

VEP NEWS

• VEP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION •

Representing More Than 2,000 Families In The Blossom Valley Area Of South San Jose Since 1969

NOVEMBER 2013

VEP'S MEETING

7:30 p.m. Tuesday
▶ **November 26, 2013** ◀

Vista Park Community Room
475 Hyde Park Drive

AGENDA

★ Homeless Outreach Program ★

EHC Life Builders
Vanessa Beretta, San Jose Outreach Coordinator

★ Our City Forest - Street Tree Program ★

Alex Hodges, Program Coordinator

★★

★ Update from TAPS Security Patrol ★

Tips for Protecting Yourself & Family
during the Holidays

★ VEP Business Meeting ★

VEP Budget for 2013-2014
VEP Goals & Objectives for 2013-2014

Announcements & Updates
Welcome New Advertisers:

Mike Ybarra - J. Romero Bros Construction

Leigh Moore - Moore Construction

Happy Thanksgiving!

Santa in the Park, December 1st

Holiday Decorations Contest – December 14th

No Meeting in December

Membership Drive Starts in January

January Meeting – January 28th

★ 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 November Meeting

By Marilyn Rodgers

Join us for VEP's final general membership meeting of 2013!

► Presentations:

1. **Homeless Outreach:** This is a second presentation in a series on homeless encampments in the VEP neighborhood. **Ms. Vanessa Beretta, Program Outreach Coordinator for EHC Life Builders**, will provide information on homeless in San Jose, what resources are available, and who to contact. She will also provide information on volunteer opportunities. EHC Life Builders is a non-profit organization that is part of the City of San Jose's plan for managing homeless in our city.
2. **Update from Our City Forest: New Tree Keeper Program.** **Mr. Alex Hodges, Tree Steward Liaison**, will provide an overview of this new program aimed at assisting in the care and health of our trees, with particular emphasis on street trees in our neighborhood.
3. **Home Security for the Holidays: TAPS Private Security Patrols.** Tips for keeping yourself and your family safe during the upcoming holidays will be presented.

► VEP Business Meeting/Updates/Announcements:

Brief updates, introductions and thank-yous will be included.

► 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, on **November 26th**. Please join us!

October Meeting Synopsis

By Marilyn Rodgers

The October meeting started with President Rodgers welcoming and introducing former Councilmember Nancy Pyle.



Nancy Pyle, VEP V.P.: Katherine Decker, VEP President: Marilyn Rodgers

Continues on Page 2

◆ 2013 is VEP's 44th Year! ◆

Continued from Page 1

Ms. Pyle had been invited by Councilmember Khamis to participate in the Vista Park Gates dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony in September, due to her involvement in the project. However, at the last moment, she was unable to attend. Subsequently, Ms. Rodgers extended a special invitation for Ms. Pyle to come to the October meeting. Ms. Pyle expressed her appreciation to everyone in VEP, and also her impressions of the Gates. She thought they were quite dramatic with stunning colors. She was also intrigued by the historic words in the gate. Nancy talked about her health emergency during the summer, and how grateful she was for everyone's thoughts and prayers. She now looks and feels very well.

Next, Ms. Rayshelle Brant, from Councilmember Khamis' Office, shared several announcements. One issue was the concern voiced by residents of the Almaden area concerning wild pigs. The pigs are a danger to residents and pets, as well as destructive. They have caused extensive damage to residents' yards and the grounds of the Almaden Country Club. The City Council will be discussing emergency measures that can be taken immediately to resolve this issue. Secondly, the City Council will be discussing the possible location (out of six possible locations) for the City to build a Softball complex for young people to use. Additional information is available in the Councilmember's newsletter and he would appreciate hearing residents views on this issue. Thirdly, the Councilmember, along with AlmadenCares, is sponsoring a teen video competition focused on preventing risky driving behaviors. This competition is open to all high school students in San Jose, with a grand prize of \$5,000.00. The deadline for participation has been extended to January 10th. (For additional information – see articles in October and November editions of the VEP Newsletter; contact the Councilmember's office; or go online to www.sjbetweenthelines.org)

