

VEP NEWS

• VEP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION •

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

May 2011

VEP'S MEETING

7:30 p.m. Tuesday
► **March 27, 2012** ◀

Vista Park Community Room
475 Hyde Park Drive

AGENDA

★ Update on Emergency/Disaster Preparedness ★

a presentation by

Alex Fraser
Volunteer Trainer
Emergency Services

Presentation by

**Pinehurst PERT
Emergency Response Team**

and

CPR Demonstration
Santa Clara Valley Chapter
American Red Cross

★ VEP Business Meeting ★

Announcements & Updates
Discussion and Approval of
Donation to San Jose Parks Foundation
CPR Classes
Membership Drive Ends April 1st
Community Service Awards
District 10 Candidates Forum April 28th
Gunderson H. S. Theatre

★ Your Concerns and Ideas ★

Your chance to voice your opinion and/or to seek VEP's help.
Everyone is welcome. Invite your neighbors!

**VEP Membership Drive
Comes to a Close April 1st!!**
(See information and
application on page 7)

VEP's March Meeting

by Marilyn Rodgers

March's general membership meeting:

► **Update on Emergency/Disaster Preparedness** - featured guest speaker will be **Alex Fraser**, Volunteer Trainer for the Office of Emergency Services and District 10 Honoree will provide an update and overview on Emergency/Disaster Preparedness. Members of the **Pinehurst PERT Emergency Response Team** will provide highlights on what one neighborhood association is doing to be prepared. A **CPR demonstration** will be provided on performing adult CPR. Information will be available on requirements and cost of making a class available in the neighborhood.

► **VEP Business Meeting/Updates/Announcements.**

► **Your Concerns and Ideas** – We want to hear from you! Together we can work toward positive resolution. This approach continues to make VEP neighborhoods strong, healthy, and attractive.

We look forward to seeing you, your friends and neighbors, at the March 27th meeting. Please join us!

February Meeting Summary

by Katherine Decker and Marilyn Rodgers

The theme for February's meeting was Leap Year – treats and goodies were provided at the sign-in table.

President Marilyn Rodgers introduced Natasha Baker, representing the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, who provided a brief overview of the 1000 Hearts for 1000 Minds. This program, which is being championed by the San Jose City Council, encourages San Jose residents to consider donating as little as two hours per month to assist a child or children in gaining skills and confidence in core academic areas of literacy, math and science. For additional information, see the article in the February VEP newsletter, or go to website: <http://www.hearts4minds.org/volunteer-opportunities>.

2012 is VEP's 43rd year!

The focus of the meeting was dedicated to presentations on Parks. The first speaker was by **Alicia Flynn**, Project Manager for Santa Clara County Parks who provided an update on design development plans for Martial Cottle Park. Significant behind-the-scenes work has been accomplished since the Master Design Plan was approved a year ago. Phase I of the design development plans will focus on perimeter trails, park and staff maintenance facilities, and day use facilities. Additional work was begun on Phase II for the multiuse pavillon, the native plant nursery, and lease agricultural use agreements. Design work accomplished last summer and fall included programming and schematic design, permitting – state and federal, the master lease agreement, trail system (which was fairly well developed in the Master Design), park staff and maintenance – dealing with specific uses and needs, and the relationship with the Life Estate. All buildings will be built with a goal of LEED ratings. The current timelines are as follows: May 2012 – design plans will be shared with the public – for comment and feedback; Fall 2012 and Spring 2013 requests for proposals/bids; work to begin on perimeter trails May 2013.

The second speaker – **Mollie Tobias**, Volunteer Manager for San Jose Parks & Rec – provided an overview on San Jose Parks focusing on VEP area parks. She reviewed opportunities to volunteer including Adopt-a-Park, and the Doggie Bag volunteer donation programs, as well as information on the Volunteer Form which potential volunteers need to complete.

The third and last speaker – **James Reber**, Executive Director of the San Jose Parks Foundation, provided an overview of the important role the foundation will now play as the realities of city's financial/budget cuts will start to have a larger negative impact on our city parks.

VEP Business Meeting and Announcements – 1) The criteria for 2012 CSA awards was approved. 2) A motion was approved requesting the Board consider a generous donation to the San Jose Parks Foundation.

Announcements – Those interested in attending a CPR class, contact Marilyn Rodgers. There is a minimum number of participants required to hold a class.

