

VEP NEWS

• VEP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION •

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

September 2010

VEP'S MEETING

7:30 p.m. Tuesday
► September 28, 2010 ◀

Vista Park Community Room
475 Hyde Park Drive

AGENDA

★ Proposal for Special Assessment District Street Landscape Maintenance ★

Presentation by
Alex Mordwinow, Manager,
San Jose City Department of Transportation

★ Introduction of Candidates for Seat 4
Santa Clara Valley Water District Board ★
Linda LeZotte and Dan Furtado

★ VEP Business Meeting/Announcements ★

Introductions
Dominic Bejarano
Principal, Gunderson High School
Layla Suarez, Giacobbe's
Complimentary Appetizers

2010-2011
Goals and Objectives

Approval of Amendment
to Constitution & Bylaws
for 501(c)(3)

Announcements & Updates
Martial Cottle Park Design EIR

★ 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 September Meeting

By Marilyn Rodgers

Topics that are planned for the September general membership meeting:

► **Special Assessment District Proposal for Street Landscape Maintenance** presented by **Alex Mordwinow, Manager, Street Maintenance, San Jose City Department of Transportation**. Mr. Mordwinow will provide specific information on the purpose of a special assessment district, why city staff can no longer provide previous service levels, what services would be included in the street landscaping proposal, specific sites involved, and the cost per residence per year. **Important that members attend and take this opportunity to obtain information and provide feedback. This proposal could effect every residence in our community!**

► **Introduction of Candidates for Seat 4 of the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board**. Come meet and hear from Linda LeZotte and Dan Furtado, candidates for the new Seat 4, the result of recent redistricting of the water board.

► **VEP Business Meeting/Announcements. Introductions** - new Gunderson High School principal, **Dominic Bejarano**. New VEP Newsletter advertiser **Giacobbe's** manager/owner **Layla Sueraz**, will be introduced along with a special thank you for providing complimentary appetizers for meeting attendees. Discussion and approval of two business items – Goals and Objectives, and an Amendment to the Bylaws – see separate articles elsewhere in the VEP Newsletter.

► **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 **September 28th** meeting. Please join us!

Special Assessment District – Street Landscaping

by Tom Ferguson, Maintenance Manager, Department of Transportation, City of San Jose

As with all of us, the City of San Jose has made difficult decisions on where to spend its limited funds. In the past nine years, the city has reduced landscaping maintenance staff from 34 to 6 members. The remaining staff members are responsible for maintenance of 234 acres of median and frontage landscaping in the public right of way. Two years ago, the Depart-

2010 is VEP's 41st year!

ment of Transportation implemented a three-prong budget reduction strategy. The first strategy involves removing non-tree plant material which allows better use of truck-mounted weed spraying equipment. Removing this lower level of shrubs and ground cover eliminates the need for hand spraying and weed removal, pruning of plants, and removal of ground cover also reduces the accumulation of litter and debris. The second strategy is to encourage volunteer adoption of landscaping that is alongside the roads. The final strategy is to seek establishment of a special district to maintain the landscaping. DOT has met with representatives of the VEP neighborhood, and presented these options. The VEP representatives did not like the strategy of plant removal, and requested more information to explore the option of a special district while adopting some of the landscaping areas, as an interim strategy.

The VEP neighborhood contains 14 median and frontage right-of-way landscape parcels totaling 160,500 square feet or 3.7 acres. Due to budget reductions, much of the landscaping is currently not in optimum condition, or is missing plant material which has not been replaced.

To restore, and optimally maintain, these areas will cost about \$1 per square foot per year or about \$160,000 per year. This would include all weed abatement, plant pruning, plant replacements, water, flowers, management and inspection. If a reduced level of maintenance was desired, it could occur for about \$0.55 per square foot per year, or about \$90,000 per year. The reduced level of maintenance would not include flowers, renovations, or significant plant replacements. The VEP neighborhood has approximately 2,950 properties within its boundaries. If the costs were spread evenly across the neighborhood, then the cost per property would be about \$55.00 per year, for optimal maintenance of all of the landscaping. A reduced maintenance level would cost about \$30.00 per year per property. The final benefit analysis may indicate the inclusion of a few more parcels, resulting in slight changes to the cost per parcel.