The next speaker, Ray Bramson, with the City Department of Housing, has the new responsibility of coordinating the Homeless Response Team for San Jose. Mr. Bramson gave a brief overview of the rates homelessness in San Jose. Every year, a count of homeless individuals is done. Currently, over 7,000 people are homeless in San Jose. Approximately 20% are families. Families tend to live in their vehicles, because they are very concerned about victimization. The majority of homeless people in San Jose have lived in the city prior to becoming homeless, often as a result of losing a job. Mr. Bramson said the City is just beginning to ramp up the process for assessing homeless encampments. Once the team assesses an encampment, information about possible resources and assistance is offered to the individuals involved. Those that have been unemployed for a few months are currently a priority for assistance. Attendees asked pointed questions and voiced concerns as there are several encampments along Branham Lane. VEP volunteers have requested approval to assist in clearing brush in the Hwy 87/Branham Lane area. Ms. Rodgers also voiced concern that this issue is becoming increasingly im-

portant to VEP area residents, and that hopefully it will become an increasingly important issue for collaboration between City Councilmembers and County Supervisors. Anyone running for San Jose City Mayor should anticipate questions regarding a plan for managing the issue of homelessness in San Jose.

The third guest speaker was Connie Corrales, Program Director for Sourcewise. She directs the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program. Ms. Corrales provided a very concise presentation on Medicare and resources available through Sourcewise. Each attendee received a packet of information and Ms. Corrales encouraged those with specific concerns or questions to contact Sourcewise to make an individual appointment. A counselor can provide information specific to your situation. If you are currently covered by Medicare, you do not need to be concerned about this new program. You are covered by Medicare and related insurance programs for Medicare covered individuals. Do not give out any personal information, particularly your Medicare number, to anyone over the phone. Be wary of fraud. Due to the visibility in the news regarding the new Affordable Care Act insurance availability, many scam artists are at work providing wrong information to Seniors. A second caution concerns Part D (prescription coverage) of Medicare. If you are currently covered by a managed care policy, Part D is already incorporated as part of your coverage. Do not change providers for Part D without first checking with your primary Senior Advantage/Medicare provider or before contacting Sourcewise to discuss your specific situation. If you do sign-up for a new separate Part D provider, you will disenroll yourself from your Senior Advantage program. To contact Sourcewise for more information or request a free counseling session, call 408/350-3200, option 1.

In the final presentation, TAPS Security Patrols provided brief information on security patrols in the VEP neighborhoods. TAPS has initiated private security patrols without requiring a —minimum number— of household signups prior to patrols beginning. However, in order for the service to continue into the future, additional households will need to signup for this service. Private security patrols provide additional visibility and security – a deterrent to crime. The patrols are made during the day and at night, seven days per week. Subscribers to the service also are provided vacation checks, package pickups, and —verification— of home security alarms (note – police no longer respond to —unverified— alarms at homes or businesses). This service is currently provided at a rate of \$17.50 per month. For additional information, and to sign up for this service, go online to www.TAPSPI.com or e-mail: main@tapspi.com or call 877-982-7774 or 408-418-3349.

During the VEP Business Meeting, Treasurer Ginger Cardona presented the draft of the VEP 2013-2014 budget. In the course of discussion, everyone realized that this computer generated draft did not add up correctly. At the request of a member, the draft budget will be corrected and resubmitted for approval at the November meeting (November 26th, 2013).



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Welcome to New VEP Advertisers

By Ginger Cardona and Marilyn Rodgers

We are pleased to welcome two new advertisers in the VEP News.

1. **J. Romero Bros. Construction, Inc.**
Specializing in Concrete (See AD, page 2)
2. **Moore Construction**
Specializing in Foundations (See AD, this page)

Please welcome our new advertisers, and thank our continuing advertisers! Don't forget to let them know that you are a VEP member, and that you appreciate their support of our neighborhood organization!

Crime and Safety in VEP Neighborhoods: Autumn and the Upcoming Holidays

By Marilyn Rodgers

Beginning in September 2012, VEP initiated a series of meetings and other opportunities for neighbors to come together to become better informed about the increase in crime and other safety issues, including: traffic, speeding, and vehicle accidents in our neighborhood. Many residents became actively engaged in informing themselves and their neighbors about many of these alarming issues.

As a result, our neighborhoods are becoming better equipped to initiate actions which keep our streets and homes both attractive and safe.

