

VEP NEWS

• VEP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION •

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

May 2012

VEP'S MEETING

7:30 p.m. Tuesday
▶ **May 29, 2012** ◀

Vista Park Community Room
475 Hyde Park Drive

AGENDA

★ VTA Presentation Express Toll Lanes Hwy 85 Project ★

a presentation by
VTA Staff

Kathleen Podrasky
Jane Yu
Murali Ramanujam

Presentation on
GEM Program
Green Energy Match Program

by
Blaine Tehaney

★ VEP Business Meeting ★
Annual Membership Business Meeting
Annual Reports from President and Treasurer
Election – Presentation of Slate for Board of Directors
Presentation of Community Service Awards
Announcements & Updates
CPR Class – June 2nd
VEP - Summer Break Until September

★ 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 May Meeting

by Marilyn Rodgers

May's general membership meeting:

▶ VTA Presentation on Express Toll Lanes Hwy 85 Project

– VTA staff **Kathleen Podrasky**, Public Communications Specialist, **Jane Yu**, SR 85 Express Lanes Project Manager, and

Murali Ramanujam, Transportation Engineering Manager, will provide an overview of local traffic growth and funding challenges for building our freeway system. Transportation officials are proceeding with converting some existing and new carpool lanes into express lanes. Hwys 85, 101, and 237 will have some or all of their carpool lanes converted. A brief second presentation will be on the energy saving program **GEM – Green Energy Match**. **Blaine Tehaney** will provide information on the details of how San Jose residents can save money by reducing energy bills, earn financial rewards, and help the City of San Jose win the Coolest City in California award (see brief article elsewhere in the VEP newsletter).

▶ **VEP Business Meeting/Updates/Announcements**. May is the annual membership meeting. Reports will be available from the President and Treasurer. Members will be asked to vote/approve the Slate of Candidates for the Board of Directors.

▶ **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 **May 29th** meeting. Please join us!

May is the last meeting prior to VEP taking a Summer Break until September

Status of CPR Class

by Marilyn Rodgers and Katherine Decker

VEP will be offering a CPR class.

The first class is scheduled for Saturday, June 2nd from 9am to 12noon. It will be held at the Vista Park Community Room, 475 Hyde Park Drive, San Jose, 95136.

The cost of the class is \$35.00. Participants will be given instruction on CPR, be provided with their own mannequin to practice on during the class, and will receive a two-year certification card at the end of the class. The class will be approximately 3 to 3 and 1/2 hours long. A minimum of 15 participants is required for each class. The class is open to adult members, residents, friends and family members on a first come basis. **Registration for the class in advance is required.** The first class is being planned for a Saturday morning, June 2nd. (Additional classes on a Saturday morning, or a weekday evening will be planned, depending on interest.) If you plan to take the class, please contact Marilyn Rodgers at MRodgersRN@aol.com for additional information and to register.

2012 is VEP's 43rd year!

Please provide your name, contact information (e-mail address and phone number) and the number of participants wanting to take the class. Then **send a check for \$35.00 per participant** to: VEP Community Association, P.O. Box 18111, San Jose, California 95158.

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 as an organization is interested in encouraging a cadre of volunteers to be certified in both CPR and First Aid, as this would be very beneficial for our neighborhood, in the event of a major emergency/disaster.

GEM Program – Green Energy Match Program

(sponsored by the City of San Jose)

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San Jose is competing with 9 other cities to be named the Coolest City in California. You can help San Jose win — just by saving energy! Join Green Energy Match, our city program for saving energy. The program is free, and you'll earn rewards and prizes while you save energy.

- **Save Money** — reduce your energy bills
- **Earn Rewards** — 70% off coupons for local stores and prizes for energy savings
- **Help San Jose Win** — let's make San Jose the Coolest City in California

Go to www.greenenergymatch.com to sign up. Or call 800-314-5997. This program is sponsored by the City of San Jose, Silicon Valley Energy Watch, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, WattzOn and Acterra.