The City currently has 18 special districts. These districts provide a very high level of service in such areas as Capitol Expressway Auto Mall, Evergreen, and Silver Creek Valley. Special districts can only be created by a majority vote of the property owners that are within the special district boundaries. Special districts can also be disbanded by the same method. Special districts collect their funds through the property tax rolls which can only be spent within the designated special district. DOT staff will be attending the September VEP meeting to discuss in greater detail, the special district options and any other landscaping concerns you may have.

Proposed VEP's 2010-2011 Goals & Objectives

1. Continue to improve our community and our association.
 - A. Encourage regular turn-over of VEP Board of Directors to bring new ideas and energy to our organization and to assure broad membership representation.
 - B. Continue to maintain VEP's positive fiscal condition.
 - a. Conclude work toward qualifying VEP as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
 - C. Continue to publish the VEP News nine times per year. Improve and increase the use of our website.
 - D. Provide a variety of opportunities for volunteer service that reflect member-endorsed projects and within our community.
2. Promote community interaction, pride, and preparedness.
 - A. Promote and encourage member participation in

neighborhood safety programs, crime prevention, and disaster/ emergency preparedness.

B. Organize and encourage "adoption" and active participation in cleanup and maintenance of public areas within our community.

C. Sponsor and promote (election, holiday, educational, etc.) events for our membership area.

D. Encourage and acknowledge outstanding volunteer service by students and VEP members.

3. Work with government and local businesses to create and maintain high quality public services for the VEP area.

A. Work with government and businesses to improve and maintain public landscaping and city parks.

B. Work with government to provide traffic safety and uncongested conditions on VEP area streets and roads.

a. Work with the City and Erikson Neighborhood Association to formally adopt a Thornwood Drive terminus for any crossing of the Guadalupe River easterly from Almaden Expressway.

b. Seek real improvements in traffic level of service at the Capitol/Narvaez/Northbound Hwy 87 onramp.

c. Ensure that impact of any proposed development along the Guadalupe Corridor are fully mitigated.

d. Continue VEP involvement in proposed revisions to the configuration of Branham Lane between Snell and Narvaez.

C. Participate in and react to any plans for urban development, services, and public infrastructure.

D. Participate in the planning and development of Martial Cottle Regional Park (the Lester property).

E. Continue work to implement the master plan for Vista Park Community Room landscaping.

F. Monitor opportunities to build a city park at Capitol and Narvaez.

Update on 501(c)(3) Application

by Marilyn Rodgers

We are continuing to pursue VEP's application for possible 501(c)(3) tax status with the IRS. We have received a request for additional information or enhancement/clarification of the information included in the application.

One such requirement is to provide for specified language (see below) as an **amendment** to our governing document (ie. Bylaws).

This specific language is as follows (the first paragraph provides rationale for the requirement with the following italicized two paragraphs being the actual amendment):

"There are certain required provisions that must be included in your organizational document. Organizations seeking exemption under section 501(c)(3) must meet the organization test. This test ensures that the purposes and assets of your organization are dedicated to 501(c)(3) purposes. In order to meet the organizational test for exemption under 501(c)(3), your organizational document must be amended to include the following provisions:

Said organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code. Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed

for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such as sets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

We will have a discussion at the membership meeting as to how this language could enhance or limit what VEP has done historically

Parkview Elementary Walkathon

Please join in the excitement of the Parkview Elementary Walkathon, Saturday, October 9th, from 9:30 am to 3 pm, on the Parkview school grounds. We will have food, music, games, a silent auction, craft booths, and lots of fun! This wonderful event gives our community a chance to support the children as they do their part to help their school. Sponsored by the Parkview School Community Association, the Walkathon raises money to keep our hands-on science program and music classes throughout the school year. We look forward to seeing you there!



Upcoming Carson School Events

Carson Bazaar – Sept 25th, 9am – 2pm, for additional information Call 408-693-4310

Harvest Festival at Carson School – October 15th, 5pm – 8pm

Thank you to Our Volunteers

by Helen Castillo and Marilyn Rodgers

Thank you to all of our VEP Volunteers! As an “all volunteer” organization, we appreciate all of you and we feel we never tell you often enough. We continue to look for meaning ways to highlight the important work volunteers are doing for our organization. In the next few weeks we will be contacting many of you to ask for your thoughts and feedback as to what might be helpful to volunteers in keeping them abreast of new opportunities to volunteer as well as what type of volunteers and volunteer activities we are in immediate need of filling.

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Helpful Phone Numbers:

By Dave Noel

San Jose Information Center	(408) 535-3500
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
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

To Report Graffiti...

