

VEP NEWS

• VEP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION •

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

February 2013

VEP'S MEETING

7:30 p.m. Tuesday
► February 26, 2013 ◀

Vista Park Community Room
475 Hyde Park Drive

AGENDA

★ NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH ★ a presentation by Mini Le

Crime Prevention Specialist
City of San Jose

★ VEP Business Meeting ★

Crime Awareness & Prevention
Forum with Councilmember Khamis
Neighborhood Watch
Surveillance Workshop, March 26th
Membership Drive Continues in February

★ 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 February Meeting

by Marilyn Rodgers

February's general membership meeting:

◆ **Neighborhood Watch** - featured guest speaker will be Mini Le, Crime Prevention Specialist, City of San Jose. Ms. Le will provide an overview of this increasingly important program. She will provide information and resources for specific actions that individuals can and should take with their immediate neighbors. Everyone concerned about the rise in neighborhood crime should plan to attend!

◆ **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 February 26th meeting. Please join us

Increase in Crime in the VEP Neighborhood

Marilyn Rodgers

Residents have become increasingly concerned about the rise in crime in the VEP area. Of particular concern is the number and frequency of vehicle break-ins (and to a lesser extent home break-ins). As a result, VEP has planned three forums or workshops.

This combination of workshops will provide residents with the opportunity to obtain additional information and resources for themselves and their neighbors, encouraging safe and pro-active strategies. The forum with Councilmember Khamis and Captain Honda will specifically allow your questions and concerns to be addressed. Focus will be on crime, crime prevention, as well as current and future plans for public safety in San Jose and the VEP area.

1. **Neighborhood Watch, Vista Park Community Room - 7:30pm, February 26th**
2. **Forum with Councilmember Khamis and Capt Honda on Crime, Crime Prevention and Public Safety to be held Thursday, March 14th, 7pm, at the Edenvale Library - Monterey Rd & Branham Lane**
3. **Surveillance Workshop - Vista Park Community Room - 7:30pm, March 26th**

Note: Councilmember Khamis and Capt Honda will be featured speakers at the forum on Crime, Crime Prevention and Public Safety. **To ensure your questions will be adequately answered during the forum, please submit those questions in advance to VEP at vepca.net or mail to VEP, P.O. Box 18111, San Jose, Ca. 95136 prior to March 6th.**

Watch for additional details, and plan now to attend all three meetings!

VEP Membership Drive Continues in February

See information and application on page 7

Newsletter Editor Needed for VEP

VEP is looking for a newsletter editor. Susan Iverson, the current editor, is resigning after the publication of the May 2013 Newsletter. If you have a few hours a month and would like to volunteer for VEP, please contact Susan Iverson vepeditor@gmail.com.

2013 is VEP's 44th year!

January VEP Meeting Synopsis

Peggy Golden and Marilyn Rodgers

The January 29th meeting started with an Ice Cream Social, celebrating VEP's 44th year. Attendees could choose a free treat, compliments of VEP, from 6 different flavors and lots of yummy toppings.



New Councilmember Johnny Khamis made a welcome appearance, highlighting a flyer showing monthly office hours. Mr. Khamis answered several questions, including a request to provide a forum for VEP with himself and Captain Honda as speakers.

The featured guest speaker was Alicia Flynn, Project Manager for Santa Clara County Parks, for Phase 1 for park plan implementation. Mark Fredericks was also in attendance. Ms. Flynn gave brief summary from the past, and then started to detail current implementation plans, highlighting some changes. Of most interest to the group, was the discussion on the perimeter trails which will be the first aspect of development. As Ms. Flynn indicated initially there would be no fencing around the perimeter, and that the park would not be locked at closing, many of the attendees voiced concerns that the park would be a crime magnet after dark. Given the current rise in crime, particularly along and adjacent to Branham Lane, the concerns seemed valid. According to Marilyn Rodgers, VEP President, security and protection for park have been long standing concerns during all of the meetings for the Master Plan development for the park. Essentially visitors to the park are on the "honor system". As the discussion continued, Ms. Flynn clarified that fencing would not be on the outer edge of the perimeter trail, but there would be some fencing to secure the areas where crops would be grown. Concern was also voiced about parking and the amount of parking spaces allotted in the park approximately 200 - 300. Concern was also voiced when Ms. Flynn stated that volunteers would not be involved in planting trees around the perimeter of the park, as had originally been planned. The large tree on Snell, close to the park's vehicle entrance will remain, as it is a large tree, and the County has a long standing policy to preserve large trees such as this one. An additional change - there will be no signal at the park's vehicle entrance due to funding and spacing requirements to the Chynoweth signal. All in all everyone is pleased and looking forward to the park opening, but continued to voice concern about the security issues. The timeline for the park is to take final plans for Phase I implementation to the County Board of Supervisors in March for approval, then to let the contracts to initiate construction in May/June, and finally construction of the perimeter trails to begin in late Summer of 2013. Trail completion probably will not be until Summer 2014.



