

VEP NEWS

• VEP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION •

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

January 2013

VEP'S MEETING

7:30 p.m. Tuesday
► January 29, 2013 ◀

Vista Park Community Room
475 Hyde Park Drive

AGENDA

★ Martial Cottle Park ★

a presentation by

Alicia Flynn
Santa Clara County Parks
Project Manager, Parks Development Unit
Phase I for Martial Cottle Park

and

An Ice Cream Social

Meet and Greet Your Neighbors
In Celebration
VEP Begins 44th Year

★ VEP Business Meeting ★

Announcements & Updates
Membership Drive Begins in January
Membership Mailing Prep Party
Scheduled for February
Free Membership Raffle
Community Service Awards

★ 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

January's general membership meeting:

► **Martial Cottle Park** - featured guest speaker will be Alicia Flynn, Project Manager for Phase I of the design implementation phase. Alicia will provide an update on design develop-

**VEP Membership Drive
Begins in January**
(See information and
application on page 7)

ment since her last presentation in February 2012. The information will highlight the final design plans scheduled to go before the County Board of Supervisors for approval in late Spring (March). She will also review the timeline as it currently stands – contracts to be let in May/June; construction/path development to begin in late Summer. This will be one of the last opportunities for members to ask questions and provide input. Plan to attend!

► **VEP Business Meeting/Updates/Announcements.** Prior to the business meeting, an ice cream social will be available, allowing for participants to meet and greet their neighbors. This is also a celebration as VEP begins its 44th year!

► **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 January 29th meeting. Please join us!

***Note: Due to printer/vendor supply issues, the VEP remit envelopes will not be available until February. The annual Membership Mailing Prep Party will be scheduled for February.

November VEP Meeting Synopsis

Katherine Decker and Marilyn Rodgers

Katherine Decker welcomed everyone to the meeting. A very brief meeting included announcements and sharing of printed copies of the VEP finances and budget for 2012-2013. The focus of the meeting was to be very interactive – that is a “Hands Only CPR Class”. This class, a new concept, is one in which only chest compression is emphasized. The class was very professionally provided by Rural Metro Ambulance, and taught/coordinated by paramedic and trainer Matt Lane. Class participants were very enthusiastic, providing very positive feedback on the teaching style of the trainers. Everyone agreed this hour class was well worth their time!



2013 is VEP's 44th year!

VEP Christmas Decorations Contest

by Marilyn Rodgers and Katherine Decker

Last year the VEP Board of Directors initiated a new event – one that would hopefully become an ongoing annual happening, or possibly a new “VEP tradition”! Over the last few years, Board members had noticed that many VEP members and residents took special interest and pride in decorating the exterior of their houses and yards for the holidays. Thus, the idea for a contest. Then the decision as to what the prizes would be for the winner(s). While prizes can be determined each year, for the years 2011 and 2012 the prizes were: “bragging rights” (very important of course), a yard display sign acknowledging the best house/yard decorations as the “VEP Christmas Decorations Winner for 2012”. The winner also will receive a gift certificate and a VEP membership for the upcoming year. In addition, picture(s) and an article on the winner(s) would be included in the January edition of the VEP Newsletter. (See article on this year’s winner elsewhere in the newsletter). Everyone was encouraged to participate by nominating themselves or a neighbor. Board members determined the winner during the weekend of December 15th. While rain and cold weather (and the economy) may have deterred some neighbors from decorating this year, everyone was pleased with the number and variety of decorations on homes in our neighborhood - resulting in fierce competition! **One more reminder that VEP residents are enthusiastic about the community we live in!**

2012 VEP Christmas Decorations Winner Announced

by Marilyn Rodgers and Katherine Decker

For the second year in a row – and winners of the 2nd Annual VEP Christmas Decorations, were **Bob and Francine Olsen**. The Olsen’s, who live at 595 Amboy, have been decorating their house and yard for many years – each year becoming more intriguing and beautiful! This year’s display included use of over 26,000 lights, the addition of new large stars on the roof (which were beautifully crafted by Bob), a balloon tree, artificial snow, two – 12foot soldiers, 13 reindeer – three of which were flying, and a pond of lights where one reindeer is enjoying a refreshing drink.