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VEP's April Meeting – the Election Forum by Marilyn Rodgers

On April 24th, VEP sponsored an election forum in lieu of the regularly scheduled membership meeting. The Election Forum, held at the Gunderson High School Theater, was well attended by over 100 participants. **Barbara Marshman**, Editor of the Editorial Pages of the San Jose Mercury News, was the Moderator for the evening. The Election Forum was in two segments. The first section focused on **San Jose Measure B: Pension Reform**. Proponent speaker was **Councilmember Pete Constant** and **Bob Brownstein** was the Opponent Speaker. The second portion of the forum encompassed a panel of all six candidates running for District 10 City Council Seat: **Edesa Bibadel, Robert Braunstein, Denelle Fedor, Johnny Khamis, Brian O'Neill, and Leslie Reynolds**. Each speaker was allowed 4 minutes for an opening statement. Moderator Marshman then took questions from the audience. Each speaker was given 1 minute to respond to the question. At the conclusion, each speaker was given 1 minute for a wrap-up statement.



Thank you to **Bob Aquino** for once again being an excellent Timekeeper – requiring strict adherence to the time requirements for each speaker.

Following the formal part of the program, the audience was invited to stay for a "meet and greet" session - an opportunity to meet and talk to the candidates informally in a one-on-one session.

A special thank you to **Dave Fadness**, who as Event Coordinator did a tremendous job in all of the behind-the-scenes work, making this yet another very successful Election Forum!!

Note: Prior to the Election Forum, each candidate was mailed a questionnaire with nine questions. They were asked to respond to these questions in writing. Both the questions and candidates' answers were published in the April edition of the VEP Newsletter.

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GUNDERSON NEWS

As the last issue of the VEP newsletter goes to press, Gunderson is busily wrapping up the year. Both CST and Advanced Placement testing is over. Oddly enough, as the year winds down, activities seem to wind up.



The annual One Act Play Festival took place May 9th and 10th at 7pm and was a success. All drama students participated in this yearly event. The evening consists of short plays, the majority of which are written and directed by students. This year, the students also presented a variety of numbers from various musicals.

On May 23, music will fill the air at the Gunderson Theater at 7pm for the annual spring concert. Tickets will be sold at the door. Choir and band will be performing a wide variety of music.


Outstanding seniors will be recognized on May 24 in the theater. Scholarships, awards and other accomplishments will be highlighted for these seniors who have distinguished themselves in academics, community service and the arts and sciences.

Graduation will take place on May 30 at 6pm at the Rose Garden.

Gunderson will be holding summer school this summer. The short session will take place from June 4 – 29 between the hours of 8am and 12pm.


Thank you to the VEP community for your continued support.

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Get There While You Can

By Debra Suydam

Heads up folks Unfortunately due to State financial issues, this July will bring closure to many of our wonderful state parks. Your opportunity to enjoy these little known gems is ending soon.

One such park, Portola Redwood State Park, which is highlighted in this column, is just one of the many state parks that are located right in the VEP backyard.

If your looking for something to do on some sunny Sunday afternoon why not plan a family picnic to your local park – while you still can.

For a list of all the parks set for closure or details about all our remaining states parks please visit the California Parks website.

<http://www.parks.ca.gov/>

Annual Election of VEP Board of Directors

by Jeri Arstingstall and Marilyn Rodgers

May is the annual VEP business meeting which includes the election of a slate of members who will serve as the Board of Directors. The Bylaws require that the names of members included in a slate, be forwarded to the membership for election at the May meeting. Notice of a list of members running on the slate for Board of Directors is accomplished by publishing the slate in advance in the May VEP Newsletter.

Jeri Arstingstall, a VEP Past President, was the Nominating Chairperson this year. The slate of members running for the VEP Board of Directors is as follows:

Ginger Cardona	Helen Castillo
Katherine Decker	Arul Edwin
Adina Pierce	Marilyn Rodgers
Susan Iverson will continue as VEP Newsletter Editor	

Once the membership elects the Board of Directors, the Board then elects officers, i.e. President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary. The Board also appoints members to fill any open/unfilled position to the Board of Directors.

Note: There is currently one open board position. Please contact us if you are interested in serving on the Board.

