

# VEP NEWS

• VEP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION •

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

January 2011

## VEP's MEETING

7:30 p.m. Tuesday  
▶ **January 25, 2011** ◀

Vista Park Community Room  
475 Hyde Park Drive

## AGENDA

▶ **San Jose City Police Auditor** ◀  
Role and Function

Presentation by  
Judge LaDoris Cordell

▶ **Introduction of New Advertisers** ◀  
Brief Presentations by **KidsCopia and Sino Spa**

### ★ VEP Business Meeting ★

Snacks Provided by KidsCopia

Annual VEP Membership Drive Begins  
Free VEP Membership Drawing

Discussion on Memorial Day Event  
and Community Service Awards

Announcements & Updates

### ★ 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 January Meeting

by Marilyn Rodgers

Topics that are planned for the January general membership meeting:

▶ **San Jose City Police Auditor – Role and Function.** Featured guest speaker **Judge LaDoris Cordell, Independent Police Auditor**, will present an overview of her office's role and function. She will discuss the core services which includes community outreach, the process of initiating a concern or complaint, and how the office of the Police Auditor accomplishes its work, including current results and recommendations.

▶ **Introduction of New Advertisers. KidsCopia and Sino Spa** will give brief presentations on their respective programs and services. Meeting participant snacks provided by KidsCopia.

▶ **VEP Business Meeting/Announcements.** The annual VEP membership drive begins in January. Bring your completed membership renewal (including check) to the meeting to be entered in a drawing for a free membership! See application and information on drawing elsewhere in the VEP Newsletter. Discussion and status of plans for Memorial Day event and Community Service Awards.

▶ **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 **January 25th** meeting. Please join us!

## 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](http://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**.

**2011 is VEP's 42nd year!**

## Santa at the Park

By Adina Pierce

On Sunday, November 28, the third annual Santa at the Park Event was held in the Vista Park Community Room. This was a free community event hosted by VEP.

**Helen Castillo** and family set up craft tables so the kids could color and make holiday decorations while they were waiting. Cookies and light refreshments were served.

**Adina Pierce** took over 80 portraits of children and families with Santa.

Special thanks goes out to Helen's son, who did a great job in the role of Santa.



*Board Members Helen Castillo and Marilyn Rodgers*



*Multi-generational families enjoyed visiting Santa*



*Juliana and Kevin Pierce had fun at the craft table*



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## “Thank You” to Three Dedicated VEP Volunteers

by Marilyn Rodgers

Three dedicated VEP volunteers are making a transition from involvement in three important VEP functions or activities to other volunteer priorities. We want to acknowledge and thank them for their contributions, and to wish them well in their new adventures.

**Jeri Arstingstall** developed and has coordinated the VEP membership database for the past seven years. We appreciate Jeri’s commitment to accuracy, timeliness, and member confidentiality. Thank you, Jeri! We are fortunate to have Board Member Adina Pierce volunteer to assume this important role.

**Dave Noel** has been a supportive voice and consistent advocate for VEP’s long term program - the Community Service Awards, which acknowledges and rewards volunteerism to high school seniors. Following several years of coordinating this program for VEP, Dave notified us in 2009 that 2010 would be his final year, and he is now focusing his community volunteer efforts in a new direction. Thank you, Dave! We are continuing to recruit for a Chair/Co-Chair. (Please note: In order for VEP to offer the Community Service Awards in 2011, a volunteer to Chair/Co-Chair the program will need to be identified no later than February 1<sup>st</sup>.)

**Dave Fadness** has been the driving force and event Chair of the VEP Memorial Day Parade and Festival for the past six years. Dave has decided to direct his volunteer interest and energy in new directions. Thank you Dave! We are pleased that VEP Newsletter Editor, Susan Iverson has volunteered to Chair this event, and Helen Castillo, Board Member and Volunteer Coordinator has volunteered to be one of the Co-Chairs. We are continuing to recruit additional Co-Chairs for the Memorial Day event.

## Water in the Valley: What's Being Done? What Can YOU Do?

Wednesday, Feb 2 6:00p  
at [Martin Luther King Library](#), San Jose, CA  
Phone: (408) 243-9326

Join Green Vision Cafe for a look into the status of our water system: Santa Clara Valley Water District will discuss the situation today, what we can expect for the future, and what you can do; California Native Plant Society will discuss how homeowners can save water and enjoy other benefits by gardening with native plants; City of San Jose will discuss San Jose’s goal to recycle or beneficially reuse 100 percent of its wastewater: what is it, how will it be achieved, and how can you help?