The Olsen’s were thrilled to once again be this year’s winners, and were eager to have their display seen and enjoyed by their VEP neighbors. Congratulations again, Bob and Francine!



Grizzlies plant trees on Route 87 bike path

By Dave Fadness

On November 10, fifty-eight Gunderson students teamed with *Our City Forest* and neighborhood adult volunteers to plant nineteen trees on the Route 87 ped/bike path (between Route 85 and Branham Lane). They also picked up trash along the ped/bike path. We did a good thing, the benefits and beauty of which will grow and last for the enjoyment of generations to come.

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

This event was a complete success. Hats off to the Gunderson Grizzlies and our community-minded volunteers!

Interact lives up to its name

By Dave Fadness

Thanks to President Brian Trat's leadership of Gunderson's Interact Club and the help of *Our City Forest*, we planted three Shumard Red Oaks and a Crape Myrtle on the campus after school on Friday, December 14. The four trees and all planting materials were donated by *Our City Forest*, whose Tree Amigos assisted eleven Interact volunteers in planting the trees.

Having finished just before dark on a cool and rainy afternoon, all participants were justifiably proud of the results which will be enjoyed by future Gunderson students for many decades.

As a true measure of their dedication, the Interact Club also volunteered to care for these trees for a period of three years.

Special credit is again due to Stephanie Heuer for her help.

Interacting together, we did a *very* good thing.

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Gunderson High School January 2013

By Rob Iverson

It is that time of year when students and parents need to start looking at prospective high schools. This year, Gunderson High School will be holding several campus tours, where you can find



out first hand all that Gunderson has to offer. Tours start at 9am on January 16th, 23rd, and 30th. Tours will begin in the theater. Gunderson will also be offering prospective 9th grade students the opportunity to shadow one of our high school students for the day. This is a great way for students to experience life at GHS, meet some of the faculty, and view some of the courses that we offer. Please call the school (408-535-6340) if you would like more information, or to arrange for your student to shadow.

November 9th was a very special day in Gunderson High School sports. James Jones, wide receiver for the Green Bay Packers, and Gunderson High School class of 2002, had his number 3 jersey retired. James was on hand to accept this honor, and spoke to our players before the game. It was also our senior night, so each senior player and their families were able to get a picture with James.

We are now in full swing into our winter sports. We have everything from boys and girls soccer, boys and girls basketball, and wrestling. Girls basketball was moved up to the A division after last seasons league champs. Be sure to stop by and cheer them on to victory this season.

Gunderson is proud to be the first high school in San Jose Unified School District to participate in PBIS- Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports. The school slogan is Grizzly PRIDE. We are in the third year of this initiative, and we are really seeing some major achievements, not only in the classroom, but also out on the field. We are the only high school this year to not have any player ejections from any sport. This includes, football, basketball, and soccer. We are very proud of the way our student athletes conduct themselves, in the classroom, and on the field.

VEP helps you solve community problems



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5 Ways to Organize Family Medical Records

By Debra Suydam

If getting more organized is one of your New Years resolutions or just a daily chore these tips from MNN.Com might be just what you need to track and organize your family medical records.

From web tools to three-ring binders, here are 5 great ways to organize your family's medical information.

[My Family Health Portrait](#). This web portal is sponsored by the Surgeon General as a way for families to get organized about their health. You can plug in family history and medical information and then save it to your computer or print it out for your next doctor's visit.

Cost: Free

[MyMediConnect](#). This site is easy to use and has some nice features for staying organized including medication and appointment reminders and a wellness tracker. And you can even request that they obtain your medical records for you.

Cost: Free

[MotherKnows](#). Another great site for organizing medical records, MotherKnows collects your records from any medical provider and converts them into personalized health records complete with graphic displays of immunizations, growth charts, and medications. There's even an iPhone app version so that you can access your records and data anytime.

Cost: Plans range from \$19-\$98 per year

Your Family Health Organizer by Jodie Pappas. Don't want your medical records online? This ring-bound medical record organizer accommodates up to two adults and three children. The book includes separate sections for each family member and a place to track kid's growth history, appointments, medications, and hospital stays.

Cost: \$19.95

DIY family medical journal. Of course, you don't need a fancy website or a fancy book to track your family's info. A pencil and paper will do the trick just as well. This tutorial has some great info about what you should include in your [family's medical journal](#).

Happy organizing!