Oakgrove School District

By Tony Garcia

As the 2011-12 school year is rapidly coming to an end, I wish to thank all of you who have supported our schools and District staff. One indicator of a strong district is the support of staff, parents, guardians, and community members who no longer have students in our schools. I hope to find more parents involved in the opportunities available at each school site in the upcoming year.

The transition to your new Superintendent, Jose Manzo, is coming along very well. Despite running his current school district, Jose is continually meeting with me and our Leadership Team members to plan for the future of Oak Grove. I know all of you will be pleased with the decision our Board has made in the hiring of Jose. Jose will officially take over my responsibilities on July 1st.

Recently our Hispanic parent group HABLA, the District Advisory Committee, our Home and School Club/Parent Faculty Clubs/PTA representatives, and our African-American Koffee Klatch group provided insight and input in the development of the 2012-2017 Five-Year Plan. As many of you know, this plan is our District's road map to areas of focus that provides safe and academically effective schools. The general public will have a final opportunity to provide input at our May 24th Board meeting beginning at 7:30 p.m. following District awards and general department presentations.

All of our schools will have completed the State assessments or STAR testing by the time you have received this communication. I wish to thank all of you for your support in making sure your child or children were in school to take these assessments. The results should arrive during the summer months and staff will immediately work on areas of focus and continue those areas that are our strengths.

Oak Grove School District will host or provide opportunities for targeted student populations this summer centered around Algebra booster programs, Special Education extended year programs, and our child care programs. Information regarding the summer child care programs may be obtained by contacting your local school or contacting Educational Services Department at 227-8300, extension 100251. The Silicon Valley Education Foundation will be hosting an Algebra booster program for 7th and 8th grade students entering Pre-Algebra or Algebra in the 2012-13 school year, and are currently at the "Basic" level of math success. Parents need to speak with their student's current 6th grade teacher or principal to see if their child qualifies and meets the target population set by the Foundation. Current 7th grade parents need to contact their child's counselor for qualifying information.

Oak Grove will closely follow the November ballot initiatives. The results or lack of results could have a negative impact on our general operating budget. Due to State mandates, we will be making decisions in June on our three-year operating budget that must be approved based on assumptions, known funding, and mandated areas of District program funding. I encourage all of you to educate yourself on the funding initiatives. In my final newsletter I will provide the latest update on the initiatives.

Oak Grove is in the second year of an ongoing two-year, \$9 million budget reduction. An area of change we have had to address is in the area of Kindergarten through Third Grade class sizes. Next year will see higher class sizes in the fore men-

tioned grades. Some of our current class sizes are at the level we will see next year with a cap of classes in Kindergarten through Third grade at 30-1.

I hope all of you have a chance to visit our Spring Open Houses at our Elementary Schools and are proud of the growth of your child.

Aidbergs, you forgot your rake!

By Dave Fadness



A 16-1/2" leaf rake was left behind at Vista Park on March 24. It's a green *BackYard* brand with a yellow aluminum handle. It looks new. The name "Aidberg" is written on its handle.

If you know the Aidbergs, please have them call me at 578-6428. I'd like to get their rake back to them.

Last call!

We need Park adopters--NOW

By Dave Fadness



Volunteers are needed to help maintain several of our neighborhood parks. As a result of deficit-driven city cut-backs, the Parks department can no longer continue to maintain them at levels we have enjoyed. A few volunteer hours each month can make a big difference.

That's what San Jose's *Adopt-A-Park* program is all about. You pick the park you want to help out at, sign up to volunteer (see below), then go for the enormous satisfaction of helping to make your park a neighborhood jewel. You will be glad you did.

What do park adopters do? Among other things, they typically pick up litter, rake leaves, remove graffiti, report park hazards, sweep courts and pathways, pull weeds, care for ecosystems, plant native plants, and report equipment problems, etc. No, you don't *have* to do all of those things--you decide.

By the way, you can share the adoption with someone else--your neighbor, your spouse or siblings, the person who grumbles loudest about park maintenance, etc. Make it a fun day together each week.