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## Gunderson Updates



Henry T. Gunderson High School students and staff returned from the winter break, refreshed and ready to begin anew. Spring semester promises to be busy and productive.

The monthly Principal’s Meeting will shift for the next few months in hope of getting more attendees. The next meeting will be February 3 at 6:30pm. Please stop by to meet the principal, Dominic Bejarano, and perhaps find a way to get involved with Henry T. Gunderson students.

Grizzly PRIDE grows at HTGHS! The month of November and December focused on the principle of INTEGRITY. Students continue to collect PAW DOLLARS as they’re “caught being good”. The Student of the Month assembly was full of students who had demonstrated personal integrity and impressed their teachers. JANUARY and FEBRUARY focus on DIVERSITY.

Speaking of diversity, H. T. Gunderson will be holding a Multi-cultural Festival the week of February 14. Clubs, classes and other campus groups will represent different countries with a booth and activities from that country. Students will visit the booths, get passports stamped and have fun learning about the different cultures and countries that our students hail from.

Winter Ball will be held on campus the evening of January 22. The theme this year is “A Night in White”. Students will spend the week prior to the dance involved in entertaining Spirit Week activities.

H.T. Gunderson administration and students have been spending the month of January actively recruiting students. Middle schools are being visited, and tours of Gunderson are available on January 19 and 26, and February 2 at 9am. Parent Information Night will be January 27 at 6:30pm. If you have a student interested in shadowing one of our students for the day, please call the school for more information (535-6340).

The GHS basketball and soccer teams are in full swing and doing quite well. Stop by sometime and see a game to support these athletes. The athletic schedule is available on the school website.

College application due dates have come and gone, but HTGHS is happy to report that some of our students have been pre-accepted to Stanford, the UCs San Diego, Santa Barbara, Davis, Riverside and Merced. As the year progresses, many more students will find out where their next educational endeavors will take place. Stay tuned.

Mock Trial is revving up for seasonal competitions that begin in February. The team has been busy preparing for trial and is getting ready by scrimmaging Lincoln, Mitty, and Valley Christian. The kids are looking forward to representing Henry T. Gunderson High School.

Don’t forget to check out all of the other amazing events that go on at Gunderson by logging on to: <http://gunderson.sjUSD.org/>

GRIZZLY PRIDE!

## Our City Forest Receives Education Grant from City of San José

By Our City Forest

Local nonprofit Our City Forest was recently awarded a 2011 Youth Education and Development Grant by the City of San José. The grant will be used to expand Our City's Forest's existing elementary-level outreach curriculum into local middle schools.

The grant, given by San José's Department of Environmental Services, provides funding for curriculum development, materials, and transportation costs associated with Planet Tree, Our City Forest's youth program that serves schools within Santa Clara County and surrounding communities. The curriculum, formerly focused on grades K – 5, will now extend into sixth, seventh and eighth grades, with grade-appropriate activities and discussion topics incorporated into lessons about the urban forest and water conservation in the South Bay.

"As kids transition into junior high, they have a harder time finding the same wonder in the natural world they felt in elementary school," said Brian Henry, Director of Education. "Through the Planet Tree extension this grant allows us, we can not only teach adolescents to appreciate the urban forest that surrounds them, but also increase their awareness about employment opportunities within the green industry."

With support from the grant, Our City Forest will reach over 1500 elementary and 500 middle-school students between January and August 2011.

*Our City Forest is a 501(c)3 urban forestry non-profit that has served the San José area since 1994. With help from city and state grants and local contributions, Our City Forest has distributed \$5 million worth of free trees and services to neighborhoods, schools, and agencies, including nearly 50,000 15-gallon shade trees, project coordination, tree care, environmental education and volunteer training.*

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## Winter Spare the Air

<http://www.sparetheair.org/>



The Winter *Spare the Air* Season is in effect from November 1, 2010 to February 28, 2011. The Winter *Spare the Air* program notifies residents when concentrations of tiny particles, or soot, are anticipated to be unhealthy. On these high pollution days, the Air District will issue a Winter *Spare the Air* Alert which prohibits wood burning throughout the Bay Area.