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Santa in the Park

by Adina Pierce, Helen Castillo, Marilyn Rodgers

The 5th Annual Santa in the Park was once again a big success. 75 participants representing over 25 families was evidence that coming to have a picture taken with Santa continues to be one of VEP's most popular events.

The children (and their parents) enjoyed and appreciated the crafts available for them....even if some of the younger ones weren't too sure about the large man in the red suit and white beard!! Everyone also enjoyed the holiday snacks. Many families come back each year, with several who have attended all five Santa in the Park functions.

Thank-you to the volunteers who made the event possible.

Adina Pierce did a wonderful job as photographer, and this year used another talent in developing a new silver satin backdrop with drapes and old fashioned pole lamps. **Russ Pierce**, provided behind the scenes assistance and support in setting up the Christmas backdrop for the pictures. **Helen Castillo** is always a very effective "photographer's helper" as well as a "Santa" helper. Helen also provided the crafts and snacks. Helen made arrangements for Santa's appearance, this year recruiting both Santa and Santa's Elf. Santa was ably portrayed by **Joe Sanchez**, Deputy Sherriff for Santa Clara County, and his daughter – new addition this year – the very cute Santa's Elf – **Nicole Sanchez**.



VEP Founder Dies

By Dave Fadness

One of our founders and two-time VEP president, Carmen Felice died on December 20 at age 74. A resident of Fair Oaks, California, Carmen is survived by three children and two grandchildren.



I was privileged to serve our community briefly with Carmen before he moved from San Jose in the mid-1970s. His leadership at VEP brought many rewards to our membership area in those early years: parks, stop signs, Neighborhood Watch and Block Parent Programs, to name a few. He also lobbied with VEP for transportation improvements, our city's first general plan, and an end to double- and triple-sessions at public elementary schools in San Jose.

VEP co-founder Bob Braud now lives in St. Helens, Oregon. Bob had the following things to say about Carmen:

Carmen and I co-founded VEP in 1969. It all began with a threatened lawsuit against Arcadia Development over failing heat exchangers in our furnaces. In order to enhance our case, we contacted and collaborated with other South San Jose owners of Arcadia homes. After several meetings with Arcadia and with the furnace manufacturer in Oakland, a settlement was reached in our favor.

The City of San Jose found out about this success and our political clout as a large citizen group was firmly established.

Carmen and I continued to work with VEP and other homeowner groups to form the San Jose Alliance of Homeowners Associations. Although Carmen was to become an Alliance president, its first president was Gary Albertson. Gary, Carmen, and I lobbied hard for safety improvements on the dangerous two-way stretch of Highway 101 then known as "Blood Alley".

Gary and his family were killed there in a head-on collision on their way home from purchasing a Christmas tree in Morgan Hill. This tragedy drew widespread attention to the desperate need for a solution. We redoubled our efforts. Our lobbying paid off as former San Jose mayor, Congressman Norm Mineta successfully pressured Congress to fund a Blood Alley by-pass freeway from Gilroy to San Jose.

Carmen was a great salesman who never took "NO" for an answer. I was always happy to be on the same side with him. Carmen was an imposing figure in a public meeting; a dedicated and influential voice for our neighborhoods at city hall and other government offices.

He will be missed by all who knew him.

* * *

As founders of VEP, Carmen Felice and Bob Braud took the vital first steps in a successful venture that still serves our community 44 years later. We owe much to these volunteer leaders and all others who have served us since 1969.



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It's Now Easier to Remove Undesirable Trees in San Jose

The City Council has changed the approval and permitting process to make it easier for homeowners to remove undesirable or unsafe trees from their property.

Trees with trunks less than 56 inches in circumference do not require a permit to remove.

Currently, to remove a tree whose trunk is more than 56 inches in circumference on the private property of a single-family home, the owner had to obtain a permit from the Director of Planning. That process could be costly and time consuming for both the resident and the city. Newly adopted changes classify certain trees as "unsuitable"; a permit for removal of an unsuitable tree can now be obtained administratively.

A tree is deemed to be "unsuitable" if it meets at least one of the following three requirements:

1. It is non-native, invasive, or prone to disease. Currently deemed unsuitable are: Eucalyptus, Liquidambar, Palm (except those in the Palm Haven Conservation Area), Pine, Tree of Heaven, and Tulip.
2. It has the nearest part of its trunk within five feet of the single-family residence.
3. It is within five feet of the centerline of an underground utility pipe or line.