Parkview 2 is in immediate need of an adopter. It's located adjacent to the Parkview Elementary School playground (off Grand-park and Sposito Circles). Parkview 1 and Parkview 3 also need adopters.

As a park adopter, I will be happy to walk/talk through the expectations with you. Call me at 578-6428 (day or evening) or email me at drfadness@sbcglobal.net. No strings attached.

For more information or to apply for the Adopt-A-Park program, go to www.sjadoptapark.org, call (408) 793-4190 during normal business hours, or e-mail at adoptapark@sanjoseca.gov.

Give it a try. I'll be happy to help get you started.



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Pie for A Year

Kathy Wood, Baker

What would you do with a million dollars? It's difficult to fathom how much that really is and how many zeroes actually follow that little number 1. One hundred thousand, ten thousand, even one thousand are all amounts I'm sure any one of us would find hard to refuse.

Following are 10 possible ways to spend a million if it is ever dropped into your lap: 1. Buy one million items at a dollar store (little less than one million so you can pay the tax); 2. Purchase a house, or a boat, or a houseboat; 3. Indulge in the mode of transportation of your dreams, whether it be a candy red sports car, a top-of-the-line motorcycle, or an energy-saving beach cruiser bicycle (energy-saving as in fuel, not in the person pedaling); 4. Get out of debt, or depending on your situation, reduce it; 5. Donate to your favorite legitimate charity (Lifetime Chocolate Supply is **not** a charity); 6. Buy a year's worth of different eyeglasses so every day you could wear a new pair (that aren't scratched); 7. Invest in the ever-changing stock market (and watch it wither away); 8. Install an in-ground pool so all the kids in the neighborhood and surrounding neighborhoods will hang out at your house every day dripping water into your house on the (new) hardwood floors and increasing the noise level several decibels; 9. Go shoe shopping (don't forget matching handbags); and 10. Go to Disney (isn't that what everyone does?)

Even though this pie recipe is titled "Million Dollar Pie", you won't need a million to make it, enjoy it and share it. Fluffiness, with bits of fruit floating throughout, and gently resting on a sweet graham cracker crust will make you feel like a million bucks with each and every bite!

Ingredients: 1 (14 ounce) can sweetened condensed milk, ½ cup lemon juice, 1 (12 ounce) container frozen whipped topping, thawed, 1 (20 ounce) can crushed pineapple, drained, 1 (11 ounce) can mandarin oranges, drained, 1 (21 ounce) can cherry pie filling, 2 (9 inch) graham cracker crust.

Instructions: In a medium bowl, combine condensed milk and lemon juice. Fold in whipped topping. In a separate bowl, mix together pineapple, oranges and cherry pie filling. Gently fold mixture into condensed milk mixture. Pour entire mixture into pie crusts. Cover and refrigerate several hours or overnight.

This recipe makes 2 pies but if you only want one divide all ingredients in half. For a picture of this pie and for other pie ideas head on over to pieforayear.blogspot.com.

"As easy as pie!" Have a great summer; see you in the fall for more pie recipes involving the fruits and vegetables of autumn.

Gunderson Gateway Day Cleanup

By Dave Fadness

Twelve Gunderson High School students and five adult volunteers turned out on Saturday, May 5 to pick up trash along both sides of Chynoweth Avenue from the high school to Pearl Avenue. Working with a CALTRANS crew of five, they also cleaned-up, pruned, cleared, and raked the ped/bike path along the east side of Route 87 on both sides of Chynoweth. A big job, but we got it done!

Gunderson student volunteers were Mayra Nunez, Francisco Oseguera, Antonio Torres, Monica Canas, Joe Sweet, Kyle Quan, Jade Sanders, Hector Ron, Keilah Nijmeh, Jamel Toney, Tosean Clark, and Ryan Tran. These young people worked hard. It's great to have young people with us at these events!

Jim Hicks, Victor and Sherri Goodrum, and Aiko Fadness volunteered as adult "supervisors" from our community--predictably, they ended up working as hard as the students they were supposed to supervise. Every one of them is an extraordinary "regular" at volunteer workdays in our community. Hats off to them and the work they do for us! (By the way, May 5 is Jim's birthday. Talk about dedication!)