VEP Membership drive continues

Candidates Forum for District 10 Candidates is scheduled for Tuesday, April 28th
District 10 Council seat candidate Edesa Bitbadal was introduced.

The raffle drawing prize – was won by Omar Ruano.



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VEP helps you solve community problems

VEP Donation to San Jose Parks Foundation— A Proposal

by Marilyn Rodgers

Parks have long been a high priority for VEP. Several years ago, when Belden School closed, VEP fought to have the land located at Camden and Hyde Park developed into a neighborhood park – now Vista Park. Since that time, VEP has partnered with San Jose City Parks and Recreation department to develop and maintain Vista Park, as well as the other 4 parks within the geographic area of VEP. (Meadows, Parkview I, II, and III).

Now, with decreasing city resources available, the San Jose Parks Foundation is striving to help fill the void. At the February VEP meeting, a motion was passed requesting the VEP Board of Directors consider making a donation to the San Jose City Parks Foundation. The Board will be presenting a proposal for a donation at the March 27th meeting.

Status of CPR Class

by Marilyn Rodgers, Katherine Decker, Helen Castillo

VEP would like to offer a CPR class and make it available in the neighborhood. Several members have already indicated their interest.

However, several issues have arisen that need further consideration.

There is a minimum number of participants required to hold a class. Approximately twice the number of interested individuals will be needed, as once a date/time has been decided many people will not be able to attend due to scheduling conflicts.

A significant fee is charged for each participant. The participant will be provided with an information manual, a certification card (with completion of the course), and their own individual mannequin for use during the course. (Purchase and maintenance of the equipment particularly the mannequins, is expensive – thus, reason for fee).

Participating in a CPR class is both an intellectual and physical activity. (Some members may have difficulty with the physical component of the class.)

Why should you consider taking a CPR class? Having this information along with physical ability and confidence to perform this skill is very empowering!! You will be reassured that you could help a family member or a friend should the need arise.

Additionally, VEP is interested in encouraging a cadre of volunteers to be certified in CPR and First Aid, as this would be very beneficial in the event of a major emergency/disaster.

To provide members with additional information, there will be a discussion and a CPR demonstration at the March 27th meeting.

Princeton Plaza Hours Monday – Saturday 10-6 Sunday 12-5

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Election Forum at April 24 VEP Meeting

By Dave Fadness

On June 5, San Jose voters will be faced with decisions on a city employee retirement pension initiative and the election of city council members. VEP is holding a forum that will help you to vote smart on these matters.



All District 10 city council candidates will attend. (Nancy Pyle will be termed-out, so cannot run for re-election.) Candidates will be given time for brief opening and closing presentations, then take questions from our audience. This is your chance to meet and see them all in person, to hear their views, and to ask them your most burning questions.

Each council candidate has been asked to respond to a questionnaire formulated by VEP. Their answers will be published in the April 2012 edition of this newsletter. Watch for it.

Speakers representing both sides of the city employee pension reform initiative will also be at our forum. The same format will apply: speakers will deliver opening and closing presentations, then take questions from our audience.

Our moderator will be **Barbara Marshman**, Editor of the Editorial Pages for the San Jose Mercury-News.

This meeting is open to the public. Please attend and pass the word to family and friends. Here are the details:

Election Forum

7 p.m. Tuesday
April 24, 2012

in the

Gunderson High School
Theater

The Gunderson High School theater is adjacent to the school's front entrance. Gunderson is located at 622 Gaundabert Lane, off Chynoweth Avenue in the northeast quadrant of the Route 85/87 interchange. Our goal is to conclude this event by 9 p.m.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Upcoming Volunteer Events

Vista Park Beautification/Maintenance Project – Volunteers Needed – Saturday March 24th

Come join your neighbors on Saturday morning, March 24th, from 9am – 1pm to help distribute fibar at Vista Park. Some equipment will be provided such as wheelbarrows, but if you have favorite tools such as shovels and rakes, bring them along for your use. Don't forget your gloves. To volunteer or for additional information, contact Dave Fadness at dfadness@sbcglobal.net or 408/578-6428.