While much of this is positive, the fact remains that all of us need to continue to educate ourselves and continue to be vigilant! This is particularly true as Fall has arrived, with the change in daylight savings time returning to standard time – and darkness upon us by 5:15pm (and soon, even earlier)!

With daylight hours fading earlier in the day, those that walk or ride bicycles need to be especially aware. Particularly at dusk – danger increases as drivers in vehicles often have difficulty seeing you. Tips to be safe while walking include: having a flashlight with you - and periodically shining it on yourself, wear lighter clothing (popular dark clothing limits visibility), wear reflective tape on your clothing – legs or arms. Bicycle riders – equip your bikes with a headlight, reflectors on front and rear, on wheels, and on pedals. Also, wearing lighter clothing or reflective tape on clothing helps drivers see you in advance.

Protecting Pets While Walking – pets also need to be protected while on their daily walks. Use reflective vests and reflective leashes (or tape) on dogs, particularly if walking at dusk or after dark.

Darkness - Increases Home and Vehicle Crimes – lighting the exterior of homes/yards discourages criminal activity around your property – for both home and vehicles. Turn porch lights on, and encourage your neighbors to do the same. Be sure to report street/pole lights that have gone dark to the City. The City depends on residents to report dark street lights.

Report street lights that need repair!

CALL: (408) 794-1903

EMAIL: street.lights@sanjoseca.gov

Be sure to include:

1. The Street Light Pole Number (usually at eye-level)
2. The name of the street and closest address
3. Nearest cross street
4. Your name and daytime phone number

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WEB Source: <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=282>

The Holidays are just around the corner. With that, comes additional concern for increase in crime – particularly vehicle break-ins and thefts. Remember to always lock your vehicles, and do not leave articles of value in plain sight – this is particularly important as Holiday shopping begins! Private security patrols are also a strong preventative deterrent to crime in the neighborhood.

If you should be a victim of a crime, be sure to report it to the police, and then alert your neighbors to what and when the crime happened.

Here's to a safe and happy holiday season in the VEP neighborhoods!

VEP Membership Drive Begins in January

By M. Rodgers, D. Suydam, K. Decker, and H. Castillo

January signals the New Year, and the beginning of VEP's annual Membership Drive. **Volunteers will be needed** to once again fold, stuff, seal, and label membership invitations that are mailed to both current members and to resident non-members. This is always a fun activity and many volunteers enjoy it so much that they return year after year. This year, the tentatively scheduled date is Sunday, January 19th from 1:00pm to 4:00pm, at the Vistapark Community Room (475 Hyde Park Drive).

If you would like to volunteer, please contact:

Debra Suydam at drsuydam@gmail.com or 408-972-4231
or, Katherine Decker at kddecker1@gmail.com or 408-972-4098.

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SJ BETWEEN THE LINES

“San Jose Between the Lines” Video Contest: Deadline for Teens Extended to January 10, 2014

From the Office of Councilmember Khamis

I am very excited about some new developments in the SJ Between the Lines Video Contest! First, I want to thank DGDG Capitol Subaru for creating such a wonderful promotional video.

To view the video, go to:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=C3s_-m1L5BQ&feature=youtu.be

Please post the video on your social media sites to help spread the word. I want to be sure that every high school student in the City of San Jose has an opportunity to participate!

We are continuing to get financial support from local and national businesses. News is spreading and people are eager to be a part of this worthy cause. We have also extended the submission deadline to JANUARY 10th, 2014! This gives students plenty of time to create and submit their videos.

We are asking students to submit 1-3 minute videos within these five categories: Texting and Driving, Driving Under the Influence, Distracted Driving, Speeding, and How to be a Responsible Passenger.

All videos will be judged on content, creativity, and the number of YouTube views they receive. One winner will be chosen in each category, as well as one grand prize winner.

For more information about the contest or to learn how to submit a video visit the official contest website, at www.sjbetweenthelines.org. Any persons or companies wishing to become a sponsor for this contest can contact Ms. Rayshelle Brant, at 408-535-4910 or by email, at rayshelle.brant@sanjoseca.gov.