Winter *Spare the Air* is crucial to the health and well-being of Bay Area residents. During the winter season, wood smoke is the largest source of harmful soot pollution.

Within the Winter *Spare the Air* section of the *Spare the Air* website, residents can find information on the health effects of wood smoke, as well as detailed information about the Wood Burning Rule and how to comply with it.

### Spare the Air Alerts

Spare the Air Alerts will be announced in the local media and posted on the *Spare the Air* and [www.baaqmd.gov](http://www.baaqmd.gov) websites. They will also be recorded at 1-800-HELP-AIR (1-800-435-7247).

### Sign Up

You can also receive notification of Spare the Air Alerts by signing up for e-mail AirAlerts.

## 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 meaningful ways to highlight the important and enjoyable work volunteers are doing for our organization and our community. 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.

## A Year of Cakes

By Kathy Wood, Baker

The final cookie slid out of the hot oven and onto the cooling rack on January 2. It has been a wonderful cookie-filled 365 days. The baking must continue, so for 2011 cakes will make an appearance on a weekly basis (daily is just too much cake).

Most everyone loves cake, whether it's a rich chocolate torte or a fluffy, lighter-than-air angel food cake. Several types of cake will be presented ranging from cupcakes to sponge cake to cheesecake to even pancakes. Some wear a coat of frosting; others swim in a pond of sauce. Fruit may crown a certain cake as another needs to be flipped for its presentation.

My first cake of the new year is one my mother shared with me and has been a favorite in our family-Aunt Jane's Pig Pickin Cake:

Ingredients: 1 yellow cake mix, ½ cup cooking oil, 4 eggs, 1 11-ounce can mandarin oranges, UNdrained. Frosting: 1 3 ¾ ounce package instant vanilla pudding, 1 8-ounce container Cool Whip, thawed OR 1 cup heavy whipping cream, 1 small can crushed pineapple, well drained.

Instructions: Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease 2 8 or 9-inch round cake pans. In a large mixing bowl, combine cake mix, oil, eggs, and mandarin oranges along with the mandarin orange juice. Mix well for 2 minutes. Pour evenly into the prepared pans. Bake for 20-25 minutes. Allow to cool for 5 minutes, loosen edges. Cool 15 minutes longer; remove from pans to wire racks to cool completely.

Make frosting: Combine Cool Whip, pudding and pineapple in medium bowl and stir until thoroughly mixed. Spread a layer over one cake, top with second cake and continue spreading around sides and top until completely covered.

This can also be made in a 13x9-inch pan. For more detailed instructions, travel to [ayearofcakes.blogspot.com](http://ayearofcakes.blogspot.com). You will find the whipping cream instructions and a picture of the finished product.

Come along with me this year as we journey into the wide world of cake baking; may you find one or two to add to your list of favorites.

"Let's Bake a Cake!"

**Kathy's Kookies**

[ayearofcookies.blogspot.com](http://ayearofcookies.blogspot.com)



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## Almaden Ranch Development

By Dave Noel and Dave Fadness

Arcadia Development Company has renewed interest in developing their large parcel of land on Almaden Expressway between Hwy 85 and Chynoweth Avenue. A project was previously proposed in 1998 and an Environmental Impact Report was completed at that time. The project went dormant until recently and has now been revived.

Due to some high level changes in the new proposed project, a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) must be prepared and approved for a project to move forward. A meeting will be held in Room W120 at City Hall on January 20 at 6:30 p.m. to define the scope of the SEIR. This is the first step of the SEIR process.

The proposed project changes that require the SEIR are:

- \* Increase maximum retail from 350,000 to 400,000 sq. ft.
- \* Remove residential land use from the project (no housing).
- \* Widen Chynoweth and connect it with Sanchez Drive.
- \* Eliminate the requirement for a Chynoweth bridge over the Guadalupe River and percolation ponds as part of the project.

The boards of VEP and Erikson Neighborhood Association (ENA) are working on a joint letter to express items we'd like to see analyzed in the SEIR. These items include providing adequate traffic mitigation, possible trail access, and noise mitigation (from garbage collection, etc).

Since 1998, VEP has successfully convinced city transportation planners that a bridge across the Guadalupe River connecting with Thornwood Drive may make better sense than a bridge connecting at Chynoweth Avenue.

