

V.E.P. News

REPRESENTING THE RESIDENTS OF
VISTAPARK, ENCORE, ECHO VALLEY, BLOSSOM HEIGHTS, AND PARKVIEW VALLEY

AUGUST, 1976

THE AUGUST MEETING OF VEP WILL BE HELD THIS COMING WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, AT 7:30 PM AT NORMANDIN CHRYSLER-PLYMOUTH, CORNER OF CAPITOL AND PEARL. NO BUSINESS MEETING IS SCHEDULED BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANT TAX ASSESSMENT DISCUSSION FEATURING SPEAKERS FROM HALT AND THE COUNTY ASSESSOR'S OFFICE. THIS MEETING SHOULD BE WELL WORTH ATTENDING FOR ALL RESIDENTS.

- PRESENTATION OF AWARDS - Normandin Chrysler-Plymouth to be recognized for years of service to VEP. Past VEP president Carmen Filice to be recognized for same.
- PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT - SHOULD VEP BECOME AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF HALT?
Al Carlson, Santa Clara County Tax Assessor's Office
Arlean Guerrero, VEP Member

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Last year my assessed valuation increased 11.8%. Increases in my salary failed to match this double-digit inflation rate. My purchasing power was reduced correspondingly. How about yours?

Homeowners Acting to Lower Taxes (HALT), a county-wide task force formed by the Santa Clara Valley Coalition, is demanding tax reform of local and state officials. In their first meeting Tuesday, July 27, a plan of specific action was adopted by HALT, along with a resolution demanding specific laws concerning property tax reform by July 1, 1977. Various state and local legislators were in attendance and pledged their support. Many homeowners associations were there along with other citizen groups who have already dedicated their formal support to HALT. In all, my guess is there about 1000 people -- all disgruntled taxpayers

At this month's meeting we are going to decide whether VEP should formally support HALT. Arlean Guerrero, a VEP member, has followed the development of this task force and is working hard to establish a representative group from our community to align with their efforts against ever-increasing property tax burdens. She is eager to have VEP commit its support.

Al Carlson supports the concept of a tax reform also - - he's a taxpayer too! Al works for the County Tax Assessor's Office. His in-depth understanding of the laws and his broad knowledge of the inter-relatedness of the various taxes we pay give him a more cautious attitude toward reform than HALT espouses. He is well informed regarding on-going tax legislation and eager to answer your questions.

What shall we do? It will cost VEP \$200.00 to join HALT. The membership must therefore decide. It's a heavy philosophical decision anyway - - we need your inputs. Come to the meeting August 11 - - we'll have you home early.

Thanks.

Dave

Dave Fadness
VEP President

SPECIAL NOTICE

Belden School, the new elementary school on Hyde Park, has scheduled two Community Planning Meetings this month - August 24th and August 25th, at 7:30 PM, at the Carson School Faculty Lounge.

CRACKED DRIVES AND WALKWAYS

If the concrete walk laid by your developer is severely damaged, VEP would like to hear from you. This is a survey; VEP may wish to involve itself in seeking help if an adequate number of homeowners respond. Call Dave Fadness at 578-6428, or attend our next business meeting.

STREETS

The bridge over Canoas Creek (Branham Lane) is nearing completion. However, the SP has not yet announced whether they will continue service on their spur track or not, and the opening of Branham Lane is contingent upon a safe crossing at this track. If it isn't removed, the city will have to install a mechanical crossing sign at a cost of \$120,000.

In order to avoid this expense when the track may be abandoned, the city of San Jose has requested that the Public Utilities Commission allow the street to be open with a flagman on call to direct traffic when a train is scheduled. This service would run approximately \$6 - 7,000 per year, a considerable savings to taxpayers. If this request is approved, Branham Lane can be opened in about two months. If it is not, it may be next summer before the street is open for use with a mechanical control.

