a low spot in the turf that accumulates water when we have heavy rains. To alleviate this flooding problem, Parks & Recreation is planning to trench to an existing drain. Weather permitting, this job should be finished by the time this newsletter reaches your mailbox.

You may have noticed that Vista Park's new trash container enclosure is almost complete. Fortunately, city contractors found a way to install it with out removing any trees or light poles.

Parks & Recreation has also done several sidewalk repairs on the

north side of Vista. They now have parking lot re-slurry and re-striping out for bid. This work will also include curb repair and sidewalk replacement near the entrance to the community center.

Last month they removed contaminated sand and fibar (wood chip) from the Vista playground. 160 cubic yards of new materials were added to refill and even-out the playground surfaces. It looks like new!



There has been a dramatic improvement in the appearance and maintenance of our area parks over the past year or two. VEP thanks our PRNS Maintenance Gardener **Dan Kelley** and his crew members for doing an outstanding job.

## \*\* 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): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I prefer getting my newsletters by email.

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 \_\_\_\_\_

### Please let us know:

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

Application also available at  
<http://www.vepca.net/membership.htm>

## 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.



## San Jose Sign Code Update

By Carol Hamilton, City of SJ Planning Dept.

The City of San Jose is beginning a major update of the Sign Code, and we need your input. Please join us for a community discussion of key issues that should be addressed in the update such as electronic signs, billboards, freeway signs, advertising on news racks, and more.



The last major revision of the City's Sign Code was completed in 1992. It's time to update the regulations to ensure that they support current City goals for urban design and economic development.

### Community Input Meetings:

Wednesday, March 25, 2009 at 7 pm  
Roosevelt Community Center  
901 East Santa Clara Street, San Jose

or

Thursday, March 26, 2009 at 7 pm  
Pearl Library Community Room  
4270 Pearl Avenue, San Jose

For more information, contact Carol Hamilton at (408) 535-7837, or [carol.hamilton@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:carol.hamilton@sanjoseca.gov).

## Helpful City of San Jose Phone Numbers

By Dave Noel

Abandoned Shopping Carts	(408) 535-3500
Abandoned Vehicle on street	(408) 277-5305
Barking, Injured or Stray Dogs	(408) 578-7297
Blighted Properties	(408) 277-4528
Graffiti 24-hour Hotline	(408) 277-2758
Household Hazardous Waste Disposal	(408) 299-7300
Inoperable Vehicle on Private Property	(408) 277-5305
Potholes	(408) 277-4373
Recyclables Scavenging	(408) 277-4528
San Jose City Hall Customer Service	(408) 535-3500
Street Light Repair	(408) 277-5517
Vista Park Community Room Reservations	(408) 268-2053

## Martial Cottle Park

By Adina Pierce

On February 17, the Martial Cottle Task Force Committee Meeting took place at Gunderson High School. At this meeting, task force members and interested parties heard an overview of the previous weeks workshop outcomes and a brief report of Traffic Analysis findings. The design team then presented the Revised Preliminary Draft Preferred Alternative design. The biggest change in this new design is the location of the main entrance, which was moved to Snell Avenue.

Included in this newsletter is a copy of the Preliminary Draft Preferred Alternative, dated February 17, 2009. Based on feedback the consultants and design team received at the February 17 task force meeting, additional refinements will be made before they present the design to the Parks Commission on April 1, and to the Housing, Land Use, Environment & Transportation (HLUET) Committee of the Board of Supervisors on April 16. Once accepted, it will serve as the project description for initiating the environmental review process. There will be continued Task Force involvement and public input during the process.

For more information, please contact **Adina Pierce** at 408-362-0937 or [adinap@yahoo.com](mailto:adinap@yahoo.com), or **Marilyn Rodgers** at 408-225-7553 or [MRodgersRN@aol.com](mailto:MRodgersRN@aol.com).



Can you see the man sitting in the tree? When you view this oak tree on the Martial Cottle Property near Branham Lane at the proper angle, you can see the illusion. -

Submitted by VEP Member **Frank Kistler**



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Main Entrance

Overflow Parking/ Grove

Service/ Emergency Access

Primary Public Parking

Visitor Center Complex

Pavilion with Community Kitchen

Life Estate Area

Demonstration Gardens (with shared parking)

Community Garden

Community Garden Entrance

Youth Agriculture (with parking)

Research

Service/ Emergency Access

BRANHAM LANE

Farm Corp Yard

SANTA CLARA COUNTY STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Park Corp Yard

CHYNOWETH AVENUE

VISTAPARK DRIVE

Future connection to City of San Jose trail system

CHYNOWETH AVE

Native Plant Nursery

Seasonal Wetland

Enhanced Vegetation along Canoas Creek

Connection to VTA Station

GAUNDABERT LANE

Future Trail Undercrossing/ Connection to Blossom Hill Road

# Preliminary Draft Preferred Alternative Martial Cottle Park Master Plan

v-4  
February 17, 2009

This illustration is conceptual and for discussion purposes only. Program information, location, scale and other information shown are subject to modification as a Preferred Plan is identified. Williamson Act contract requirements will affect the phasing of all program elements presented.



Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department and California State Parks  
Design, Community & Environment  
Berkeley, CA

## Major Park Uses

- Recreation
- Agriculture
- Cooperative Partner
- Non-Vehicular Entry



# Changes to VEP Constitution & Bylaws

By Dave Fadness

In order to qualify for non-profit status, we need to modify language in our Constitution & Bylaws to more clearly indicate our purposes as a charitable organization. The Internal Revenue Service and the California Franchise Tax Board impose requirements that the following proposed changes attempt to fulfill.

These changes will be discussed and voted upon by members present at our March 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. (For the complete text of VEP's current Constitution & Bylaws, go to our website at [www.vepca.net](http://www.vepca.net).) New language is shown underlined, deletions are ~~crossed out~~:

## 1. Proposed changes to our Constitution:

### PREAMBLE

As residents of the following sub-divisions in the City of San Jose, California, we hereby form and organize the VEP Community Association and approve the following constitution and Bylaws as an expression of our desire as volunteers to maintain and improve our community and to represent and serve the expressed needs of our neighbors.

### ARTICLE I NAME AND PURPOSE

B) VEP shall strive to effectively represent the views and expressed desires of its membership on vital issues, strive to promote physical and social community preservation and development, to encourage active volunteerism and informed civic involvement, and assist in government's efforts to maintain public works and combat community deterioration within our neighborhoods.

C) VEP is a nonprofit public benefit organization and is not organized for the private gain of any person.

### ARTICLE VIII ~~NEUTRALITY IN ELECTIONS FOR PUBLIC OFFICE~~ POLITICAL LIMITATION

~~VEP Community Association cannot and will not endorse any candidate for elected public office. VEP shall not endorse or campaign for any political candidate. VEP may educate its members about political issues and candidates through activities such as election forums and newsletter articles. In all such activities, VEP shall make every reasonable effort to include equal representation from all credible candidates for public office, and both sides of ballot measures. VEP may participate in unbiased campaign ethics watchdog committees.~~

## 2. Proposed changes to our Bylaws:

### ARTICLE IX BOARD OFFICERS

A) The Board of Directors shall elect its own Officers before and announce them at the Annual Meeting each year.

E) Each Director shall share all significant incoming and outgoing correspondence he or she has sent or received with the rest of the Board of Directors at or before their next Executive Board meeting.

### ARTICLE X DUTIES OF BOARD OFFICERS

A) PRESIDENT: The President is VEP's chief executive officer and shall preside at all Board and general membership meetings. Only the President and/or Board-appointed designee(s) may formally represent or communicate to other groups or agencies in behalf of VEP. The Chair:

(3) Is an ex-officio member of all committees and may act as liaison between committees and the ~~executive board~~ Board of Directors in the absence of the committee chair; and

F) BOARD DIRECTORS: All Board Directors:

(4) Shall assist the President when called upon to record brief summary minutes of regular and ~~executive board~~ Board of Directors meetings;

### ARTICLE XV FUNDS

A) VEP property is irrevocably dedicated to charitable purposes and no part of its net income or assets shall ever inure to the benefit of any director, officer, or private person.

~~G) In the event that VEP should ever be dissolved, all funds remaining after paying legitimate creditors shall be donated to a non-sectarian, community services charity that is recognized by the IRS as a non-profit organization designated at that time by the Board of Directors and/or VEP membership.~~

### ARTICLE XVI DISSOLUTION

Upon dissolution or winding up of VEP, all assets remaining after payment or provision for payment of all its debts and liabilities shall be donated to one or more non-sectarian, community services charities recognized by the IRS as non-profit organization(s) under Section 501(c)(3), or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, and as designated at that time by the Board of Directors and/or the VEP membership.

### ARTICLE ~~XVI~~ XVII VEP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP LIST

### ARTICLE ~~XVII~~ XVIII ANNUAL VEP COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

F. The VEP President shall appoint an impartial Selection Committee to whom lists of nominees' qualifications are presented. No member of this Selection Committee may be related to a nominee. Nominees' names and other identifying features shall be removed from lists of qualifications given to the Selection Committee. This Committee shall be comprised of at least three (3) VEP members in good standing, none of whom know the identities of nominees. Decisions of this Selection Committee are final.