As part of the SEIR study, we'd like to determine whether a bridge really is needed to mitigate the traffic impacts of this and other planned projects. If so, we're asking that the SEIR determine which alternative is better, so only the preferred bridge location will be shown on the city's General Plan. Moreover, if a bridge is needed to relieve traffic congestion, we think the developer should be required to fund a fair share of its cost.

If the study shows that no bridge is needed, we're requesting that both alternative crossings be removed from the city's General Plan.

VEP opposes a bridge extension of Chynoweth across the Guadalupe River to Almaden Expressway because earlier traffic analyses showed that major increases in traffic would result in the vicinity of Pearl Avenue—as well as cut-through traffic in our neighborhoods on streets like Hyde Park Drive. This concern is magnified by the fact that Chynoweth, formerly planned as an arterial that extended to Monterey Road, now dead-ends at the Lester Property (Martial Cottle Park). That permanent change means there would be no outlet for Chynoweth traffic except through our residential streets.

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**VEP NEEDS YOU!!**

by Marilyn Rodgers

**VEP needs your ideas, your enthusiasm ..... VEP needs you!**

There are many different types of volunteer opportunities for you through your community association!

We are currently developing a list of volunteer activities which will highlight **2-hour** volunteer commitments. The list will include brief descriptions of each activity. One such volunteer offering is the opportunity to "test" the waters...to learn what it might be like to be a board member – with as little as a 2 hour time commitment per month. Volunteer by assisting a very active volunteer - one of our board members. Don't be afraid to ask what it might mean to assist the Webmaster, Newsletter editor, or Volunteer Coordinator. For additional information, or to make suggestions, please contact Helen Castillo, Volunteer Coordinator, at 408/981-5902 or [hcastillo@vbprop.com](mailto:hcastillo@vbprop.com).



**Rose Pruning Time**

By John Marks

It's Tough-Love time for roses; that means stripping leaves, taking shears to lanky canes, and ripping out suckers. This isn't brain surgery; anybody can do it and should. You don't have to thin out the center of the plant, but you should clip an interior cane that crosses another. And do remove the leaves, so the rose will think it's going dormant. Cut above the node, where the a new shoot will grow. And if you make a mistake, don't sweat it; roses are pretty good at handling themselves. and feed them compost if you have some. If you're interested in some easy lessons, and tips from the masters, you can get three hours of instruction and practice at San Jose's Heritage Rose Garden at Spring and Taylor (or Coleman and Taylor) from 9 a.m. to noon every Wednesday and Friday. For more info, go to [www.heritageroses.us](http://www.heritageroses.us) Let the aphids come, and then two weeks later, the ladybugs will come and eat t h e a p h i d s .



Baby, it's cold out there!

While you're keeping yourself bundled up, don't forget to offer some protection to the plants in your garden. Overnight tem-

peratures hovering around freezing can cause plenty of damage. The most at-risk plants include bougainvilleas, hydrangeas, hibiscus and other tropical and subtropical plants. Avocado, guava and citrus trees — particularly lemon, lime and loquat — also can suffer, as can broad-leaf plants such as banana. There isn't much that gardeners can do if the cold lingers over several successive nights. But on a short-term basis, here are some simple steps to take to protect the most vulnerable plants or at least reduce the effects of frost.

Move frost-sensitive plants in containers to warmer spots, such as inside the house or garage or up against a wall with a southwest exposure. No southwest wall? Any wall of the house is likely to be warmer than out in the middle of the garden or patio. Roof overhangs also offer some protection from cold.

Water. Well-hydrated plants are less susceptible to freezing because they retain heat better. Thoroughly water the soil around the base of the plant, preferably in the morning. Keep water off foliage. Spraying an anti-transpirant product such as Cloud Cover, Wilt Pruf or Wilt Stop also may help.

Drape fabric — old sheets or lightweight blankets work just as well as commercially-available "plant blanket" products and burlap bag material, spread over frost-sensitive plants. Use bamboo sticks as supports for small plants and larger stakes for small trees and shrubs. The tops of the stakes should be a bit higher than the top of the plant, and the fabric should not touch any of the foliage. Thumbtacks, twist ties, staples, even duct tape will hold the fabric in place. Clear plastic sheeting can be used in a pinch, but make sure it isn't making contact with foliage. Shrubs and trees also can be wrapped loosely in burlap.