From the Offices of San Jose Mayor, Chuck Reed and District 1 Supervisor, Mike Wasserman

San Jose: Downtown Ice

Dates: Friday, November 15, 2013 - Sunday, January 12, 2014

Location: 120 South Market Street

More Information: <http://sjdowntown.com/downtownice/>

Downtown Ice is not only located in a spectacular setting - the Circle of Palms between the Fairmont Hotel and San Jose Museum of Art. The South Bay's largest seasonal outdoor skating rink, produced by the San Jose Downtown Association, has the coolest partners - Kristi Yamaguchi's Always Dream Foundation and Hawaiian Airlines. Our goal is to take care of all customers and make this ice rink the best skating experience anywhere.



San Jose: Christmas in the Park

Dates: Saturday, Nov. 23, 2013 - Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2014

Location: Cesar Chavez Park, S. Market Street & Park Avenue

More Information: www.christmasinthepark.com

For over 30 years, this whimsical event has brought people from all over the Bay Area together during the holidays. Each year, the two-acre park is transformed into a holiday fantasy with over 60 musical and animated exhibits, glittering lights and the 60-foot Community Giving Tree. Christmas in the Park is a non-profit organization and is free to the public. Children can have their photograph taken with Santa, watch night-ly entertainment and enjoy holiday themed refreshments.



San Jose Downtown: Winter Wonderland

Dates: Wednesday, November 27th - Friday, January 3rd

Locations: Downtown San Jose (read more, below)

The family amusement area on Park Avenue, between Market Street and Almaden Boulevard, next to the Tech Museum, offers a festive arcade of fun and entertainment. Also, amusement rides will stretch down the Paseo de San Antonio between Market Street and First Street.



San Jose: Applied Materials Silicon Valley Turkey Trot

Date: Thursday, November 28th, 2013 (Thanksgiving Day)

Location: Santa Clara St. at Market St. Downtown San Jose

More Information: <http://svturkeytrot.com/>



Start Thanksgiving Day off on the right foot at the Applied Materials Silicon Valley Turkey Trot. It's an event the whole family will enjoy! You'll also be giving "Thanks" by helping Second Harvest Food Bank, the Housing Trust of Santa Clara County, and the Children's Health Initiative of Santa Clara County. The Silicon Valley Turkey Trot, founded and produced by the Silicon Valley Leadership Group Foundation, is now in its 9th year and the total amount given to charity has exceeded \$2.2 million.

Santa in the Park

By Katherine Decker, Adina Pierce, Helen Castillo, Peggy Golden

Come to the Vista Park Community Room between 2-4pm on Sunday, December 1st (Thanksgiving weekend) for a photo with Santa! This has become an annual tradition for many VEP families – some have done this for 6 years in a row. At least two families that come routinely have 4 generations represented in their pictures – what a nice tradition! Enjoy talking to your neighbors and have a cup of something warm to drink. Arts and crafts are also available to entertain the smaller members of families.

**Santa is Coming
to the Vista Park Community Room
475 Hyde Park Drive**

**Sunday, December 1st
Santa Hours: 2 pm to 4 pm**

Bring your kids or the whole family for a free photo with Santa. We will also have arts and crafts, and light refreshments.

Have a photo taken by VEP photographer Katherine Decker, or feel free to bring your own camera.



**VEP wants to thank you for
your support in 2013!**

**Wishing you and your family a
joyous holiday season!**

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3rd Annual VEP Holiday Decorations Contest

By Marilyn Rodgers and Katherine Decker

The 3rd Annual Holiday Decorations Contest will be held in December. Do you, and/or your neighbors, really enjoy decorating the exterior of your house and/or yard for the holidays? If so, this contest is for you! The VEP Board of Directors is sponsoring a contest for the best Holiday Decorating done on a house and/or yard in a VEP neighborhood.

What will you win? Bragging rights, of course, and a display sign that says you are a VEP Holiday Decoration Winner. Additional prizes will include a VEP membership for 2014 and a gift certificate. Pictures and an article on the winner(s) will be included in the January 2014 VEP Newsletter.

The VEP Board will determine the winner(s) on the weekend of December 14th. Board members will drive through the neighborhood to determine winner(s). However, everyone can help by notifying the Board (at www.vepca.net) to nominate yourself or your neighbor(s) for consideration. Happy Holidays!



Holiday Tree Curbside Pick-Up

From City of San Jose { www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?nid=1548 }

Recycle your holiday tree on your regular collection day from December 26th throughout the entire month of January each year.