### Article ~~XVIII~~ XIX INDEMNIFICATION OF BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### ARTICLE ~~XIX~~ XX AMENDMENTS

[end]

**VEP helps you solve  
community problems**

## Cycling in San Jose

By Nancy Pyle, Councilmember, District Ten

The 2009 Amgen Tour of California is the largest cycling event in America and San Jose had the honor of hosting one of the stops for this event in February for the fourth consecutive year. This event is a Tour de France-style cycling road race that challenges the world's top professional cycling teams to compete along a demanding course of over 750 miles throughout California between Sacramento and Escondido in San Diego County. The nine day stage race featured 17 of the world's top professional teams, including world renowned riders Lance Armstrong, two time defending champion Levi Leipheimer, three time World Champion Oscar Freire and 2008 Olympic gold medal winner and world champion Fabian Cancellara.



San Jose is eager to highlight cycling since the city has more than 38,000 bike commuters traveling on more than 150 miles of on-street bikeways. The City was recognized by the League of American Bicyclists with the National Bicycle Friendly Community Award. These on street roadways are for commuters but San Jose also has many recreational bike trails. An interactive website of City trails is available at [www.sjparks.org/trails/](http://www.sjparks.org/trails/). San Jose is a wonderful place to ride bikes both to commute and for recreation and as such we are happy to host an event that brings cycling to the attention of our constituents.

## Census Workers to Start Canvassing San José Neighborhoods

Beginning April 6, U.S. Census workers will be coming to your neighborhood. As the first step in gearing up for the 2010 Census, field workers will begin "address canvassing" in Santa Clara County to verify and update existing residential addresses and area maps. These will be used to deliver the Census 2010 questionnaires next year.



An accurate Census count is important to the City of San José, as well as other local government agencies, because the Census count is used to make important decisions about the amount of funding our agencies receive. Every year, more than \$300 billion in federal funds is awarded to states and communities based on Census data. The U. S. Census Bureau is working in partnership with the County of Santa Clara, the City of San José, Valley Transportation Authority, and local communities, to get the word out.

Address canvassing will be completed between April 6 and June 19. Census field workers will use handheld computers and can be identified by an official Census Enumerator ID badge, and a U.S. Census Bureau canvas bag they carry. If you have questions or concerns, contact the Local Census Office, (408) 343-8140.

## Annual Gunderson High School Blood Drive

By Rob Iverson

Gunderson High School will be holding its annual blood drive March 24th, from 8am until 2pm. The blood drive is being hosted by the Class of 2011, in conjunction with the Stanford Blood Center. We welcome drop in visits, but if you would like, you may contact Rob Iverson to set up a specific appointment time. You may contact Rob at [rob\\_iverson@sjusd.org](mailto:rob_iverson@sjusd.org), or [robiverson@yahoo.com](mailto:robiverson@yahoo.com), or at 408-506-8700.



## Summer Activities for Kids and Adults

By Susan Iverson

With summer fast approaching, many of us are wondering what to do to keep the kids, and ourselves, occupied. San Jose, and the surrounding area, has a wealth of activities that are low cost or even free!

### Emma Prusch Farm

Feed the Farm Animals—Kids will have the opportunity one Saturday morning each month to assist park staff in feeding the ducks, goats, chickens, rabbits, geese, sheep and miniature pigs. Limited to first 20 children to register. \$3 per child. Call the mainoffice for dates and details. 408-926-5555

### California Academy of Sciences Free Day

Now reopened after a 10-year renovation, the museum features a planetarium, aquarium and natural history museum under 1 roof. Daily events include: a planetarium show for ages 7 and up, 6 times daily; reef dive demonstrations at 11:30am and 2:30pm; penguin feedings at 10:30am and 3:30pm; and talks about swamp life and the museum's alligators and snapping turtles at 1pm. 9:30am-5pm Mon.-Sat. and 11am-5pm Sun. **Free admission every 3rd Wed.** 55 Music Concourse Dr., Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. 415-379-8000. [www.calacademy.org](http://www.calacademy.org).

### ScholarShare Free Second Sunday at the Tech Museum

Enjoy free admission and explore how technology and science affect the way we live, work, play and learn with this event sponsored by ScholarShare. Over 250 fun, interactive exhibits provide hours of creative discoveries. Ride the Earthquake Platform, play with Robots, learn about Silicon Valley innovations and lots more unique hands-on fun for all ages. Does not include admission to IMAX or to special exhibitions. Admission: Free Time: Open-Close Location: The Tech Museum of Innovation 201 South Market Street San Jose, CA 95113 (408) 294-TECH

### American Sailing League Championship Series @ PIER 39

American Sailing League - Championship Series at PIER 39 on the San Francisco Bay. All races will run in full view at the Bay end of PIER 39. 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM. PIER 39 San Francisco, Beach Street & The Embarcadero, San Francisco. Free. MORE INFO: Website: <http://www.pier39.com/Events/events.htm> Email: [info@pier39.com](mailto:info@pier39.com) Phone: 415-705-5500

### Capitol Mall Kids Club

Kid's Club is a free club, open to all children ages 12 and younger, with each monthly event falling on the 2nd Thursday of each month. When: 3:30pm Where: Capitola Mall Food Court Info: 831-465-0773