Cardboard boxes can provide protection for smaller shrubs and plants in containers. Cut one end of the box on three sides to make a hinged lid that can be opened during the day when temperatures are warmer. A 100-watt light bulb designed for outdoor use, connected with an outdoor-rated extension cord, can be hung in the interior of frost-sensitive trees. Strings of outdoor-rated holiday lights also can be strung through tree branches and around shrubs. The lights will generate enough heat overnight to reduce frost damage.

Finally, step away from the pruning shears. As difficult as it may be, resist the urge to cut off frost or freeze damage right away. This will only cause the plant to send out new foliage that will be even more vulnerable the next time temperatures drop this low — and since it's not even officially winter, you can count on that happening. Also, some plants will recover even if they look sad and awful right after the frost. On ornamentals, wait until new growth emerges in the spring to see what

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## Free Shade Trees for East San José

By Our City Forest

Our City Forest (OCF), San José's urban forest nonprofit, is pleased to announce it has received a State grant to plant 1,400 trees in east San José neighborhoods!

Eligible planting locations are public property sites within 2 miles of Hwy 101 between 280/680 and Yerba Buena Rd. Typical locations would include streets, schools, public buildings, and parks. Neighborhood groups, individual homeowners, schools, and facility managers are welcome to apply for free trees and technical assistance. Applicants are asked to participate in planting the trees and providing ongoing care.

Tree applications are available online at [www.ourcityforest.org](http://www.ourcityforest.org) or by mail (call 408-998-TREES). An Our City Forest arborist will inspect all sites to ensure legal requirements are met and will obtain necessary permits, select and purchase suitable species, ensure proper planting, and provide early tree care training. All tree recipients are asked to sign a 3-year stewardship agreement.

OCF proposed this project to help mitigate the health and environmental impacts to residents resulting from highway construction and increased traffic. Approximately 188,000 people live in this selected area which includes many lower-income census tracts, and has high rates of unemployment and foreclosures. Eligible residential neighborhoods include Hawaiian Gardens, Lanai-Cunningham, Los Sueños, San Antonio Unidos, Creekside, Khai Tri, St. James Historic District, and Arbuttle/Poco Way. There are also 58 schools in the project area attended by an estimated 34,000 children.

Shade trees will improve the quality of life for all who live, work or attend school in the area, and the sooner the trees are adopted and planted, the sooner they can start filtering air particulates, buffering highway noise and creating beautiful views.

If you are interested in receiving a free tree or helping to organize a neighborhood planting, contact Chris Herrick at 408-998-7337 x120 or [outreach@ourcityforest.org](mailto:outreach@ourcityforest.org).

*Our City Forest is a 501(c)3 urban forestry non-profit that has served the San José area since 1994. With help from city and state grants and local contributions, Our City Forest has distributed \$5 million worth of free trees and services to neighborhoods, schools, and agencies, including nearly 50,000 15-gallon shade trees, project coordination*

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## New Innovation Center Showcases Clean Energy Technologies

San Jose residents now have a unique opportunity to learn more about the world of clean technology. The **Green Vision Clean Energy Showcase**, located across from City Hall, features a number of innovative demonstrations including electric car chargers, LED streetlights, solar arrays, photovoltaic modules and structures, and other innovative clean technologies.



"The Green Vision Clean Energy Showcase brings to life many of the cutting-edge technologies that will drive our local economy and help create a greener, more sustainable community," Mayor Reed said.

The Showcase - a joint project between the City of San Jose and the U.S. Department of Energy - furthers the goals of the city's **Green Vision** by providing education and training on clean energy solutions. The project, which was funded through donations and an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant, also features products from a number of local clean tech companies, including Akeena Solar, Nanosolar, SunPower, Stion, and Fat Spaniel.

Free guided tours of the Showcase will be available for schools, professional groups and the general public starting January 15. To learn more about the Clean Energy Showcase and to reserve a tour, visit <http://energy.sanjoseca.gov/solar/tour.asp>.

## Photo Contest

Supervisor Wasserman's January Newsletter



District 1 Photo Contest! There are too many bare walls in my new office, and I want to cover them with photos from our residents. I need your help to make the office reflect the beauty and richness of our region. Please your favorite photo of what you feel best captures District 1 in Santa Clara County. See [www.supervisorwasserman.org](http://www.supervisorwasserman.org) for more information and contest rules. The deadline for submission is February 1st.