Members voted to continue to offer a Community Service Award for a total amount of \$1,000.00 for up to 3 awards - Gunderson High School, Andrew Hill High School, and At-Large (VEP).

Congratulations to Barbara Lucchesi, the winner of the raffle drawing for a free VEP membership.

Catherine Wagner from the Parkview area came and shared a two year saga of a person with 13 cars parked near and around Catherine's street. She has been fighting this issue with the Department of Transportation for that amount of time with most of her efforts being foiled by lack of follow-up. Apparently this person has a small business. Cars were tagged but never towed away (usually moved before that), so the sad and frustrating saga would continue. (Note: Thanks to intervention by Councilmember Khamis' staff, there has been improvement - 3 illegally parked cars have since been towed.)



Marilyn brought a similar issue to the members. Apparently a small home based business group - the Wholesale Auto Brokers had requested an item be put on the agenda at the Planning Commission meeting scheduled for February 13th. The item would be a change to allow the home based Wholesale Auto Brokers to park/store vehicles on residential streets. With support from the members, VEP's Board of Directors will act on the members behalf to address this issue. Everyone felt this would have a very negative impact on our residential streets.

Home Based Business Request to Allow for Vehicle Parking/Storing on Residential Streets

Marilyn Rodgers and Peggy Golden

VEP became aware that a home based business had requested an item be agenzized for approval at the February 13th meeting of the San Jose City Planning Commission. The request, if approved, would allow Wholesale Auto Brokers (a home based business) to park and store vehicles on residential streets. The Board of Directors, acting on behalf of the membership initiated action to oppose this proposal. Initially, several VEP members were involved in obtaining helpful additional information on the intent of the proposal, as well as on current municipal codes which restricted parking/storing vehicles on residential streets. VEP's concern, first and foremost, was that our residential streets are already "space constrained", and that approval of this proposal would have a long standing negative impact on all residential neighborhoods. Many VEP members, who themselves have home based businesses, voiced their concern and support to oppose change in the current municipal codes. Additional concerns indicated that such a proposal would also strain already limited Code Enforcement resources. Prior to approval, questions need to be answered on how additional code enforcement resources would be financed. Last, and of primary concern such a far reaching proposal as this one, should have the benefit of broad based discussion (vetting), prior to approval.

VEP was pleased to be informed that the item was subsequently pulled from the Planning Commission agenda, and would not be considered in the near future.

Gunderson High School News



On February 7th, Gunderson High School celebrated the academic achievement of 460 of our students. These students all earned a first semester cumulative grade point average of a 3.0 or higher. This was a 10% increase over the previous semester. Way to go, Grizzlies!

In other academic news, our sophomores will be taking the CAHSEE for the first time on March 12 and 13. If your student will be taking these exams, please be sure that they get a good nights sleep, and eat a good breakfast on the morning of the test. Gunderson will also be hosting our Advanced Placement Parent night on March 6, at 6pm, in the theater. If your student is at all interested in taking an AP course next year, please come to this event. You will be able to meet the AP teachers, here from current students in these courses, and find out more about expectations of each course before signing up.

Gunderson will also be hosting several evening performances in the month of March. On March 5th, 12, and 19th, we will be hosting our first annual Gunderson Got Talent show in the theater, 6:30pm. Admission will be \$7. March 16th will be our annual Sadies Dance, 7-10 pm. This years theme is Super Heroes vs Super Villains. Tickets go on sale March 4th. At the end of the month, March 28th, Gunderson will be hosting our annual Poetry Slam finals, where you can hear from our students original pieces of work, as well as a rap battle between two of our history teachers. The event will be held in the theater, starting at 6pm. Tickets will be \$7 at the door.