	Phone #
24-hour Hotline	(408) 277-2758
Vandalism <i>in progress</i>	911
Vandalism <i>from a cell phone</i>	(408) 277-8911
Vandalism <i>after the fact</i>	311
On libraries, parks & community centers	(408) 277-4741
On painted curbs & on the street	(408) 277-3626
On street signs	(408) 277-4691
On all expressways	(408) 494-1307
On bus stops	(408) 321-5800
On light-rail	(408) 321-2300
On Highway signs	(510) 536-0413
On Highway roads	(408) 436-0930
Taggers <i>anonymously</i>	(408) 947-7867

“Thank you” to Our Advertisers

by Marilyn Rodgers, Ginger Cardona, Susan Iverson

We want to take this opportunity to thank our Advertisers. They play an important role in VEP's continued fiscal health. Many of them have been loyal supporters of VEP for many years. Others are new to VEP. Whether long term or new, advertisers appreciate knowing when their advertising dollars are effective and bring them business. Please take a moment to look through the VEP Newsletter with particular attention directed to the advertisers. If there are products or services that you, your family, or friends may be in need of, contact our advertisers first. And....most importantly, be sure to mention that you are a member of VEP, and saw their ad in our newsletter!!

VEP's Memorial Day Parade & Festival

By Dave Fadness



Thanks to a group of dedicated volunteers, our sixth annual Memorial Day event was another great success. We had talented performers,

pleasant weather, excellent turn-out, a variety of crowd-pleasing attractions, and good food—everything needed for a perfect event.

Our Planning Committee volunteers spent many months in preparation to assure this success. VEP thanks the following Committee members for their work:

Ginger Cardona

Helen Castillo

Scott and Dianne Conry, Gunderson High School

Aiko Fadness

Dana Johnson, Parkview Elementary School

Marilyn Rodgers

Cherry Sanders, Carson Elementary School

Debra Suydam

The three public schools within our membership area co-sponsored this event with us again this year. By providing volunteers, distributing flyers, and through personal participation, their involvement was key to our success. We thank

Betsy Doss, Principal, Rachel Carson Elementary School

Debbie Roach, Principal, Parkview Elementary School (our Festival host)

Cary Catching, Principal, Gunderson High School

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

- Westfield Oakridge Mall
- Safeway (Branham Lane Store #316)
- City of San Jose/Councilwoman Pyle
- Mojo Burger (Peter Favre, Owner)
- Allied Waste Services
- Lucky (Capitol Expy Store #758)
- San Jose Firefighters Local 230
- Albert & Helen Castillo
- Scott & Dianne Conry
- David & Debbie Danitz
- VEP Community Association members

Entertainment is a huge part of any holiday celebration. We had a great line-up provided by the following talented individuals and groups, all of whom performed for us as volunteers (at no charge):

Andrew Hill High School JROTC's Color Guard, Drill Team (Armed), Drill Team (Unarmed), and Drum Corps; Lieutenant Colonel Shari Corbett, Commander.

Sylvandale Middle School Band; Andrew Love, Director.

Sylvandale Middle School Choir; Eric Royer, Director.

Carson School Cougar Choir; Jim Sealy, (Volunteer) Director.
Town Square Harmonizers; Ted McCall, Dave Rail, Gordon Keeney, and Pete Sparaco (a long-time VEP member).

Island Moves Family Center/Halau Na Wai Ola Hawaiian dancers; Ronelle Kauai Isa-Kahaku, Owner.

Taema Taekwondo martial arts performers; Andrew Suh, Master Instructor.

Gunderson High School Concert Band; Mary Alice Hillman, Director.

Caring Clowns, Sunny (Gordon) & Twinkles (Willa) Markley.

Gunderson High School clowns; coordinated by Trish Buttrill, Drama/Activities/Resource Teacher.

This year we added local garage band talent to our performance line-up. Dianne Conry recruited the following four groups:

- **85 South**: Scott Conry, Santos & Stella Lopez, Todd Murchison, and Dan Reule.
- **Black Sand**: Mitch Cairns, Reece Fiebich, Trey Fiebich, and Travis Osterback.
- **Sombrero**: Victor Carmona and Steve Castillo.
- **Sleeping the Post**, Daniel Hernandez, Kenny Kumar, and Kristian Buchaneshos.