CALTRANS and San Jose Parks' Coordinator Mollie Tobias provided hoes, rakes, brooms, trash bags, and gloves for our volunteers. CALTRANS treated our volunteers to a much-appreciated supply of ice water and energy bar treats. Aiko brought cookies.

The following CALTRANS employees worked shoulder-to-shoulder with our volunteers: Carlos Uribe, Randall Grubbs, Josh Orozco, Reuben Maza, and Jose Quiroz. We are especially grateful for the heavy work they did in advance, preparing the site by removing dead trees and large broken tree limbs. CALTRANS hauled away truck loads of debris.

Special credit is due to Gunderson Career & College Center's Stephanie Heuer for her willing assistance in recruiting student volunteers. Ms. Heuer is an excellent resource for us and for Gunderson students; they need community service hours in order to graduate, we need volunteers. Ms. Heuer puts us together--a perfect match that greatly benefits our community.

Our combined Gunderson-CALTRANS-community team got an incredible amount of work done in four energy-packed hours. The Gunderson students said they enjoyed the experience of working with a really great group of motivated people. It was a pleasure for me, as well.

These facilities look very nice now--and the ped/bike path is safer for students who use it every day.

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Portola Redwoods State Park

You could call this tranquil park, perched on the opposite side of the Santa Cruz Mountains from Big Basin Redwoods State Park, "Little Basin Redwoods State Park." Like its well-known cousin, this park is a natural basin forested with coast redwoods. Portola Redwoods State Park it is, however, its name honoring explorer Don Gaspar de Portolá, who led an expedition in search of Monterey Bay in 1769.

The California landscape has changed immeasurably since Portolá's time, but places like this park still evoke the feeling of wild California. This wild feeling begins outside the park boundaries as you travel Alpine Road. The view is of wide-open spaces, of uncluttered valleys and ridges topped with nothing more than grass and cows.

The park centers around two creeks—Peters and Pescadero—which meander through a basin. Douglas fir and oaks cloak the ridges while redwoods, accompanied by huckleberry and ferns, cluster in cooler bottomlands. Most redwoods in the area are second-growth trees; this land, like most in the Santa Cruz Mountains, was logged during the 19th century. However, most of "logging" at Portola was for shingle production; trees needed a very straight grain and were selectively cut. Thus, many large trees escaped the ax and may be seen today inside the park.

The Islam Temple Shrine of San Francisco used the property as a summer retreat for its members from 1924 until 1945, when the state acquired the land. During the 1960s, Portola had an amusement park-feeling. Pescadero Creek was dammed, providing a large fishing and swimming area. One year, 150,000 people poured into the small park. In 1974, the dam was removed and Portola reverted to quieter pursuits—camping, hiking, nature study. Rangers sometime refer to Portola as a "neighborhood park," meaning thus far only locals have discovered this ideal-for-a-family outing small redwood forest. My favorite day hike is a six mile "walkabout" that utilizes five different trails. Drop in at the park visitor center to view the nature and history exhibits. Interpretive programs are conducted during the summer and on some weekends.

Directions to trailhead: From Interstate 280 (Junipero Serra Freeway), about six miles north of San Jose, exit on Saratoga Avenue and head south, joining Highway 9 in the town of Saratoga. Highway 9 ascends west into the mountains to a junction with Skyline Boulevard (Highway 35). Turn right (northwest) on Skyline and follow it to a junction with Alpine Road and the signed turnoff to Portola Redwoods State Park. Turn onto Alpine Road. After 3.5 miles, turn left on Portola State Park Road and continue 3 more miles to the park. Leave your car at Tan Oak or Madrone picnic areas just across the road from the visitor center.