Keeping SAN JOSE CLEAN is now just a click away

Free Smartphone App Now Available to Report Graffiti, Litter and City Park Concerns. The City of San José's Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services and the Anti-Graffiti/Anti-Litter Program are launching a **free** SAN JOSE CLEAN application, starting Thursday, January 12, 2012 that will allow residents with smartphones to point, click and send photos and reports of graffiti, litter and city park conditions to City staff.

These applications also allow users to choose an option to receive updates on the status of their request. Both the Droid application and iPhone application are now available for the public to download to their smartphone.

For Droid-type Phone Users

Download the application from the Droid Market by searching for the keyword "San Jose Clean" and then click on SAN JOSE CLEAN.

For iPhone Users

Download the SAN JOSE CLEAN application from the iPhone App Store by searching for the keyword "San Jose Clean" and selecting SAN JOSE CLEAN.

The SAN JOSE CLEAN application was developed by App-Order at no cost to the City. Residents can still continue to report graffiti to the Anti-Graffiti Program by email at antigrffiti@sanjoseca.gov or by phone at (866) 249-0543. Litter can also be reported by email to antigrffiti@sanjoseca.gov or by phone at (408) 277-3208. City park conditions can still be reported by email to parkconcerns@sanjoseca.gov or by phone at (408) 794-5510.

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Annual VEP Membership Drives Comes to a Close

By Marilyn Rodgers & Adina Pierce

The end of March signals the end of the annual VEP Membership drive. If you have already sent in your membership renewal, thank you for your continued support of VEP! If you have forgotten to send in your renewal, please do it today. An application is included in this newsletter, and is also included online at the VEP website – www.vepca.net. Complete the application, make out a check to VEP Community Association for \$20.00, and mail it to: VEP Community Association, P.O. Box 18111, San Jose, Ca. 95158.

To assure that there is no interruption in receiving the newsletter and e-mail alerts, your renewal must be received by April 1st.

Campaign for Healthy Food San Jose Launched

The Health Trust, a Silicon Valley charitable foundation, has partnered with the Santa Clara County Department of Public Health to form the *Campaign for Healthy Food San Jose*. Working with city departments and healthy food providers, the Campaign is seeking changes in city policies that will:



- **Increase urban agriculture**, including home gardens, community gardens and urban farms, particularly in areas with limited access to healthy food options
- **Support Certified Farmers' Markets and mobile produce vendors** in neighborhoods with the highest need, and promote use of EBT for purchases
- **Make healthier food and beverages more available** in Parks & Recreation facilities and city-sponsored after-school programs

For more information and to sign up for updates, visit www.healthtrust.org/campaignforhealthyfoodsanjose or e-mail healthyfood@healthtrust.org or call 408.879.8434.

New Local Farmers Market

If you enjoy farm fresh produce, there is a new Farmer's Market in San Jose, operated by actual farmers from the Santa Clara County Farm Bureau.



A local farmers market is held each Friday 10AM-2PM at Central Christian Church, 2555 Meridian Avenue near Curtner. In addition to fresh produce and other food goodies, they have a child care corner, away from the vendors.

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OOPS! My Mistake!

Last months newsletter mistakenly obscured the **Chesnos Painting** ad with a retirement picture. For those that wondered, **NO! Chesnos is NOT retiring!** (But maybe the newsletter editor should!)

VEP Community Service Awards

by Marilyn Rodgers and Lu Anne Behringer

At the February VEP meeting, the membership approved the specific criteria and budget for the 2012 CSA Awards Program.

The specifics are as follows:

"Up to 3 awards be granted at the judges' discretion, evenly distributed among selected winners. Nominations to be solicited from AHHS, GHS, and in the VEP newsletter (for Member-at-Large). School administrators will be asked to nominate at least 2 students per school with no upper limit. No more than 1 award per category (AHHS, GHS, At-Large). Ok to grant an award in a category with only 1 nominee. Ok not to grant an award in any category, if judges feel the candidate(s) don't merit an award."

The budget approved for 2012 is \$1,000.00.

Applications for students at Andrew Hill and Gunderson High Schools will be available through each school after March 25th.

The application for At-Large candidates will be available online at website at www.vepca.net, or by request.

For additional information, or requests for applications, please contact Marilyn Rodgers at 408/225-7553 or by e-mail at MRodgersRN@aol.com.

Completed applications are due April 27th. Selection of award-ees will be during the first part of May with awards presented at each participating high school by the end of May. If an award is given for At-Large, it will be presented at the VEP meeting, May 29th.