Judges for our Parade costume and decoration awards were: **Betsy Doss**, Principal, Carson Elementary School; **Bob Aquino**, Past President of VEP; and **Jim Hicks**, former Treasurer of VEP. An incredible showing of colorful and creative costumes, decorated bikes, trikes, and coaster wagons, etc. turned their task as judges into a real challenge!

Our 2010 costume and decoration awards winners were:

Best Family (a tie) = The Pierce and Skulich families

Most Patriotic = The Andrew Hill JROTC

Funniest = The Thomas Family

Most Original = Kayden & Alexandria

Most Beautiful = Island Moves Family Center/Halau Na Wai Ola Hawaiian dancers

Best Bicycle or Tricycle = Elias Khanzada (2nd year in a row!)

Best Coaster Wagon = Andrew & Abigail

Craziest: Gunderson High School Clowns (as usual!)

Most Colorful: The Danitz Family (perennial award winners!)

Most Unusual: Luna the Dog (2nd year in a row!)

Judges' Choice: Patriotic Ladies, Mindy & April

Judges' Choice: Daisy Girl Scouts Troup 60562 (Parkview)

The list of performers and volunteers includes hundreds of names, too many to list individually here. We give special thanks to the United States Air Force, Army, Marines, and Navy; to the San Jose Police and Fire Departments; to San Jose *Sharkie*; and to volunteers from Carson, Parkview, Gunderson, and VEP Community Association—the best of the best.

Proceeds from this event will be donated to parent-teacher groups at Carson, Gunderson, and Parkview Schools.



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San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant Master Plan Community Advisory Group Meeting—September 30th

The Community Advisory Group (CAG) was formed in fall 2008 to provide consistent community perspective to the San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant as it develops its Plant Master Plan. A three-year process that uses principles of sustainability to address how to best rebuild our aging wastewater facility and use the Plant's 2,600-acre site at the South Bay's shoreline has been on-going. CAG members bring expertise in education, environment, business, recreation, and community activism, and represent the Plant's tributary cities. CAG meetings occur once a month and are open to the public. The next meeting is Thursday, September 30 from 6 p.m to 8 p.m at Roosevelt Community Center. Meeting agendas and summaries are posted at www.rebuildtheplant.org.

San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant Tours

Free tours of your wastewater treatment facility are offered the first and third Thursdays and Saturdays of the month from June to November.

Take a two-hour bus tour to:

- Explore the largest tertiary wastewater treatment facility on the West Coast
- Learn how wastewater from 1.4 million residents and 17,000 business sewer connections is cleaned to almost drinking water standards
- Visit the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge – the largest urban wildlife refuge in the nation
- Find out how we plan to sustainably rebuild the Plant after 54 years of working around the clock
- Learn how you can help shape the future of the Plant's 2,600-acre shoreline site
- Visit the spots where 90 percent of the Plant's treated water is released into the South Bay and 10 percent is recycled for irrigation and industrial uses

Participants must be at least 10 years old and all children must be accompanied by an adult. Reservations are required. To sign up, visit www.rebuildtheplant.org and select "Take Plant Tour" or email planttours@sanjoseca.gov or call (408) 975-2556.

Communication with Our Members

by Marilyn Rodgers, Adina Pierce, Susan Iverson

Face to face communication is usually the most meaningful and rewarding. Monthly membership meetings between September and May, special events and projects provide this opportunity. However, we have many non-face to face opportunities as well – they are as follows:

As you are reading this newsletter, you already know about our Number 1 (and most popular) way to communicate with our members – through the **VEP NEWS**. Our members continue to tell us how much they enjoy receiving and reading the newsletter.

We continue to evaluate and utilize electronic means of communicating with our members, particularly in between editions of the newsletter (remember **e-distribution of the newsletter** is available upon request as well).

E-mail alerts – if you have e-mail and would like to receive monthly e-mail Alerts, please be sure we have a current e-mail address. (We usually send one or two e-mails per month, so we will not fill your mailbox with junk e-mails; and e-mail addresses are confidential).

VEP Website – www.vepca.net – find current information, highlights of upcoming events, as well as historical information on the website. Our website is intended for use by both members and non-members. Look for an increasing amount of information to be available on the website in the future.

VEP - Yahoo groups and Facebook – for those members interested in additional electronic access and use "social media" sites, VEP has a **Yahoo group** and is on **Facebook**.