GUNDERSON SWIMMING POOL

For those of you who have seen the beautiful blue waters of the olympic-sized pool at Gunderson High, have heart. You too may soon be able to swim there. Here's the situation. The pool and surrounding area were constructed jointly by the school district AND the city parks and recreation district. Assigned priorities for use are the school first, parks and recreation uses second (including public access), and swim club uses third. There are 1000 hours per year available to parks and recreation, but the department is not using the facility now because all construction and maintenance operations are not complete. Community use of the facility is through the auspices of parks and recreation, so it is not yet open for public use.

At this time, swim clubs are using the pool, but only with controlled use and several coaches in attendance. If you would like to join a swim club, call Tom Niemann at

the San Jose Aquatics, 268-4217. If you have any questions about the pool and related facilities, call Dan Kocal, pool coordinator at Gunderson, 578-0225. Again, have heart -- as soon as the entire area is complete and safe, Gunderson High pool will be available for use by the community.

THE SCHOOL CORNER

GUNDERSON HIGH will be ready for business on September 7. This is a credit to the administrators, district, and contractors because it is opening on time. In fact, the staff is on duty now, and you can call them at 225-1944 and 225-5113 between 8 AM and 4 PM weekdays.

Starting September 8, VEP will hold monthly general meetings in the faculty lounge of the school, and that evening, after the regular meeting, a special tour of the new school is scheduled, with personnel from the school available to answer all questions.

Tours are also being conducted every Tuesday and Thursday at 1 PM so if you have time, drop over. The staff would love to meet you and show you this beautiful facility.

BELDEN SCHOOL will start the school year sharing Carson School facilities on double session because of the electrician's strike, according to the school district. Even though the strike ended prior to the critical July 15 date (supposedly if electrical work could commence July 15, there would not be a delay at the school), the contractor is asking for a 33 day extension for completion; this time is equal to the duration of the work stoppage. The delay may not be for the full 33 days, but unless a miracle happens, there will be some double-sessions when school starts in September. Past performance indicates that a miracle is not expected.

VEP NEWS Deadline: August 25, 1976

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VEP ANNUAL DUES ARE ONLY \$4.00 - A TRUE BARGAIN

DUMPING IS NOT NICE

The city of San Jose and various private landowners have been very cooperative with requests from VEP to clean vacant lots and post signs prohibiting further dumping in the VEP neighborhood. San Jose Unified School District has promised to cooperate similarly by correcting the dumping problem between the Southern Pacific tracks and Ogan Lane, across from Gunderson High.

Although very cooperative, these people have complained, and correctly so, that the trash and litter on their properties result from neighborhood residents, not necessarily pool contractors, etc. The cost of removing this litter is high, and the money comes directly from your tax dollar pocket when the land to be cleared is city property. Not only this, it is an eyesore.

Keep VEP Country attractive, and VEP surroundings attractive. Don't dump trash and waste items on undeveloped property in VEP areas or anywhere else. Please abide by the NO DUMPING signs; watch for violators, and tell them to stop, or report them if necessary. And use the city dump for trash and litter -- it's close and inexpensive.

POSTING SIGNS

The VEP Country sign on Vistapark Drive near Capitol has received many compliments from area residents. It also has been used to place many other posters and signs concerning area events and various sales. At times it has become an eyesore and does not present a good first impression to the VEP community. The sign is on private property, and although the owner has not yet complained, many neighborhood residents have.

At the present time, VEP is considering the possibility of a community billboard just for placings signs for garage sales, etc., but this will not be installed without, of course, the permission of the owner, and also, only if VEP residents help to keep it attractive.

In the meantime, if you MUST place notices at this location, please try to make them attractive; do not place them on the VEP sign, and remove them promptly. Thanks.

THE SPEED LIMIT IN VEP AREAS IS 25 MPH

VEP is forming a new parks committee to help establish priorities for park scheduling in VEP Country and to work with the parks and recreation personnel toward mutually satisfying results. Parkview I is in the present budget and scheduled for January 1977 construction, which means planning must start soon, if not now. The parks and recreation officials have agreed to work with VEP in these important planning stages, so if you're interested, this is your chance to be heard.