A removal permit will still be required from the Director of Planning for trees that are more than 56-inches in circumference but do not meet the foregoing three requirements.

The city still requires that removed trees be replaced within 30 days of removal. Replacement may also be satisfied by a donation to *Our City Forest*, a non-profit organization that plants trees in San Jose. To assist homeowners in selecting appropriate replacements, a list of recommended tree species will be available soon on the city's website.

It is important to note that the new changes apply only to single-family homes and to trees that are on private property. Changes do not apply to "street trees" within a public right-of-way or in the park strip between curb and sidewalk. The process for removing or planting street trees is handled by the arborist in the Department of Transportation.

These new changes should be helpful to many residents.

[Ed. Note: This article was adapted from Councilman Pete Constant's January 2013 newsletter.]

VEP Community Service Awards

by Marilyn Rodgers

VEP members will be asked to discuss and vote on the 2013 VEP Community Service Award program (specifics for this year). The VEP Community Service Award program has been providing Awards to High School Seniors for many years. To qualify for the CSA Award, a high school senior must be very involved in volunteer activities. The VEP Bylaws call for this program to be provided each year, and also provides a framework for the program. It also includes some flexibility to meet current needs...thus each year the membership votes to approve the program specifics.

The membership approves the organization's budget for the coming year. All events and programs are now included in one all inclusive budget item amount (same processes that were used the last 3 years as well). Continuing with the criteria and amount approved previously - the membership will be asked to approve a \$1,000.00 budget.

The recommendation is to continue with the same program criteria approved for use in 2011 and 2012. 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."

Upon member approval, nominations will be solicited during the months of February, March and first part of April. As school calendars have changed, the application and approval process have been moved forward by a few weeks. Applications will be due between the first and middle of April, with awards granted by the end of April/first part of May. Applications will be available at the above identified schools, on the VEP website at www.vepca.net, or by request.

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

Please note: For the program to continue, a volunteer to coordinate the program will be needed.

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A Year of Breads

By Kathy Wood, Baker—Ayearofbreads.blogspot.com

Looking forward to _____; fill in the blank. What keeps you going? What gives you a reason to get up in the morning and persevere throughout the busy day?

Since my childhood I have proceeded every day with the assurance of looking forward to something (looking for the light at the end of the tunnel, perhaps). Occasionally, the looking forward was being able to go to a special event, or Christmas, or my birthday. On the other hand, looking forward was the incentive to get through a not-so-pleasant task such as cleaning my room, or drying the dishes (we didn't have a dishwasher as a child, nor does my mother yet). It also could be in the form of a huge sigh of relief after a dentist appointment (whew, that's over!).

Even as an adult, I continue to look forward, although the "lights at the end of the tunnel" are sometimes simple things, such as resting my weary body in a comfortable chair, a cup of steaming coffee, or reading a captivating book. The bigger things would be my yearly trip back to Michigan to visit my family (especially my precious 7 grandkids) and my overnight excursions with my husband to various places.

With this new year I suggest taking a few moments to jot down what **you** can look forward to in the 365 days ahead. Whether they be large or small, when the "light" seems to be dimming, glance at your list, and be thankful for what you have to look forward to.

One of the things I look forward to is baking and this year is the year of breads with Banana Bread being the first on the list. I have used this recipe for many years, adjusting it here and there, and am always happy with the results.

Ingredients: 1 cup granulated sugar, ½ cup butter, softened, 1 teaspoon baking soda, 1 teaspoon salt, 2 cups all-purpose flour, 3 ripe bananas, sliced thin, 1 egg, 1 teaspoon vanilla, ½ cup chopped nuts, if desired.

Instructions: Preheat oven to 350 degrees; spray and lightly flour a regular size loaf pan. In a large mixing bowl place all ingredients and mix until thoroughly blended. Scrape into prepared pan and top with a few whole nuts (I used pecans), if desired. Bake for 5 minutes, then reduce oven to 300 degrees. Continue to bake about 30-40 minutes or until browned and toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool on wire rack. Makes 1 loaf.

For a picture of this recipe or to discover other bread recipes, visit ayearofbreads.blogspot.com.