VEP NEEDS YOU!!

by Marilyn Rodgers

There are several opportunities for you to volunteer for your community association! One board director position is open. In addition, we are offering members the opportunity to "test" the waters...to learn about what it is like to be a board member, by being an "assistant" to a board member. Opportunities include – assist the Webmaster, Newsletter editor, or Volunteer Coordinator. The time commitment would be approximately 2 hours per month. Come on, volunteer...you'll enjoy it!

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Help! My Computer Takes Too Long to Start

By John McCulloch

Do you have to press the power button before breakfast and wait till lunch before you can use your computer? Well, that's a bit of an exaggeration, but if it takes longer than 5 minutes for your computer to boot up, we have a class for you. It is called Computer Maintenance and Security. In it you will learn how to protect your machine against viruses, spyware and get rid of pop-ups. In addition to loading these programs, you can free up memory by deleting temporary Windows and Internet files. Another way to speed up the machine is start up fewer programs on Start-Up. And we will show you how to check if your computer is low on "main memory." You will learn this and much more in our Computer Maintenance Class. The class runs 8 weeks on Wednesday from 11:30 to 1:30. You and your machine will be happy you took this class.

Registration for this and other SeniorNet classes is scheduled for Saturday, October 2 at 1 p.m. at the Willow Glen Community & Sr. Center, 2175 Lincoln Ave.(at Curtner Ave.) in the Willow Glen area of San Jose.

Other classes available are: Digital Photography (3 different classes), Word Processing, Greeting Cards, Best of the Internet, File Management, Google, Windows XP, Windows 7, Introduction to Computers and More. Check out website at www.snicsj.org/willows to see more of our classes. SeniorNet classes are open to anyone over 50 years of age.

Each class is held once a week for two hours for up to 8 weeks; some are shorter. The price for a typical class is \$20. Each student works from a designated computer following the steps the Instructor displays in front of the class. Coaches are available to keep everybody on the same page.

To place your name on SeniorNet's mailing list, phone the Willows SeniorNet liaison at (408) 371-3999, or log on to the website at www.SNLCSJ.ORG/willows.

SeniorNet is a worldwide organization which supports over 75 learning centers. It is a non-profit organization founded in 1986. The purpose is to provide computer education and access to people over 50. There is an annual fee of \$40 to join SeniorNet. It is primarily run by volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, please join us.



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Headline 365 Cookies

By Kathy Wood, Cookie Queen

The wind whistling through the tops of the trees. The crunchiness of crisp leaves under your feet. The laughter and chatter of children heading off to their first day of school. Many of the summer flowers beginning to fade away into slumber until next spring. All of these are reminders that Fall is quickly approaching. Have you ever noticed that Autumn has its own unique smell? The coolness of the morning air as you leave for work one morning is an announcement of the upcoming days of chillier weather.

The daily cookie baking continues at my house with many recipes just waiting to be tried. Because the hot days of summer were so few for us, turning the oven on wasn't a huge deterrent. I tried to bake first thing in the morning, when it was cool, which gave us fresh cookies for lunch! A couple of times, I pulled out the utensils and ingredients in the wee hours of the morning when sleep alluded me, and baked away, providing breakfast fare in the form of a cookie.

Amongst the several no-bake recipes emerged one of my new favorites, Peanut Butter Bonbons. These are fairly simple to make, but when you share them with your family and friends, they will think you spent hours in the kitchen.

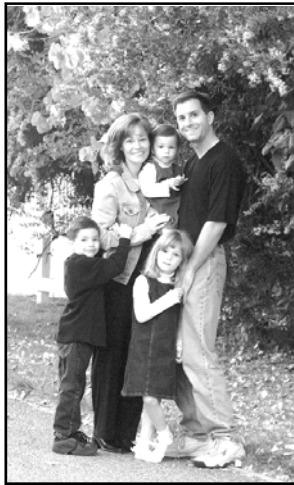
Peanut Butter Bonbons: Ingredients: 2 cups peanut butter, ½ cup butter or margarine, 4 ½ cups sifted powdered sugar, 3 cups crisp rice cereal, 1 6-ounce package butterscotch pieces (1 cup), 1 6-ounce package semisweet chocolate pieces (1 cup).

Instructions: In large mixing bowl, mix sugar and rice cereal. In medium saucepan on top of the stove, melt peanut butter and butter, stirring until smooth. Pour butter mixture over cereal mixture. Blend together with hands until well coated. Form into 1 - inch balls and place on cookie sheet. Chill until firm, about an hour. Melt butterscotch pieces over low heat in small saucepan. Dip half the firm balls in coating; swirl tops. Place on waxed-paper or parchment paper-lined cookie sheet. Repeat process with chocolate pieces using remaining balls. Chill until firm and enjoy.