Natural and flocked holiday trees will be collected for recycling on the same day as your garbage, recycling, and yard trimmings. You don't need to attach an "Extra Garbage" sticker, but you do need to remove all tinsel, decorations, and the tree stand. Trees should then be cut into five-foot lengths and placed in the street. Be sure to keep the sections 1 foot from the curb and 5 feet away from your garbage and recycling carts, and any parked vehicles.

If you live in an apartment, townhouse, or condo, ask your property manager if special arrangements have been made for recycling holiday trees on-site.



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Narvaez Avenue (*)

It may not have seemed much of a choice at the time, but in later years Jose Agustin Narvaez was never sorry he agreed in 1797 to become a colonist in California rather than go to jail in Mexico.

Although he spent only six years in Branciforte (Santa Cruz), choosing instead to become a soldier at the Presidio of San Francisco, the decision gave 17-year old Agustin a new start on a long life in which he was to hold public office, own thousands of acres of land, and raise a family of thirteen.

Agustin, according to his great-great-granddaughter, Mrs. Betty Skilling of Half Moon Bay, was —juvenile delinquent picked up on the streets of Guadalajara.” He was brought to California with several others who had run afoul of the law to become colonists in a new settlement to be called Branciforte.

In 1800 Agustin married Josefa Higuera and in 1803 he became a soldier and with his wife and infant son, moved to the Presidio up on the Bay.

By 1817 he was again a civilian and living in the Santa Clara Valley, possibly on the land he was later to receive in a grant from the Mexican government. The last five of his thirteen children were born here between 1817 and 1827, according to baptismal records Mrs. Skilling obtained from the old Mission at Santa Clara.

In 1821, a year before Mexico won independence from Spain, Agustin was serving as alcalde (mayor) at the pueblo of San Jose, Mrs. Skilling says, and in 1827 he was a councilman. This was the year his thirteenth child, Jose Dolores Narvaez, Mrs. Skiffing's great-grandfather, was born.

Agustin was 64 in 1844 when he received the 8,879-acre Rancho San Juan Bautista (so-named because he shared his birthday with St. John the Baptist) from Gov. Manuel Micheltorena.

On current maps the huge rancho, on which five adobe structures were built and where hundreds of cattle and horses grazed before the gringo came, would stretch roughly from Los Gatos Creek eastward to beyond —Signposts” marking Narvaez Avenue, north into Willow Glen and south to Blossom Hill Road.

Four different flags flew over California during his lifetime. The land belonged to Spain when the —Concepcion” sailed into Monterey Bay with the convict colonists on May 12, 1797. It was the Mexican flag that flew over San Jose when he received his grant of two square leagues. Later the banner was the crudely-drawn Bear Flag and then the Stars and Stripes of the United States.

Agustin was 83 when he received a government patent to Rancho San Juan Bautista, large parts of which had already been sold to immigrants who had come in weathered covered wagons, trading their gold pans for plows.

A painting of Jesus blessing St. John the Baptist was part of the shrine in the home when Agustin was alive, and each June on St. John the Baptist Day he dressed in his finest clothes, and mounted on his best horse draped with beautiful serapes took the painting on a pilgrimage to Mission Santa Clara.

After Mass, he rode the long miles back to the rancho to wind up his birthday among relatives whose names included some of the area's most prominent early California families...Ortegas, Chaboyas, Berryessas, Alvisos, Sepulvedas.

This painting, commissioned by Agustin 150 years ago, hangs in the de Saisset Art Gallery at the University of Santa Clara, the gift of Modesta Cantua, his daughter.

[(*) Ed. Note: This story was taken from "Signposts Revisited-A Collection of Streets and Roads Where We Live" by Pat Loomis, 2009. VEP will reprint in future editions stories of other historic "signpost" streets in our area. Special thanks to History San José for permission to reprint these fascinating stories. Thanks also to Dave Fadness for sharing the stories with the VEP community.]



Gunderson Wood Chips Day

By Dave Fadness

On Saturday November 2, forty energetic students and six adult volunteers teamed to pull weeds, remove trash, and spread wood chips over large unfinished areas on the southwest side of the Gunderson High School campus. Everyone who participated left feeling dusty and tired, but with an earned sense of pride and accomplishment—the finished sites look much improved.