"Rolling in the dough!"

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 new "private" Facebook account, available to VEP members only. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/vepca/>

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.



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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.

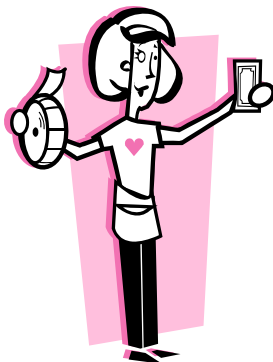
To participate in and support effective neighborhood activities and representation.

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.

ENTER TO WIN FREE VEP MEMBERSHIP!

Bring your completed Membership Application, with payment, to the VEP General Meeting on Tuesday January 29th, 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**

** 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/mailing prep
- Memorial Day Parade & Festival
- Distribute flyers Serve on a committee
- Serve as a VEP officer or committee chair
- Other _____

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

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

What is VEP Community Association?

- VEP is an all-volunteer organization of your neighbors working to improve our neighborhoods; VEP is our community's "homeowner's association".
- VEP volunteers participate in a variety of activities, all of which originate in and benefit our neighborhoods.
- VEP volunteers make our neighborhood's views and needs known to government at all levels.
- Founded in 1969, we are one of the largest, most successful, and most active and enduring grass roots volunteer organizations in Santa Clara County.

Why join VEP?

- To receive our newsletter nine times a year, keeping you up-to-date and informed.
- To participate in and support neighborhood activities and representation.
- To contribute to our annual VEP Community Service Awards for area high school graduates.
- To be part of an outstanding community organization with a long record of success for our neighborhoods.

Johnny Khamis Sworn in as Newly Elected Councilman for District 10

By Peggy Golden

Katherine Decker and I had the opportunity to attend the swearing ceremony for Johnny Khamis as the new council person for our District 10. It was held Sunday, January 6th in the City Hall's



glass rotunda. A boy scout troop presented the flag and a high school freshman girl sang the national anthem.

Johnny grew up in Blossom Valley, attended Oak Grove High School and graduated from San Jose State. He was born in Beirut, Lebanon and is San Jose's first elected official of Arab descent.

Johnny promised to keep his speech short, and he did. He said he was humbled to be elected and that his door was always open. Johnny has given his personal cell phone number out on many occasions, and I think truly wants to hear from the residents of his district. I predict he will need some help with those phone calls!

A couple of people remarked that they were surprised the event was held on a Sunday. Never having been to a swearing in ceremony of a council person before, I thought it was a nice touch to have it scheduled at a time convenient for most people to attend.

Santa Clara County Supervisor Mike Wasserman gave the introduction and called Johnny a family man, a business man and a public servant.

Mayor Chuck Reed did the swearing in and welcomed Johnny as an ally for fiscal reform. The mayor said there was a lot of work to do, with some heavy lifting to be done for the good of the city.

The mayor also mentioned that Johnny was the second Republican on the council. Mayor Reed, of course, is a Democrat. The council is non-partisan.



At the end of his speech, Johnny expressed his desire to "put San Jose's fiscal house in order and restore services".

You can follow Johnny and his work on his website johnnykhamis.org.

Baby, It's Cold Out There!

By John Marks

While you're keeping yourself bundled up, don't forget to offer some protection to the plants in your garden. Overnight temperatures 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 needs trimming. On citrus, wait several months to allow the tree to recover, then prune away frost-damaged twigs and branches.

VEP Community Calendar

September / October 2012

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

Dates to Remember!

VEP Community Meetings

February 26, 2013
 March 26, 2013
 April 23, 2013
 May 28, 2013

Community Events

Community Garage Sale - Saturday May 4, 2012

THE VEP NEWS



VEP Community Association

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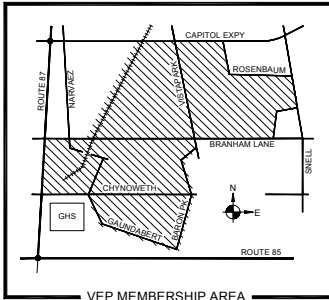
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Prefer your newsletter via Email?
 Let us know at vep@vepca.net.



Check our website: www.vepca.net

Community Room

Vista Park

in the
 7:30 pm

Be sure to attend
 VEP's
 January 29th Meeting