If you know a deserving high school senior who is a very active volunteer, please let them know about our Community Service Awards.

GUNDERSON NEWS

Summer is just around the corner, but Gunderson Grizzlies have lots to accomplish before June. The year has been going well and Gunderson is moving forward. You can check out all event details and other news at: <http://gunderson.sjUSD.org/>



Last month Gunderson reported that Advanced Placement (AP) classes and schedules are starting to be created for next year. On March 15, a special AP Information Night was held that was well attended by parents and students alike. Gunderson is offering new AP classes for the 2012-2013, bringing our total to a dozen classes on site.

The Girls' Varsity Basketball team won their division championship and although they didn't win the final CCS championship, they did manage to do well enough under the coaching of John Drake, to become a Division A team next year! Many congratulations to the team!

Girls' Varsity Soccer also had a strong season, coming in second in the league. Be sure to check out the athletics web site at: <http://www.gundersonathletics.com>

10th graders took part in CAHSEE testing mid-March. Students and teachers have been working diligently to boost their skills. The next testing will be the CSTs, and those begin in early April. AP testing occurs in early May.

The Sadies Dance will be held on March 24. This year's theme is a jungle themed, "Into the Wild". Leading up to the yearly dance, students will participate in a series of lunchtime activities, spirit days and a rally.

There will be an E-Waste fundraising event at Gunderson on March 24. Come on over and bring your old electronics.

The annual Poetry Slam will take place at lunch in the theater during the week of March 26. Students will compete throughout the week culminating with the final competition on Friday evening, March 30 at 7pm. This event is much loved by the Gunderson community and we look forward to hearing some new works by our talented students.

Principal Bejarano holds chats at 6pm on the FIRST Thursday of every month. The next chat will be Thursday, April 5. Stop by, meet Mr. Bejarano and get to know about all of the great things that go on at Henry T. Gunderson High School.

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Deciphering Numbers on Fertilizer Packages

By John Marks

When should you fertilize plants in your yard? Why are there so many types of fertilizers? What do those three numbers on the packages mean?



The answer to the first question is: start fertilizing after the last frost and continue through to the fall. The reason for the different sets of numbers is that each plant calls for a different combination.

Fertilizer numbers such as 5-10-5 or 12-8-4 stand for the percentage by weight of the three key nutrients critical for plant growth: nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K). Nitrogen feeds leaves. Phosphorus feeds roots (also flowers and fruits). Potassium is for overall health and cellular development. As in multivitamins, there are also other important players: iron, sulfur, calcium, magnesium, etc. Commercial fertilizers tailor these minor nutrients to meet the picky demands of certain plants, such as acid-loving camellias, azaleas and blueberries, or iron-loving shrubs.

But it's the big three that call most of the botanical shots. Take a chemical grass fertilizer with numbers like 25-6-4. This fertilizer is designed to promote leaf growth, which is why it's nitrogen content is so high. By contrast, a box of bone meal or starter fertilizer or bulb food will have a higher middle number like 1-15-0 or 2-4-2 or 5-10-5 because phosphorus is the nutrient that feeds roots. Phosphorus also promotes flower and fruit development, so you'll see a high middle number on packages promising more buds, blooms, vegetables and fruits.

General-purpose fertilizers have more balanced numbers like 4-4-4 or 16-16-16 because they try to cover all bases. However, don't rush to put a general fertilizer on just any plant because nitrogen can push leaf growth before the last frosts, or create overly lush leaves, attracting aphids and other pests.

(the above article was adapted from an article in the 2/3/07 issue of the San Jose Mercury News)

Does VEP have your current e-mail address?

Unfortunately some of our members did not receive all of their newsletters or e-mails this past year, when they forgot to let us know of the change. You are very important to us, so please put VEP on your notification list when you update or change addresses. E-mail is also the primary communication tool used during months that newsletters are not published.

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**.

We Do Catering


Hours:
Tues-Fri 11-2, 4-9
Sat 10-2, 4-9
Sun 10-2, 5-8
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Mayor Reed Releases March Budget Message

From the Office of Chuck Reed

Mayor Reed has called on the City to make a limited number of strategic investments while remaining focused on conquering its ongoing fiscal challenges in developing San Jose's FY 2012-13 budget.