Thanks are well-deserved by the following students who made this project a complete success: Khai Nguyen, Jesus Garcia, Jeffrey Flores, Christian Trujano, Maritza Garcia, Odilon Quintana, Eduardo Herrera, Evan Floyd, Paul Ngo, Jesse Nephew, Antonio Gamboa, Ryan Elsten, Thien Nguyen, Darren Nguyen, Gabriel Romero, Lathaniel Espinosa, Fernando Casas, Joey Tran, Angela Kurysh, Raymond Rodriguez, Carlos Alvarado, Andy Padilla, Cody Wailand, Ryan DeLaCerde, Jacob Parrish, Isaac Yanez, Vera Ortiz, Jocelyn Pen, Jocelyn Villa, Nayeli Hernandez, Brian Nguyen, Lyndsey Baughman, Juana Sosa Diaz, Sarah Perry, Sara Gonzalez, Josh Ocone r, Semone Cortez, Melvin Chu, James Samura, and Virginia Truong.

Hats off to our four adult "supervisors" (they worked hard, too): Aiko Fadness, Debra Suydam, Bill Johnson, and Frank Kistler. All are incredibly dedicated, long-time volunteers in our VEP community—always there when help is needed.

As usual, Gunderson's Career & College Counselor Stephanie Heuer provided willing assistance in recruiting student volunteers—and provided supervision on workday, as well. She is an outstanding resource for Gunderson students and our community.

Others that provided invaluable assistance are Gunderson Groundskeeper David Gonzalez and San Jose Unified's Facilities Maintenance and Grounds Supervisor, Nick Nakao. David helped to identify the work sites, then prepared them for us by roughly distributing piles of wood chips. Mr. Nakao had rakes, shovels, weed hoes, and brooms on hand when we started, bright and early that morning.

It was a pleasure to work with school district staff, students, and community volunteers on yet another successful Gunderson PRIDE project.



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Neighbors In the Know

A Year of Breads

By Kathy Wood, Baker

ayearofbreads.blogspot.com



How did this happen? I tried so hard not to let it and yet somehow it did. After years of saying —I'll never do that!" and —I will never think like that!" I have to admit I HAVE done that and I HAVE thought like that. I have become my mother!

My mother and I have had our conflicts, and haven't always seen things in the same light. In the past I have blamed Mom for things I thought I missed out on in my growing up years, but have now realized she was doing what she and my father thought was best.

While raising my sons, I tried to pass down the things I found my mother did correctly (in my eyes), and eased up on subjects I didn't find important. I think most parents strive to do this, although we are not always successful.

Mom taught me to respect my elders, always be courteous to others, lend a hand or an ear when needed, share with others, and take pleasure in the little things. When it comes down to it, I am thankful for my upbringing and the influence of both my parents in my life.

My parents live out of state and I only see them once a year, but when I do Mom and I share her kitchen to bake something. She would approve of the following recipe:

Cinnamon-Chip Scones

Ingredients:

2 ½ cups all-purpose flour
1/3 cup sugar
3 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon, divided
½ cup cold butter
2/3 cup cinnamon baking chips
1 cup plus 1 tablespoon heavy whipping cream, divided
1 egg
1 tablespoon coarse sugar.

Instructions:

In a large bowl, combine the flour, sugar, baking powder and ½ teaspoon cinnamon.

Cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs.

Stir in cinnamon chips.

Whisk 1 cup cream and egg; stir into crumb mixture just until moistened.

Turn dough onto a floured surface; knead 10 times.

Pat into a 9-inch circle. Cut into 12 wedges.

Separate wedges and place on a greased baking sheet.

Brush with remaining cream.

Combine coarse sugar, remaining cinnamon; sprinkle over tops.

Bake at 400 degrees for 14-16 minutes or until golden brown.

Serve warm.

For a picture and more bread recipes, head on over to ayearofbreads.blogspot.com.



Planting and Caring for Hydrangeas

By Jim Marks

Hydrangeas are an attractive perennial that call for little care. Few insects or diseases affect hydrangeas. But planting hydrangeas requires some care. After you obtain a starter, dig a hole larger than the container it came in. Place the plant in a hole where it will get a northern exposure, ensuring that the crown of the plant is slightly above the level of the native soil. Backfill with a mix of soil with a lot of compost, using excess soil to build a watering basin. Fill the basin with water, checking to see that there is little or no settling of the plant.