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Annual Neighborhood Garage Sale

by Ginger Cardona, Susan Iverson, Helen Castillo, Marilyn Rodgers

The first Saturday in May is the VEP Annual Neighborhood Garage Sale. This year, the first Saturday in May was May 5th! The VEP Neighborhood-wide Garage Sale continues to be a popular community activity. VEP pays for the advertising in both print and electronic media (San Jose Mercury News and Craigs List). Neighbors just have to put out their treasures for all to see – and to reap in the fun and profit! Many residents had their neighbors join in – and put up their own street or cul-du-sac signs to entice garage sale hunters.



If you missed out on participating in this year's VEP Neighborhood Garage Sale.....know that this is an annual event. Plan now to participate next year – it will always be scheduled for the first Saturday in May!

Be a VEP volunteer!

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Proposed VEP's 2011-2012 Goals and Objectives

1. Continue to improve our community and our association.
 - A. Encourage regular turn-over of VEP Board 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.
 - 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 improvements 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, social) events for our membership area.
 - D. Encourage and acknowledge outstanding volunteer service by students and VEP members.
3. Partner 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 east-erly from Almaden Expressway.
 - b. Seek real improvements in traffic level of service at the Capitol/Narvaez/northbound 87 onramp.
 - c. Ensure that impacts 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 develop-ment, services, and public infrastructure (Urban Vil-lage at Capitol/Narvaez, and Almaden Ranch).
 - D. Participate in the planning and development of Martial-Cottle Regional Park (the Lester Property).
 - D. Work with City to support interior maintenance of Vista Park Community Room.
 - E. Monitor opportunities to build a city park at Capitol/Narvaez.

The President's Report – Review of VEP Goals and Objectives for 2011-2012

by Marilyn Rodgers

Another busy year is coming to completion for VEP. This is the second year that we consolidated our Goals and Objectives. Specific goals were carried forward even though a specific issue may not be addressed in a given calendar year, as it provides the Board of Directors the authority to act on the membership's behalf. An example of such a goal is 3.C. "Participate in and react to any plans for urban development, services, and public infrastructure (Urban Village at Capitol/Narvaez, and the Almaden Ranch development)." This goal allowed the VEP Board to act on the behalf of the membership during the summer months when VEP was on summer break.

We are very pleased and proud that VEP's financial health continues to be stable and strong. This is due to the very loyal support of our members and our advertisers. Following two years of a slight decrease in membership, this year membership has had an increase.

Attendance at membership meetings is stable, and members continue to state they appreciate the opportunity to learn about issues which affect our neighborhood. Meetings this year included topics on Graffiti, Public Safety and presentation by new Southern Division Police Captain, presentation on the state of the County by newly elected Supervisor Mike Wasserman, Update on Disaster Preparedness, Status of the Development Design Plans for Martial Cottle Park and Information on Adopt-a-Park, and a very popular Election Forum. We continue to publish a 10 – 15 page newsletter nine times per year, and members continue to tell us how much they enjoy and appreciate the newsletter. It continues to be available by either e-distribution and/or hardcopy via traditional mail (at the member's discretion). Our website provides additional visibility for our loyal advertisers as well as providing both members and the public information on our organization.

In addition to providing information and educational activities, VEP has continued social activities and initiated two new ones during this year. The Ice Cream Social and Christmas Decoration contest were both accepted with member enthusiasm and will continue as annual events along with the popular Santa in the Park and Neighborhood Garage Sale. Each membership meeting this year included a theme with decorations, a raffle prize, and snacks – thanks to our enthusiastic Hospitality Chairperson.

As an all volunteer organization, we continue to look for opportunities for our members to be able to volunteer and partner with the City on projects that provide needed services (in an era of diminishing resources) and value to our neighborhood. We have developed partnerships for increasing the use of volunteers with the City for Anti-Graffiti, and continuing maintenance of our neighborhood parks – such as Adopt-a-Park, donating doggie reuse bags for the parks, and periodic cleanup/beautification projects in the parks. A new pilot project to partner with the San Jose Parks Foundation has been initiated.

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Martial Cottle Park - Public Meeting Planned for June

by Marilyn Rodgers

A public meeting on Martial Cottle Park is currently being planned for sometime during the month of June. Design Development staff for Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department will be providing interested residents an overview of the first phase of the design development plans for the park. Meeting participants will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the plans.