With the City projecting a modest \$10 million surplus in the upcoming 2012-13 fiscal year, Mayor Reed's March Budget Message recommends:

- Opening the City's newly constructed libraries and community centers, all of which have remained closed due to recent budget deficits;
- Allocating \$2 million in additional funding for gang prevention programs;
- Investing additional money to fully fund street maintenance and repair within a 400-mile priority network of San Jose's most heavily used roads; and
- Setting aside some of the surplus funds to address future projected deficits.

"After a decade of budget cuts, we will likely be able to avoid painful service reductions and layoffs this year, and slowly begin to address some of our community's top priorities," said Mayor Reed. "However, we're not out of the woods yet."

After a one-year reprieve in FY 2012-13, the City is projecting a \$22.5 million deficit in FY 2013-14. The City also has an additional \$105 million in ongoing road and infrastructure needs and it would cost \$33 million annually to restore critical services cut last year.

As a result, Mayor Reed's Budget Message also underscores the need to continue implementing the **City's Fiscal Reform Plan**, with a particular emphasis on addressing escalating retiree healthcare costs.

Read the entire budget message at
<http://www.sanjoseca.gov/mayor/news/memos/12Mar/MarchBudgetMessage.pdf>

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.

Where is the Vista Park Community Room?

"Vista Park" is a city park; it's at the intersection of Hyde Park Drive and New Compton Drive, here in our VEP community. We meet in the Community Room which is on the east side of the park, at 475 Hyde Park Drive. It's easy to find...

From its intersection with Branham Lane, take Vistapark Drive south to Hyde Park Drive (that's where Vistapark Drive ends). Turn right on Hyde Park Drive and drive a few blocks to just beyond the bridge over Canoas Creek. The parking lot and Community Room will be on your right. (If you get to the stop sign at New Compton Drive, you've gone too far.) We look forward to seeing you there!

**Invite your neighbors
to join VEP**

** Membership Application **

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

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

Last name(s): _____

First name(s): _____

Street address: _____

Telephone # _____

Email address(es): _____

Comments): _____

Can you give VEP a few volunteer hours? _____

I am willing to volunteer for:

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

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Oak Grove School District Appoints New Superintendent

Dennis Hawkins, President Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees unanimously approved the appointment of Jose Manzo as the next Superintendent of the Oak Grove School District, effective July 1, 2012, at its regularly scheduled meeting on March 8, 2012. The Board expresses its appreciation to Tony Garcia, the current Superintendent, who will retire after 37 years in education on June 30. Tony dedicated 35 years to Oak Grove, including three years as the Superintendent.

Mr. Manzo has served as the Superintendent for the Alum Rock Union School District since December 2008 and possesses a wealth of education experience. He has over 22 years as an educator, including four years as Principal of Oak Grove's Samuel Stipe Elementary School. During his career, Jose has held the positions of Manager of Human Resources and Director of Elementary Education in the San Jose Unified School District. Over the past seven years he has served as Alum Rock's Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Deputy Superintendent, and Superintendent.

The Board of Trustees made its decision with participation and information gathered through focus groups held last fall involving parents, community members, community organizations, and staff. The participants provided valuable input regarding the desired qualities for the next Superintendent. The Board was assisted in the search by Larry Aceves and Jim Brown, consultants from the firm of Leadership Associates. Based on the feedback received from our focus groups, the Board considered both internal and external candidates. We looked for a collaborative leader and one who is familiar with and committed to Oak Grove's Mission, Vision, and Core Values. Our District is strong, and we want our next Superintendent to build upon the good things we're doing, while bringing a fresh perspective and innovative spirit which will help improve our schools and our level of student achievement as we continue to prepare our children as 21st Century learners. With Jose, we get all of these qualities and more.

"Jose is going to be a great Superintendent. I am excited about his appointment and commend the Board for choosing him to be Superintendent," said Tony Garda.

"I am honored that the Board of Trustees has selected me to be Superintendent and I look forward to continue building on the foundation established by Tony Garcia, Manny Barbara and others over the years," said Jose Manzo. "I am proud to be part of this District that has maintained a high quality of education for all students. I look forward to working with the Oak Grove students, staff, and community as we strive to provide safe schools and a place where each child can learn and achieve his or her potential." Please join the Board in welcoming Jose and saying thank you to Tony for a job well done.

Humane Society Silicon Valley Needs Adoptive Families!