Hydrangeas thrive on ample water. Feed the plant when it leafs out in the spring and every other month during the growing season. Use about one-quarter cup of sulfate of ammonia, and spread it in a wide circle under the hydrangea. Water-in afterward.

In hot spells, may show signs of wilting, only to recover when the sun goes down. This is a natural occurrence called "incipient wilting." It happens even if the soil is very wet.

Hydrangea Care:

Hydrangeas bloom on the shoots produced in the previous year. Cut off the blossoms after the flowers have faded. Prune them just above the second set of buds from the bottom of the stem. The new shoots that grow from these buds will bloom in the following year. It is hard to kill a hydrangea.

After the plant is several years old, you may need to thin out the multitude of stems, removing any crossing, dead, or diseased stems. The older stems will be a darker color, with brown or gray scaly bark. These may no longer be productive and need to be pruned back to a set of buds near the base of the plant. New stems will emerge to replace the old.

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VEP Community Schools Calendar

November / December 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
17	18	19  Cookie-Dough Order Delivery @Carson	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 SJUSD Minimum Day @Carson @Gunderson	28  NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Day Holiday	29 NO SCHOOL	30
1	2 "Holiday Store" Dec. 2nd - 6th @Carson ←	3	4	5	6	7  Winter Ball 7:00-10:00pm @Gunderson →
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 SJUSD Last Day of School before New Year Break	21

Community Schools Contact Information

Carson Elementary School ~ Home of the Cougars

WEB: <http://www.sjUSD.org/carson/> PHONE: (408) 535-6287

Parkview Elementary School ~ Home of the Panthers

WEB: <http://parkviewca.com/> PHONE: (408) 226-4655

John Muir Middle School ~ Home of the Falcons

WEB: <http://sjUSD.org/john-muir/> PHONE: (408) 535-6281


Gunderson High School ~ Home of the Grizzlies

WEB: <http://www.sjUSD.org/gunderson/home/> PHONE: (408) 535-6340



VEP Community Calendar

November / December 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
17	18	19	20 D10 -Office Hours" Meeting w/Johnny Khamis ~ 5:30-7:00pm ~ Lime Tree Espresso 171 Branham Lane	21	22	23 Opening Day!  <i>a San Jose Community Tradition</i>
24	25	26 VEP Community Meeting ~ 7:30 PM ~ @Vista Park Community Room	27 Opening Day! 	28  APPLIED MATERIALS SILICON VALLEY TURKEY TROT 2013	29	30
1  Santa In the Park ~2:00-4:00pm~ @Vista Park Community Room	2	3	4 D10 -Office Hours" Meeting w/Johnny Khamis ~ 8:30-9:30am ~ @Almaden Community Center Community Rm. 6445 Camden Ave	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14  ~ Judging ~
15	16	17	18 D10 -Office Hours" Meeting w/Johnny Khamis ~ 5:30-7:00pm ~ Lime Tree Espresso 171 Branham Lane	19	20	21

Dates to Remember!

VEP Community Meetings

December 2013 - No Meeting
January 28, 2014

VEP Community Events

Santa at Vista Park
Sunday, December 1st, 2013
Holiday Decorating Contest Judging
Saturday, December 14th, 2013
Community Garage Sale
Saturday, May 3, 2014

THE VEP NEWS



VEP Community Association

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

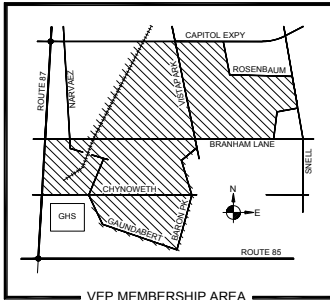
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Published monthly by VEP Community Association, a not-for-profit organization of volunteers established in 1969 to serve and represent more than 2000 homes in the Blossom Valley area of southern San Jose. VEP is dedicated to neighborhood maintenance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

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



VEP MEMBERSHIP AREA



Check our website: www.vepca.net

Community Room

Vista Park

in the
 7:30 pm

Be sure to attend
 VEP's Community Meeting
 Tuesday, November 26th