  
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★ VEP MEMBER ★

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## More Trees Planted by VEP Volunteers

*By Dave Fadness*

Working together with *Our City Forest*, VEP volunteers added a total of eleven trees to our community during the month of December.

On Saturday, December 4 we planted four trees along the sidewalk on the south side of Branham Lane, west of Narvaez Avenue. These were replacements for trees that have died there recently. Special thanks go to *Our City Forest* volunteers and to our own dedicated neighbors **Rodger Alsbrook, Joyce Chesnos, Dave Gulizia, Bob Olsen, and Debra Suydam** for their willingness to spend a Saturday morning on this project.



On drippy-wet Saturday, December 18, two teams turned out to plant at city parks. One team consisting of **Victor & Sheri Goodrum, David Haslem, Arti & Sathya Nigam, and Enoch & Beverly Laudie** planted three trees at Parkview I Park (on the north side of Bluefield Drive, across from Parkview School).

The other team, **Bob Aquino, Bob & Cindy Bosworth, Marietta Harris, and John Marks**, planted four trees at Parkview III Park (at the end of Mia Circle, north of Branham Lane). San Jose City Councilwoman **Nancy Pyle** filled-in to help at both sites and **Marilyn Rodgers** took pictures.

We are especially grateful to *Our City Forest* for donating trees, stakes, all necessary equipment, and their own volun-



teers to help do this planting. The Parkview School Community Association also helped by sending out a successful call for volunteers.

San Jose's Parks Department will do the ongoing maintenance of trees planted at Parkview I and Parkview III Parks. VEP volunteers have accepted the customary three-year responsibility to maintain the new street trees.



VEP

greatly appreciates those who helped despite inclement weather and during the busy holiday season. Their caring will be a benefit to future generations who will enjoy beauty and shade along Branham Lane and at Parkview I and III Parks.



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## Found an Animal?

Sick or injured animals need medical care from qualified individuals such as The Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley or a veterinarian experienced with wildlife. Always try to reunite a baby with its mother prior to bringing it to the Wildlife Center.



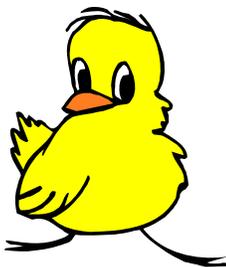
### Some Tips:

Remember that all wild animals can be dangerous, especially if frightened or injured. Use great caution when attempting to capture an animal; protect yourself by wearing heavy gloves and using a towel for capture, all the while ensuring the animal's safety as well.

- ◆ Keep the animal in a quiet, dark place before and during transport, and ensure that the container you are carrying the animal in has sufficient ventilation holes.
- ◆ Even though the animals are cute, especially babies, they are not used to being around people. The less you handle the animal, the less stress it will experience, and this will greatly improve its chances of survival.

### Baby Birds

Contrary to popular belief, parent birds will not reject their young if touched by humans. Birds have a very poor sense of smell and a strong urge to raise their young. See if you can find the nest. If the baby fell out, simply put it back. If you can't find the nest, put the bird in a warm, dark, quiet place until you can bring it to the Wildlife Center. Place the baby in a box, with tissues, paper towels or a t-shirt. Don't use cloth towels as they have loops that little claws can get stuck in and may not be the best material to use.



- ◆ Place the box on a heating pad, set on LOW, or, fill a zip lock bag with warm water, and put it under the tissues or t-shirt, placing the baby on top.
- ◆ Handle the bird as little as possible, and resist the temptation to talk to it.
- ◆ Don't give the bird any food, water, or medicine.
- ◆ Bring it to the Wildlife Center as soon as possible.

### Squirrels

Squirrels are independent of their parents when their tails are bushy and they are about half the size of adults; however, young squirrels can sometimes stray from their nest. To reunite infant squirrels with their parents, place them in a box

with a soft cloth and a hot water bottle. Try to locate the nest and place the box at the base of a nest tree and let the mother reclaim it. Be sure to bring all domestic animals indoors. If the mother doesn't appear in an hour or so, bring the babies to the Wildlife Center.