Makes 50 balls.

This recipe came from a cookbook I found on my garage sale adventures this summer. It was published in 1976 by Meredith Corporation, USA and is titled "Better Homes and Gardens Gifts from Your Kitchen".

To see a picture of the Peanut Butter Bonbons, please visit yearofcookies.blogspot.com. They are Recipe #226. Cookies Rule!!!




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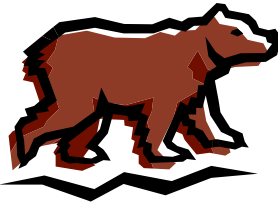
Photography *by* Jeri Arstingstall

★ VEP MEMBER ★

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Gunderson Highschool Updates

Gunderson High School is up and running with some changes this year. Gunderson has a new principal, Dominic Bejarano. Mr. Bejarano coached and taught at Gunderson in the 90's, and was an Assistant Principal at the school for 5 years. He spent three years as principal of Bret Harte Middle School, and is pleased to be back at Gunderson. Another change on the administrative team is the addition of Assistant Principal of Instruction, Michelle Reghitto. Michelle comes to Gunderson after serving as an assistant principal at Bret Harte.



Grizzly pride is even more evident at Gunderson this year with the introduction of PRIDE. The tenets of PRIDE are: **P**ersonal Responsibility, **R**espect, **I**ntegrity, **D**iversity and **E**xcellence. The PRIDE program is the backbone of all of our conversations, codes of ethics, activities and academic pursuits. The program has been met with very positive results.

On another positive note, Gunderson's test scores rose considerably last year, and the school's API score rose 26 points. This is the highest yearly gain seen by any San Jose high school.

Gunderson is competing with San Jose and Willow Glen High Schools in a breakfast challenge. The "Got Milk" people are offering \$3000 to the high school that increases student breakfast consumption. The correlation between eating breakfast and better academic performance is being stressed. The challenge was kicked off with a school wide rally, attended by district dignitaries. The rally was covered by local news media. The challenge took place September 13 – 22. Results will be in shortly. Stay tuned!

The year will be full of activities and events that will include Gunderson Idol, music concerts, theatre productions, a film festival, the Poetry Slam, sporting events, fundraisers, rallies and dances. The student body is working hard to ensure a fantastic and fun year for everyone.

Calendars and other school information are available on the improved Gunderson web site. Check it out at; <http://gunderson.sjUSD.org/>

Everyone at Gunderson is looking forward to a fantastic year full of GRIZZLY PRIDE!

Introducing the Class of 2014

By Dave Noel

Each summer **Beloit College** in Wisconsin issues their Mind-set List. A creation of Beloit's Keefer Professor of the Humanities **Tom McBride** and Emeritus 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 1992 when Ross Perot was warning about a giant sucking sound.

As the class of 2014 heads off to college, enjoy a sampling of this year's list. For the full list, visit www.beloit.edu/mindset.

1. Few in the class know how to write in cursive.
2. Email is just too slow, and they seldom if ever use snail mail.
4. Al Gore has always been animated.
8. With increasing numbers of ramps, Braille signs, and handicapped parking spaces, the world has always been trying harder to accommodate people with disabilities.
11. John McEnroe has never played professional tennis.
12. Clint Eastwood is better known as a sensitive director than as Dirty Harry.
14. Doctor Kevorkian has never been licensed to practice medicine.
15. Colorful lapel ribbons have always been worn to indicate support for a cause.
16. Korean cars have always been a staple on American highways.
18. Fergie is a pop singer, not a princess.
19. They never twisted the coiled handset wire aimlessly around their wrists while chatting on the phone.
21. Woody Allen, whose heart has wanted what it wanted, has always been with Soon-Yi Previn.
25. Leno and Letterman have always been trading insults on opposing networks.
26. Unless they found one in their grandparents' closet, they have never seen a carousel of Kodachrome slides.
32. Czechoslovakia has never existed.
36. Adhesive strips have always been available in varying skin tones.
38. Bud Selig has always been the Commissioner of Major League Baseball.
43. Russians and Americans have always been living together in space.
44. The dominance of television news by the three networks passed while they were still in their cribs.
51. Food has always been irradiated.
62. Having hundreds of cable channels but nothing to watch has always been routine.
64. The U.S, Canada, and Mexico have always agreed to trade freely.