In sporting news, our Lady Grizzly basketball team took first place in their division this year! At the end of last season, our girls moved up to the A division this year, and won. We are so proud of their accomplishments. They will be heading to the first round of playoffs in the next few days. Our boys basketball team took 2nd place in their division, and will also be going to CCS playoffs. This is a huge accomplishment overcoming all of the trials and tribulations of last year. Boys and girls soccer will also be finishing up by the 15th. It does not look like either team will be going to the playoffs, but both squads played extremely well, and neither team earned a red card the entire season. Way to show Grizzly PRIDE!

Spring sports are now gearing up for their seasons. We will have softball, swimming, track and field, and golf. Wish them all a great season.



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A Year of Breads

By Kathy Wood, Baker
ayearofbreads.blogspot.com

Poor February-it has fewer days than all the other months of the year. Is this because it was at the end of the line when days were being passed out and 28 was all that remained? And just to make February feel better, an extra day was added on every 4 years?



Because February is the shortest month in the length of time, does that make it "length-challenged" (because we don't want to call it "short")? Its place amongst the other months also is a disadvantage; at this point, Winter is still hanging around with its cold temperatures and snow (in some areas) wearing out its welcome that arrived in November or December, still tolerated in January, but by February is a "need-to-go" situation. Yet Spring will not arrive for another month, when the earth awakens after its slumber and gives us the budding of trees and beautiful flowers to admire. February could be called the "in-between" month.

Although February has its issues, the month is jam-packed with holiday, beginning with Groundhogs Day on the 2nd. Can a groundhog really determine whether Spring is around the corner? Sounds like the groundhog wasn't receiving enough attention and wanted a say in deciding on the length of Winter. Chinese New Year's follows with fireworks and begins the "year of the snake". Valentine's Day allows the heart to make its appearance in many shapes and forms (chocolate is my favorite) and provides much income for the roses, boxes of chocolates and greeting card industries.

President's Day occurs during the third week of the month also allowing students to take a winter break (also called "ski week") from their studies and only celebrated once every 4 years is Leap Day. If you were lucky enough to be born on this day you will always be young. At seventy-six years old, you will be able to claim you're still 19!

Make time in this "length-challenged" month to do some baking; start your day with this breakfast braid:

Raspberry Breakfast Braid:

Ingredients: 2 cups biscuit mix, 1 package (3 oz) cream cheese, cubed, ¼ cup cold butter, cubed, 1/3 cup 2% milk, 1 ¼ cups fresh raspberries, 3 tablespoons sugar, ¼ cup vanilla frosting.

For the instructions, a picture, and more bread recipes visit ayearofbreads.blogspot.com.

"Rolling in the Dough!"

**Renew your
VEP membership
today!**

Cultural Homestay International to Welcome Exchange Students to San Jose

(San Jose, CA. January 31, 2013) – Cultural Homestay International (CHI), a worldwide leader of international education and student exchanges, is looking for families to open their hearts and homes and welcome an international exchange student into their community.

Students will be arriving in the San Jose Bay Area in August 2013 for the academic year. These students hail from all over the globe and are eager to learn about the United States and to become a member of an American family, community, and school.

This program also provides an opportunity for families to form lifelong relationships and unforgettable memories. Hundreds of CHI high school students arrive in the USA each year. Students live with host families, attend high school, and become true members of their new families and communities. Hosting a CHI student is the perfect opportunity for communities to meet an "ambassador" of an overseas country and to develop skills as an "ambassador" of the USA.

Students participating in the exchange are between 15 – 18 years of age, have studied English for a minimum of three years, have their own medical insurance, and have undergone a thorough personal screening and interview process. They come from all over the world including countries such as Australia, Belgium, Brazil, China, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Mongolia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, Vietnam, and many more. Many of these students arrive in the United States with dreams of participating in clubs, sports, arts, music, and other activities. They return to their native land with improved English skills, a sense of independence and self-confidence, more maturity, and a better global understanding. Most importantly they will have made relationships that will last forever.

To participate or to request more information on this rewarding intercultural experience, please contact: Daniela Tanner at (408) 663-1244 or email her at CHIdanielatanner@yahoo.com

To find out more about CHI, visit their website at www.chinet.org

Daffodil Time

By John Marks



Daffodils are the first flowers of spring. Mine have been blooming since the first of the month. They are also the symbol of hope for cancer patients and their families. Dollars raised by the sale of these flowers during Daffodil Days support research public education and patient services in our community.