### Opossums and Raccoons

Opossums and raccoons are nocturnal, and often make their homes in our neighborhoods. If you come upon a baby that is less than seven inches long (not measuring the tail), watch it for a half hour from a distance to see if the mother will come to retrieve it. If not, keep it warm and quiet, just like baby birds and squirrels, and bring it to the Center.

### For specific advice, please call the WCSV at 929-9453.

Bring any injured, orphaned, sick, or distressed wild bird or mammal that genuinely needs help to the Center. Do not give it any food or water, ensure the carrier or box has plenty of air holes, and keep the area as quiet as possible.

Wildlife Center  
of Silicon Valley  
3027 Penitencia Creek Road  
San Jose, CA 95132  
408-929-9453 (929-WILD)  
[info@wcsv.org](mailto:info@wcsv.org)

If we are closed, take the animal to one of the following organizations:

- ◆ The [Humane Society Silicon Valley](#), 408-262-2133, is open 24 hours a day for incoming animals.
- ◆ For the communities of San Jose, Cupertino, Los Gatos, Milpitas and Saratoga, call the [Animal Care & Services Center](#) at (408) 578-7297 to arrange for an after-hours pickup.



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## It's Time to Renew Your VEP Membership

VEP membership is based on a calendar year, January through December, so it's time to renew your membership. You'll find a remit envelop in this newsletter. Please be sure to fill in the information requested, enclose your \$20 check made payable to VEP, and mail it back to us as soon as possible--while it's still fresh in your mind. That's all there is to it!

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

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

### What is VEP Community Association?

VEP is an all-volunteer organization of your neighbors working to improve our neighborhoods.

VEP sponsors many projects and events that improve safety, our quality of life, and the appearance of our community.

VEP volunteers make our neighborhood's needs, views, and concerns known to government at all levels.

VEP was founded in 1969. We are one of the largest, most successful, and most continuously active and enduring grass roots volunteer organizations in Santa Clara County.

### Why join VEP?

To receive our newsletter nine times a year.

To receive monthly email alerts.

To keep our neighborhoods beautiful, safe, strong, and prepared.

To participate in and support effective neighborhood activities and representation.

To support VEP's annual *Community Service Awards* for high school graduates.

To be part of an outstanding volunteer community organization with 40 years of success in our neighborhoods.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### I am willing to volunteer for:

- Beautification/clean-up projects
- VEP News/mailling prep
- Memorial Day Parade & Festival
- Distribute flyers  Serve on a committee
- Serve as a VEP officer or committee chair
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Please let us know:**  I prefer getting my newsletters by email.

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

## ENTER TO WIN FREE VEP MEMBERSHIP!

Bring your completed Membership Application, with payment, to the VEP General Meeting on Tuesday January 25th, and be entered in a drawing to have your membership fee returned to you! Imagine, all the great benefits of VEP Membership, for free!



**Invite your neighbors  
to join VEP**

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# VEP Community Calendar

## January / February 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23	24	25 VEP Community Meeting - 7:30 PM -Vista Park Community Room	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2 Groundhog Day 	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Lincoln's Birthday 
13	14 Valentines Day 	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 President's Day 	22 Washington's Birthday 	23	24	25	26
ESUHSD/ OGUSD/SJUSD Off						

# THE VEP NEWS



## VEP Community Association

P.O. Box 18111 San Jose, CA 95158  
 Email: [vepca@vepca.net](mailto:vepca@vepca.net) Website: [www.vepca.net](http://www.vepca.net)

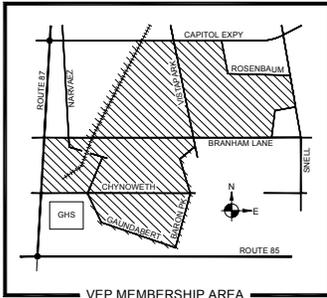
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Published monthly by VEP Community Association, a not-for-profit organization of volunteers established in 1969 to serve and represent more than 2000 homes in the Blossom Valley area of southern San Jose. VEP is dedicated to neighborhood maintenance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

### VEP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Prefer your newsletter via Email?  
 Let us know at [vep@vepca.net](mailto:vep@vepca.net).



Be sure to attend  
 VEP's  
 January 25th Meeting  
 7:30 pm  
 in the  
 Vista Park  
 Community Room  
 Check our website: [www.vepca.net](http://www.vepca.net)