Under New Management

Hours:
 Tues-Fri 11am-2pm, 4pm-9pm
 Sat-Sun 9am-2pm, 4pm-9pm
 Closed Mondays



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Community Service Awards

By Dave Noel

For our 26th consecutive year, VEP offered grants towards higher education or vocational training to graduating high school seniors with exceptional records of volunteer community service.

As the 2009-2010 school year came to a close, VEP proudly presented our annual Community Service Awards at the Senior Awards nights of Andrew Hill and Henry Gunderson high schools. This was VEP's 26th consecutive year of granting stipends for post-secondary or vocational training to graduating high school seniors with exemplary records of volunteer community service.

Congratulations to our 2010 winners, who each received \$500 towards their ongoing education:

Andrew Hill: Josephine Lucille Vitug-Formoso. In her high school career, Josephine volunteered over 500 hours to our community, including Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, Blood Centers of the Pacific, the Associate Student Body, and Most Holy Trinity Church. Among her accomplishments were organizing three blood drives that collected more than 110 units of blood, and serving as Andrew Hill's first ASB Historian. Josephine is now attending California State University, East Bay and majoring in Nursing.

Gunderson: Joel Ruiz. Over his high school career, Joel has volunteered 300 hours to City Year, the Tech Museum, and After School All Stars. In his volunteer service, he has cleaned and painted schools and parks, and touched the lives of many community members, including youths, the homeless, and people with AIDS. Joel is now attending West Valley College and plans to transfer to either UCLA or UC Santa Cruz to major in Film and TV production.

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

Many thanks to **Joe Ortega** at Andrew Hill and **Stephanie Heuer** at Gunderson for administering the nomination process at their respective schools.

Also, special thanks to our judging committee members: **Adina Pierce, Marilyn Rodgers, Lu Anne Behringer, Don Ferguson, Rob Iverson, Stephen Kinsey, Dave Fadness, Aiko Fadness, Debra Suydam** and **Louise**.



Josephine Lucille Vitug-Formoso with Marilyn Rodgers



Dave Noel with Joel Ruiz

ENA Candidates' Forum

By Dave Noel

Erikson Neighborhood association invites VEP members to its upcoming general meeting and Candidates' Forum, which will be held Wednesday, September 22nd, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm, in the Erikson School Auditorium. The meeting will begin with neighborhood business items, followed by facilitated candidate debates for the following two races:

Santa Clara Valley Water District, Seat 4 (new district that includes the VEP area following recent redistricting)

Linda LeZotte - Former San Jose City Councilmember and Environmental attorney

Dan Furtado - Campbell City Councilmember

San Jose City Council, District 9 (to replace termed-out Judy Chirco)

Donald Rocha - Cambrian School Board Trustee and San Jose Redevelopment Agency Development Officer

Larry Pegram - Former San Jose City Councilmember (1970's) and co-founder of the Values Advocacy Council

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VEP Community Calendar

September / October 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM – Take Flight For Kids at Reid-Hillview Airport. Free hands-on science, art, technology and entertainment festival. See www.takeflightforkids.com
26	27	28 VEP Commu- nity Meeting— 7:30 PM— Vista Park Community Room	29	30	1	2
3 San Jose's Rock n' Roll Half Marathon	4	5	6	7	8	9 10:00AM - 12:00 PM – Gardening from the Soil Up, MetroED World Garden Work- shop, Erikson School Auditorium. Info: 408- 723-6450.
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 Almaden Com- munity Center 4th Annual Har- vest Festival 11:00am to 4:00pm
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

THE VEP NEWS



VEP Community Association

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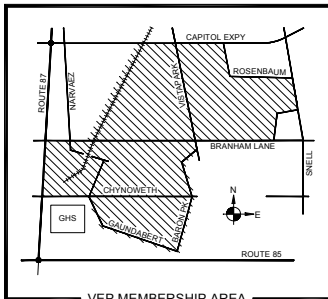
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Published monthly by VEP Community Association, a not-for-profit organization of volunteers established in 1969 to serve and represent more than 2000 homes in the Blossom Valley area of southern San Jose. VEP is dedicated to neighborhood maintenance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

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Prefer your newsletter via Email?
 Let us know at vep@vepca.net.



Be sure to attend
 VEP's
 September 28th Meeting
 7:30 pm
 in the
 Vista Park
 Community Room
 Check our website: www.vepca.net