Meet Trudy



Meet Trudy, a 6 year-young Dalmatian mix with brains and beauty. Whether she's playing with other dogs or cruising the dog park in search of people to pet her, Trudy is the life of the party. Though Trudy is deaf, she has learned basic commands through hand signals and will do almost anything for a treat which makes training enjoyable for both her and her person. Trudy is living in a foster home while available for adoption so please call to schedule a date with her, you just might fall in love!

Humane Society Silicon Valley Animal Community Center

901 Ames Avenue
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Phone: 408-262-2133

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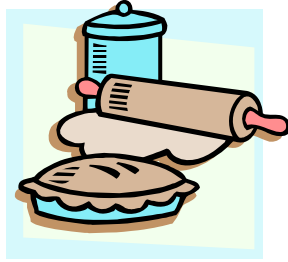
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Pie For a Year

By Kathy Wood, Baker



March Madness: the term given to the meeting of college basketball's winningest teams in a playoff setting. "March Madness" could also be defined as that specific time of the year, in the "snowy" states, when the month of March can produce a final snow or ice storm. Either of these events can trap people in their homes for a day or two (or even a week).

Day One is tolerable, if not exciting. The "always accurate" weather people have predicted the inches of "white stuff" causing long lines at the grocery store for stocking up. The hardware store accommodates last-minute shoppers selecting flashlights, batteries, shovels, ice scrapers, melting salt, and other paraphenalia needed to ride out the storm. Feeling confident with all this preparation, that first day can proceed with such activities as playing games, constructing jigsaw puzzles, watching television (if one has electricity), reading a novel, or just sitting by the window watching the snow blow.

By Day Two the "madness" can set in. If you start seeing it snow inside your house or attempt to ice skate on your kitchen floor, you may be showing the beginning symptoms of this illness.

Here, in California, more than one day of rain at a time can have the same effect (not this year!), so avoid it by stocking up your kitchen and baking a pie or two. Here's a simple pie with one of my favorite combination flavors-mint and chocolate.

Minty Grasshopper Pie Ingredients:

- 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened,
- 1 (14 ounce) can condensed milk,
- green food coloring,
- 1 package fudge mint cookies,
- 1 (8 ounce) container cool whip (or whipped cream),
- 1 ready-made chocolate pie crust.

Instructions: Crush 16 cookies in a plastic bag with a hammer; set aside. In a large mixing bowl, beat cream cheese until fluffy; gradually beat in condensed milk until smooth. Stir in food coloring and crushed cookies. Fold in cool whip. Pour into crust and chill at least 3 hours. Garnish with more cookies, if desired. Refrigerate leftovers. For a picture, visit pieforayear.blogspot.com.

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Community-Wide Garage Sale on May 5th

Our annual *Community Garage Sale* will be held on Saturday, May 5th. Make sure to mark it on your calendar now, and start gathering those treasures you no longer use from your garage, attic, and closets.



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.

Activity attracts more activity. Your best resource is you--get your neighbors involved. People will pass by your street unless they think something is happening there. Try to get *everyone* on your street to join in. You might even pool all your neighbors' goodies into one big second-hand superstore. If your neighbors aren't selling, ask if you can spread out to their driveway.

Plan now to make sure you can be seen from the street. Put up balloons or signs. Have your out-of-area friends bring garage sale items that add to yours--make it a big, fun event on your street or cul-de-sac. A little energy and creativity now will pay off in big dividends, freeing up space in your home and putting extra money in your pocket.

If you will be participating and would like to have your street specifically listed on craigslist, please email just the street name to vepeditor@sbcglobal.net.

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.

Happening Near Home!

From Supervisor Wasserman's March 2012 Newsletter

San Jose: Women and Girls Summit

Date: Friday, March 23, 2012

Time: 9:00am

Location: Board Chambers, 70 W. Hedding St., San Jose

Mark your calendar and reserve your seat for the Santa Clara County Office of Women's Policy Report Release and Launch Event: State of Women and Girls in Santa Clara County. The event is free, but a reservation is required. RSVP: Carla Collins (408) 299-5152 or carla.collins@ceo.sccgov.org.