Orders for daffodils will be taken through Febr. 28, and the flowers delivered during the week of March 22. Here's how to get involved. Bouquets start at \$10 for 10 flowers. Other special arrangements range from \$55 to \$75. The most popular offering is the Gift of Hope - 10 flowers in a vase delivered anonymously to a cancer patient. Gift of Hope bouquets are \$25. To order daffodils, call 879-1032, then 3 after recording starts, or check out www.cancer.org. Also, you may e-mail to svdaffodildays@cancer.org.

Watering Tips

Keep those indoor plants warm and cozy; never water them with cold water, or allow the watering can to sit overnight first. This also minimizes the amount of chlorine, a chemical harmful to many delicate indoor plants. And, if you use a water softener, remember that the salt you add to soften the water is not good for sensitive houseplants. Use bottled water that you buy at the store.

If your plant's leaves do turn brown, you need to get rid of toxic salts before they kill the plant. do this by flushing the soil thoroughly. Take it to the sink, or outside. Run water through it twice. If the container is too large to handle, use a turkey baster to remove excess water from the saucer under the container after you flush the soil.

Flush a third time using water to which you have added half a teaspoon of vinegar per quart of water, which will leach out accumulated salts. Then use a vinegar/water solution instead of regular water every other week when watering. The vinegar neutralizes the harmful salts, and will lower the pH of the soil, making it more acidic and keeping it salt-free. Your houseplants will love it. The new growth will be lush and green.

You can also over-water, especially bougainvillea vines outside. If they drop their blossoms too soon, you need to use a little benign neglect. Refrain from watering until you feel that it has almost reached the wilting point, then soak the soil to a depth of two or three feet. Some gardeners think of these vines as being tender tropicals, they really are hardy. However, bougainvillea blossoms drop continuously after they start and can be messy.

Thorny Berry Vines

If you're getting scratched too much by thorny black berry vines or olallieberry vines, consider planting the thornless blackberries. Plant the Logan variety for early fruiting, and the Arapaho (or any of its kin -- Apache, Chickasaw, Kiowa, Navajo and Shawnee) for a midseason crop. The Chester variety produces its berries late in the season. Otherwise, consider converting to harmless vegetables, such as lettuce, cabbage, radishes, beets, spinach, broccoli and cauliflower.

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VEP Board Elects Katherine Decker as Vice President

Marilyn Rodgers

The VEP Board is pleased to announce the election of Katherine Decker to Vice President. Katherine has been an active and enthusiastic board member for two years. Many members know Katherine as the "hospitality hostess" as she enjoys greeting people who attend VEP meetings. She also has fun providing a "theme" for each meeting as well as yummy treats and raffle prizes. Katherine, a registered nurse, is particularly interested in disaster preparedness, and in assisting members in learning and becoming certified in CPR. Katherine has previously been fulfilling the leadership role of Vice President as she led the VEP general membership meetings in October and November.



As per the VEP Constitution and Bylaws, the Board of Directors elects the Association Officers which includes the Vice President.

The City of San Jose Invites You to a Neighborhood Clean Up Day

Saturday morning, February 23rd 8am to 11am

The City is sponsoring a neighborhood dumpster/collection bin cleanup day in the VEP neighborhood. Be sure to take advantage of this free event! Dumpster/Collection Bins will be located in 7 locations throughout the VEP neighborhood. **You must have the notification card that was mailed to your home address. You must bring this card with you to participate in this free event. (No copies of the card will be accepted.)**



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CRIME STOPPERS

Neighborhood Alert - Increase in Vehicle Break-ins

Marilyn Rodgers

In recent months, there has been an increase in vehicle break-ins, as well as other unlawful activity particularly in our neighborhood parks.

A. Vehicles and Homes

Should you have an incident occur with your vehicle and/or home, please do the following:

- 1) Immediately notify the police department and file a report.
- 2) Alert your neighbors.

The following may be helpful reminders:

For Vehicles:

- 1) Lock all vehicles (even during daylight hours).
- 2) Remove packages or items of value from your vehicle.