Watch for announcements on time and location for this important meeting!

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 a change in their e-mail address. You are very important to us, so please put VEP on your notification list when you update or change addresses.

If you have not provided us with your E-mail address, we want to strongly encourage you to consider doing so. E-mail messages are the primary communication for us to use to contact you during months that newsletters are not published. We will keep your e-mail address confidential. We will not overload your mailbox with messages as VEP typically only sends one or two messages per month.



Natural Foundations Preschool

Serving Children 0-5
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SMART START
SAN JOSE

NATIONALLY ACCREDITED

www.NaturalFoundationsPreschool.com

Santa Clara County Government 2.0 is here!



In order to better serve our residents, we recently overhauled our website to help you find what you are looking for faster-- saving you time and making government more efficient. In addition to the new look and feel of the website, it is now easier to locate departments and agencies. New tabs on the homepage will help you quickly find County services, make a payment, or fill out a form online. The Find-a-Service Wizard will get you to the services you need in a couple of clicks. <http://www.sccgov.org/sites/scc/Pages/default.aspx>

Upcoming Events

San Jose: A Resource Event for Homeless Families and Veteran Families

Date: Friday, May 25, 2012

Time: 11:00am – 1:00pm

Location: Goodwill Silicon Valley, 1080 North 7th Street, San Jose

Dozens of providers will converge at Goodwill Silicon Valley to provide resources and support to homeless families and homeless veterans families.

More Information: info@myppc.com

Morgan Hill: Mushroom Mardi Gras

Date: Saturday May 26, Sunday May 27

Time: 10:00am – 7:00pm

Location: Downtown Morgan Hill Community Center and Depot Street, between Dunne and 3rd St.

The two-day festival includes live entertainment, arts and crafts, gourmet offerings, mushroom education, strolling musicians, street performers, and several city blocks of unique booths. For children, Munchkinland captivates kids with rides, games and continuous entertainment. The festival raises funds for educational scholarships and provides an opportunity for many local non-profit organizations, clubs and schools to create awareness of their cause.

More Information: www.mhmmg.org

San Jose: Free Screening of the Movie "Courageous"

Date: Friday, June 8, 2012

Time: 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Location: San Jose City Hall, 200 East Santa Clara Street, Wing Room 118-120

Free screening of the movie "Courageous," and special guest speakers in honor of Father's Day presented by the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Association of Santa Clara Valley and San Jose Council Member Chu. Free food and free raffle prizes/ give-aways after the event.

RSVP required: vicepresidentmlkscv@yahoo.com or call (408) 861-5323.

VEP Community Calendar

May / June 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 Memorial Day 	29 VEP Commu- nity Meeting— 7:30 PM— Vista Park Community Room	30	31	1	2 CPR CLASS 9am-12noon, Vista Park Community Room, Advance Registra- tion required.
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 Flag Day 	15	16
17 Father's Day 	18	19	20	21	22	23

Dates to Remember!

VEP Community Meetings
May 29, 2012

Community Events

THE VEP NEWS



VEP Community Association

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

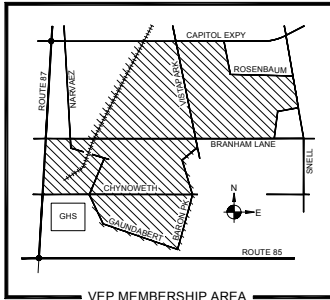
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Published monthly by VEP Community Association, a not-for-profit organization of volunteers established in 1969 to serve and represent more than 2000 homes in the Blossom Valley area of southern San Jose. VEP is dedicated to neighborhood maintenance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

VEP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Marilyn Rodgers	225-7553	mrodgersm@aol.com
Secretary	Adina Pierce	362-0937	adinap@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Ginger Cardona	227-0222	cardona@sbcglobal.net
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Director	Katherine Decker		kddedcker@sbcglobal.net
Director	Arul Edwin		aruledwin@yahoo.com
Editor (Non Board)	Susan Iverson	813-0592	vepeditor@sbcglobal.net

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

May 29th Meeting

Be sure to attend VEP's