A related matter is the fact that reports of trouble at Parkview II continue to reach VEP. It is difficult at best to determine if this park is actually a problem, but VEP can only assume that because there are continuing complaints, there must be some reason for them.

If there is a consensus that this park is a problem area, VEP needs to know specifics and hear from concerned residents. Come to the August 11 meeting and keep VEP informed. And join the parks committee if you're interested in helping with existing parks, or planning new parks. Call Dave at 578-6428, or Marion at 224-0281.

CRIME AND VANDALISM

The VEP July meeting featured a presentation by Carter Langdon, San Jose Police Department, on the subject of home security. This was a very timely subject as residents leave for vacations and other summer activities. If you do not think this is a problem in VEP Country, consider the following statistics. Carter reported that in VEP areas, July 1 - 15

- Five residential burglaries occurred
- One business burglary occurred
- Six vehicle burglaries occurred
- Twelve vandalisms occurred (Gunderson High)

During one of the residential burglaries, a minor was knocked unconscious as he entered his home while the burglary was in progress.

Do you want to wait around until the statistics climb high enough to warrant increased police department patrols. Or would you prefer some active participation to prevent these undesirable events.

You can actively help by joining OPERATION IDENTIFICATION, NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH, and the BLOCK PARENT program. Get to know your neighbors' habits, be observant, and call the police if you notice something out of the ordinary.

When you leave your home for a vacation, discontinue newspaper and other deliveries, have your lawn cared for, your mail discontinued or handled otherwise, and tell your neighbors and the police department that you will be gone, and when you are returning. Even when you are not going to be away, tell your friends and neighbors when you expect service and contract agencies to be at your home to perform work. Also give them your permission to call the police department if something seems amiss at your home. And when you notice any unusual activity around your neighbors' homes, check into it.

NOTICES

- BABYSITTING** - Melinda, age 16, \$1 per hour, Call 578-9133
- BABYSITTING** - Smita, age 16, \$.75 per hour, Call 578-3238
- BABYSITTING** - Trisa, age 13, \$.75 per hour, Call 578-6292
- BABYSITTING** - Julie, age 13, or Jayme, age 12, \$.75 per hour, 226-4787
- AUTOMOTIVE** - First-class work by trade school graduates, experienced and reliable, free estimates. Call Dave or Peter at 225-8195
- WANTED** - Portable freezer for ice cream sales at Carson School, about 8 - 10 cubic feet. Call Gary at 265-9873, or Maureen at 224-0560
- SERVICES** - OPERATION IDENTIFICATION HELPS Engrave an ID number on your valuable possessions with the free VEP engraver. Call Marion at 224-0281 for arrangements.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- August 11 - VEP General Meeting, 7:30 PM at Normandin Chrysler-Plymouth
- August 12 - Oak Grove School Board Meeting at 7:30 PM
- August 13 - Last day of summer school at Parkview School
- August 17 - San Jose City Council, 1:30 and 7:30 PM at City Hall
- August 19 - San Jose Unified School District Board Meeting, 7:30 PM at 1605 Park Avenue
- August 21 - VEP Executive Board Meeting, 9:30 AM, 4281 Windsor Park Drive
- August 24 - Carson Home/School Club, 7:30 PM
- August 24 - Belden Community Planning Meeting, Carson School, 7:30 PM
- August 25 - Belden Community Planning Meeting, Carson School, 7:30 PM
- August 26 - Oak Grove School Board Meeting at 7:30 PM
- August 31 - San Jose City Council, 1:30 and 7:30 PM at City Hall
- Sept 2 - San Jose Unified School District Board Meeting, 7:30 PM at 1605 Park Avenue
- Sept 7 - San Jose City Council, 1:30 and 7:30 PM at City Hall
- Sept 8 - VEP General Meeting, 7:30 PM at GUNDERSON HIGH SCHOOL

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