There has also been an increase in home break-ins during the daytime, with entry often through unlocked side gates and/or side doors of garages.

B. Neighborhood Parks

Damage in Parkview III (located close to Holycon and Mia), a car drove through the east side of the park, damaging the grass, and hitting two trees (one tree broken in two),.

Neighborhood parks are suppose to "close" at dusk. San Jose Police are encouraging residents to report any "suspicious" activity. If you see individuals or activity that makes you uncomfortable, that means you should probably be reporting it. Provide as many details as possible - location, time, people or activity involved.

Note: VEP appreciates being notified of these issues as well - contact us via vepca.net or at VEP on VEP Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/vepca>.

VEP Sponsoring Three Workshops

As more and more VEP residents are becoming concerned and alarmed, VEP is initiating a series of three workshops or forums over the next several weeks. These workshops are intended to provide additional information and resources available to us as citizens. The goal is to increase our awareness, provide techniques and strategies that will help protect us, as well as empower ourselves and our neighbors to enact safe and pro-active methods of crime prevention. (See page one of newsletter) Additional suggestions are listed on the City of San Jose Police Department's webpage.

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Another successful Gunderson PRIDE workday

By Dave Fadness

Thirty-three eager student volunteers turned out on a cool, bright February 9 morning to clean-up the Gunderson High School campus. They picked up eleven sacks of trash, leaving the school grounds litter free. A great job!

Thanks to the following students who helped to make this project a success: Eric Gonzales, Anthony Herrera, Eddie Herrera, Kenya Garcia, Janaye Richardson, Naomy Garcia, Liliana Cornelio, Tedi Salimkhany, Eva Germer, Jacob Miguel, Desiree Humphers, Jeff Smith, Kimberly Jimenez, Odi Quintana, Fernando Casas, David Soriano, Richard Carreto, Joey Tran, Kayia Sanchez, Isabelle Simmons, Kaylyn Nguyen, Brian Trat, Liann Eagan, Aaron Anaya, Laura Cortings, Tristen Byrd, Kayleigh Sharkey, Kirsten Sharkey, Eric Hernandez, Maryan Ahmed, Devin Smith, Cristian Hernandez, and Sara Mohamed.

Special thanks to Aiko Fadness for providing adult supervision and to Gunderson's Career & College Counselor Stephanie Heuer for her willing assistance in recruiting student volunteers. Ms. Heuer 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.

Hats off to the Gunderson Grizzlies!

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!

Councilman will hold Neighborhood Meetings

By Dave Fadness

Our new District 10 City Councilman, Johnny Khamis will meet with you on the third Wednesday each month from 5:30 pm to 7 pm at the Lime Tree Espresso, 171 Branham Lane (at Snell Avenue). Share your insights and/or ask questions in an informal setting--no appointment is necessary.

This is his schedule for these meetings in coming months: February 20, March 20, April 17, May 15, and June 19. Call 408.535.4910 to verify.

San Jose Metro Area Ranked #1 for Economic Growth

From Newsletter of Mayor Reed

In its annual "Best Performing Cities Index," the Milken Institute has ranked the San Jose metropolitan area #1 at creating and sustaining economic growth. The report evaluated metropolitan areas across the United States along nine factors related to jobs, pay and the technology sector.



technology sector.

"Silicon Valley companies are once again leading the nation out of recession and I truly appreciate the jobs and investments that they bring to our community," Mayor Chuck Reed said. "San Jose remains committed to helping our local companies stay here and grow here, and I look forward to helping facilitate their growth in the years ahead."

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It's Time to Renew Your VEP Membership

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

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

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

What is VEP Community Association?

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

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

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

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

Why join VEP?

- To receive our newsletter nine times a year.
- To receive monthly email alerts.
- To keep our neighborhoods beautiful, safe, strong, and prepared.
- To participate in and support effective neighborhood activities and representation.
- To support VEP's annual *Community Service Awards* for high school graduates.
- To be part of an outstanding volunteer community organization with 40 years of success in our neighborhoods.

** Membership Application **

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

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

Last name(s): _____

First name(s): _____

Street address: _____

Telephone # _____

Email address(es): _____

Comments): _____

Can you give VEP a few volunteer hours? _____

I am willing to volunteer for:

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

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

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

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.