San Jose: Healthy Trails Hike

Date: Saturday, March 24, 2012

Time: 9:00am

Location: Santa Teresa County Park, 260 Bernal Rd., San Jose

A Park Docent will lead you on a moderate 2.5-mile hike along the Fortini Trail to see beautiful views of the Santa Teresa hills, Calero Lake and Almaden Valley. Meet at the Fortini Trailhead parking lot with sturdy hiking shoes, sun protection, water and snacks.

More information: (408) 355-2240

San Jose: Walk for Thought

Date: Saturday, March 31, 2012

Time: 7:00pm

Location: Almaden Lake Park-Arroyo Picnic Area, 15700 Almaden Expy, San Jose

The Brain Injury Association of California is holding its Fifth Annual Statewide Walk for Thought brought to San Jose by the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center's Rehabilitation Research Center (RCC). The 1 mile walk is to bring awareness of brain injury to the community and raise funds to help sustain the Brain Injury Association of California and RCC.

More information: [Brain Injury Association of California](http://www.braininjury.org).

Gilroy: Gavilan College Career Fair

Date: Wednesday, April 4, 2012

Time: 10:00am - 1:00pm

Location: Gavilan College Student Center

The Career and Transfer Center is inviting local businesses to participate in Career Day 2012! Fill out the online registration form available at [2012 Gavilan College Career Day](http://www.gavilan.edu/careerday) and promote your business, provide students with career advice, and offer industry insight!

Contact: Vania Parakati at vparakati@gavilan.edu or (408) 848-4818

San Jose: 8th Annual Pat's Run

Date: Saturday, April 21, 2012

Time: 9:00am

Location: Corner of Camden Avenue and Via Valiente, San Jose

On Saturday, April 21, 2012 over 35,000 participants, volunteers and spectators from across the country will unite all across the country. Together, they run, walk and honor Pat Tillman's legacy while raising important funds to support the programs created to pay tribute to his commitment to leadership and service.

More information: [Pat Tillman Foundation. Run | Walk.](http://www.pat-tillman.org)



Fraternal Order of Eagles- People Helping People

The Fraternal Order of Eagles was established in San Jose in 1898. It was the eighth lodge in the nation, therefore is known as "San Jose Eagles #8" The Eagles, also known as "FOE" is a Fraternal Lodge which was formed mainly for charity work. Our mission statement says we are an international non-profit organization, uniting fraternally in the spirit of liberty, truth, justice, and equality, to make human life more desirable by lessening its ills, and by promoting peace, prosperity, gladness and hope.

The backbone of our organization is the Charity Foundation. The charitable philosophy of the Eagles is to give back 100 percent of the contributions received in the form of grants. We never deduct any administrative fees as these costs are paid by the International Organization through membership dues.

The charities funded by the Eagles include Diabetes Research Center (DRC); in 2008 the national office pledged \$25 million over five years.

The Art Ehrmann Cancer Fund was founded in November 1959. Art was the first director of the Eagles Cancer Fund and served for 25 years, when he died of cancer the fund was renamed after him.

The Jimmy Durante Children's Fund and Child Abuse Prevention Fund are one of the Eagles greatest achievements. Durante was a major supporter of the Eagles Charities and entertained at 14 consecutive international conventions as well as many other gatherings until his death in 1980. In 1966 we named the Children's Fund after him. Locally this fund is used to take under privileged children (who have made improvement in school in grades, attendance, or citizenship judged by their teachers and recommended to participate) Christmas shopping with a budget of \$150.00 each to spend any way they want. This last December we took 150 San Jose kids for a total shopping spree of \$22,500.00.

Other Charities which I will detail in future articles include, Spinal Cord Injury Research, Max Baer Heart Fund, The D. D. Dunlap Kidney Fund, Robert W. Hansen Diabetes Fund, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Disaster Relief, and Blind Babies and more.

I hope this gives you an idea of what our organization is and does. We would love to get to know you and we invite you to our April 1st all you can eat pancake breakfast. We will be serving a large pancake breakfast this summer and we need to practice to see how fast we can fry up those pancakes. So, please bring you hungry teens and come meet us at 1036 Lincoln Ave in Willow Glen. A \$5 donation per person will get you in for Pancakes, Coffee, and Orange Juice, from 9:00am to 11:00am. If you have any questions about the breakfast or the organization please feel free to call me at 408-314-1040.