SeniorNet Willows Registration for Session 2-2013 March 9

Joyce Monda, (408) 266-2180
E-mail: joycemonda@att.net

SeniorNet/Willows – the place for affordable and high quality computer education for the over-50 age group – is preparing for its 2013 Session 2 classes.

In-Person Registration for all 2013 Session 2 classes is **Saturday, March 9**. Doors open at 1:00 pm for 1:30 registration. Registration and classes are held at Willow Glen Community Center, 2175 Lincoln Avenue (corner of Lincoln and Curtner Avenues). Registration begins at 1:30, doors open at 1:00 and the process takes 1-2 hours. For other options try registration by mail or online – see below.

SeniorNet Willows has instituted some important changes to making it easier for students to register for classes.

There are now **three ways to register** for our classes: **in person, mail and online**. No matter which you choose, our **Random Place Number system (Proxy)** assures you of an **equal chance** of getting into the course you want.

To register by mail: complete the form in the registration packet and mail it with your check for class fees. Deadline: Mail-in Registration (or drop off during Center business hours) must be received at the Willows Community Center no later than Friday, March 8, 2013.

To register and pay your Willows SeniorNet class fees online: Visit <http://www.snicsj.org/willows/register> to complete the form and pay your fees using PayPal. You do not need a PayPal account to use this service and the service is free. Deadline: Online Registration must be completed by Friday, March 8, 2013, 5 p.m.

Registering online does not guarantee that you will get into the course(s) of your choice. If you don't, your money will be refunded, at no charge to you.

We are changing the layout of the various registration tables and improving the signage to streamline and improve the registration process.

SeniorNet/Willows is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, organized and run by a 100% volunteer staff and is open to adults 50+.

See our website for additional class details: www.snicsj.org/willows.

There is a second Learning Center in Almaden. For information, call: 408-268-1703.

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Restoring Capacity in the Police Department

From the Newsletter of Mayor Chuck Reed

Stating that "my priority for the upcoming year will be public safety," Mayor Reed outlined plans for beginning to restore capacity in the police department.

Due to a decade of skyrocketing retirement costs, San Jose has significantly fewer officers today even though the City Council increased the police department budget by nearly \$100 million. But as the Measure B pension reforms are implemented, Mayor Reed pledged to invest those savings in public safety.

"We need to hire more officers to patrol our neighborhoods and solve and prevent crimes - and that's where we will put savings generated by the Measure B pension reforms. To be more precise, with the savings from pension reform, we can expand the force by 200 more police officers."

While he noted that there would not likely be enough savings this year to increase the size of the department by very much or to restore the entire 10% pay cut officers took a year and a half ago, he proposed that the City take steps to retain officers and improve capacity by:

- Offering retention bonuses and targeted pay increases;
- Returning officers to the street from roles that could be done by civilians;
- Hiring non-sworn Community Service Officers to follow up on burglaries and other such incidents; and
- Hiring and recruiting aggressively (the department currently has more than a dozen direct hires in the field training program and more than 40 recruits in the academy).

Looking For Wheelbarrows

Dave Fadness will be working with student volunteers at Gunderson High School to cover with wood chips a large, unfinished area on campus. They will need at least 8 or 10 wheelbarrows. If you have one, would you be willing to loan it for use it for one Saturday in April? Please Dave know me know.

Dave could also use a few adult supervisors, as well.

He is working on getting 60 yards of wood chips donated and delivered, so a date has not been set. More information as soon as possible.

VEP Community Calendar

February / March 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 Neighborhood Cleanup - Dumpster/Bins
24	25	26 VEP Commu- nity Meeting— 7:30 PM— Vista Park Community Room	27	28	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 Forum with Khamis & Hon- da	15	16
17 St. Patrick's Day 	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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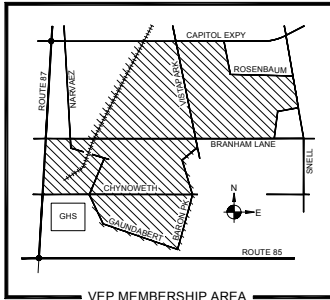
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Published monthly by VEP Community Association, a not-for-profit organization of volunteers established in 1969 to serve and represent more than 2000 homes in the Blossom Valley area of southern San Jose. VEP is dedicated to neighborhood maintenance 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

Be sure to attend
 VEP's
 February 26th Meeting