VEP Community Association

Representing More Than 2000 Families in the Blossom Valley Area of South San Jose Since 1969

★ 2012 Community Service Award - "At Large" Nomination Form ★

VEP's annual *Community Service Award* is an attempt by VEP to encourage and reward high school students who have begun what we hope will be a lifelong pattern of volunteer community service. Awards will be granted exclusively on the basis of a graduating high school senior's voluntary community service accomplishments during his or her high school years.

To be considered for this award, a nominee must:

- A. Live in the VEP area (see www.vepca.net for a map), or be the son or daughter of a VEP member and live in San Jose.
- B. Mail an original signed hardcopy to VEP at the address shown below to be received by April 27, 2012;
- C. Be certified to be a graduating high school senior by:
 1. An administrator from the nominee's school;
 2. If home schooled, by a state-credentialed tutor;
 3. If an independent study student, by an administrator from the school where enrolled in independent studies;
- D. Not also be a nominee in the Andrew Hill or Gunderson High School categories.

This form may be downloaded and printed from VEP's website, www.vepca.net.

A cover letter and/or letter(s) of recommendation may be submitted with this application. Please limit to one page each.

For any questions, see the **VEP News**, visit www.vepca.net, or email Marilyn Rodgers at MRodgersRN@aol.com.

Please print legibly and fit your answers in the space provided. You may cut and paste typed text onto the form.

★ PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ★

Nominee's name: _____		Date: _____
Nominee's address: _____		Email address: _____
		Telephone Number: _____
Name and address of nominee's high school: _____		Month/Year Graduating: _____
Number of community service hours required for graduation: _____	Number of community service hours required for any other purpose: _____	Please explain: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> I live in the VEP area (see www.vepca.net for a map); and/or <input type="checkbox"/> I am the son or daughter of a VEP member – List VEP member info below:		
Name: _____		Address: _____
Phone: _____		Email address: _____
I certify that my community service record reported on this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.		
Nominee's signature: _____		Date: _____
I certify that the nominee has senior class standing at the above named high school, is expected to graduate in the month and year indicated above, and that the nominee's community service record reported on this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.		
High school administrator's signature: _____		Date: _____
Print high school administrator's name: _____		

▶▶ Be sure to include information requested on the next page. ◀◀



VEP Community Association

Representing More Than 2000 Families in the Blossom Valley Area of South San Jose Since 1969

★ Community Service Record Form ★

★ PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ★

Nominee's name:

Please describe in detail below the nominee's high school community service record. Use additional sheets if necessary.

Name of volunteer organization:

Dates involved (example: 1/03 – 5/03):

Total volunteer hours:

Describe activities and accomplishments:

Name of volunteer organization:

Dates involved (example: 1/03 – 5/03):

Total volunteer hours:

Describe activities and accomplishments:

Name of volunteer organization:

Dates involved (example: 1/03 – 5/03):

Total volunteer hours:

Describe activities and accomplishments:

Name of volunteer organization:

Dates involved (example: 1/03 – 5/03):

Total volunteer hours:



Describe activities and accomplishments:

(Use additional sheets if necessary.)

(Optional) List any other information our judges should know about the nominee and his or her volunteer community service record:

VEP Community Calendar

March / April 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 VEP Commu- nity Meeting— 7:30 PM— Vista Park Community Room	28	29	30	31
1 April Fools Day 	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Easter 	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21

Dates to Remember!

VEP Community Meetings

March 27, 2012
April 24, 2012
May 29, 2012

Community Events

Community Garage Sale - Saturday May 5, 2012

THE VEP NEWS



VEP Community Association

P.O. Box 18111 San Jose, CA 95158
 Email: vepca@vepca.net Website: www.vepca.net

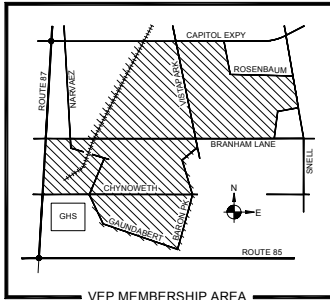
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Published monthly by VEP Community Association, a not-for-profit organization of volunteers established in 1969 to serve and represent more than 2000 homes in the Blossom Valley area of southern San Jose. VEP is dedicated to neighborhood maintenance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

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



Check our website: www.vepca.net

Community Room

Vista Park

in the
 7:30 pm

March 27th Meeting

VEP'S

Be sure to attend