

# V.E.P. News

REPRESENTING OVER 2,000 RESIDENTS OF VISTAPARK,  
ENCORE, ECHO VALLEY, BLOSSOM HEIGHTS, AND PARKVIEW VALLEY

JANUARY 1977

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE VEP HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION WILL BE HELD THIS COMING WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, AT 7:30 PM IN THE GUNDERSON HIGH SCHOOL FACULTY LOUNGE. IT IS OPEN TO ALL VEP MEMBERS AND RESIDENTS OF THE VEP AREA. PLEASE PLAN TO BE THERE. IT'S INTERESTING!

## AGENDA

- BUSINESS MEETING (SHORT - 7:30 to 8:00 PM)
- NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM - San Jose Police Department Crime Prevention Unit Officers Neil Payne and Frank Kossick (See Below)
- COMMUNITY FEEDBACK - San Jose City Councilman Jim Self

VEP AREA HONORED BY SELECTION FOR SJ POLICE DEPARTMENT PILOT STUDY PROGRAM

STATISTICAL FACT: Areas of highest community awareness and involvement are the areas with the lowest crime rates.

Operation *NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH* is a program sponsored by the Crime Prevention Unit of the San Jose Police Department. As with the *BLOCK PARENT* and *OPERATION IDENTIFICATION* programs, this program is designed to augment the efforts of our police department via community awareness and involvement. Your participation in this *NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH* program, though virtually effortless, can be of significant help in lowering neighborhood crimes. You may be involved already. If so, that's great and congratulations! If not, read on.

VEP has a long-standing record of community awareness, involvement, and self-help. As a result, VEP has been selected by the SJ Police Department as a pilot study group for a newly-expanded and intensified *NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH* program. A significant reason for the selection of VEP for the new program is the superb group of VEP *Block Reps*, because the new police program is based on *Block Captains*. These block captains are one person or family on each block who simply work with their own neighbors at the most local level. Since VEP already has this basic system, we are ready to participate immediately. All that remains are informal meetings with a police officer and neighbors to become more aware of each other's routines. This makes any strange or criminal activity instantly recognizable to anyone in the block. *It Works!*

Officers from the SJ Police Department (see agenda above) will be present at the VEP meeting this week to discuss the details of the program. Even if you can't normally attend these meetings, *PLEASE* make an extra effort this month. It may be your home involved next! Member or not, VEP needs your participation in this vital program. The special 1-hour police department presentation starts promptly at 8:00 PM. If you are a block rep, it is very important that you attend. This police department pilot study program includes a statistical sampling of the results. Let's show San Jose the VEP Country is truly worthy of the honor of being selected to participate. The rewards to you, individually, and to this neighborhood, collectively, will be immeasurable.

## SCHOOL NEWS AND DEVELOPMENTS

*BELDEN* - The Belden Home and School Club general membership meeting on Wednesday, January 19th, will feature an informational presentation "How Children Learn to Read". This important subject will be informally discussed by Belden third grade teacher Edythe Young, formerly resource teacher at Carson. Your attendance and questions will be welcomed and appreciated.

Future Home/School Club plans include an adult wine tasting party sponsored as a fundraising event by the club. Watch for announcement about this event - a way to have fun while meeting one another and contributing to the worthwhile goals of this parent group.

The Belden Site Development Committee still needs some help. Please call Jim Wendling at 578-0266 if you can offer any assistance.

*CARSON* - Post Cereal box tops are still being collected by the Carson Home and School Club and will be until March 31, 1977. Post will provide sporting equipment to the school in return for box tops. This is a very easy way to contribute to the school and support the Home/School Club. Send the Post box tops to school with the students.

Student pedestrian safety is a situation being carefully studied by a Carson parent group with the full cooperation of Carson Principal Steve Everett. Various possibilities for safety improvement along potentially dangerous routes are being considered, including the formation of a student patrol, a reduction in the number of arrival and dismissal times, and requests for additional crosswalks at key intersections. Education is generally cited as the most important factor in student safety. Please cooperate by instructing your children to only cross streets at painted crosswalks and to use utmost caution. The greatest incidence of child pedestrian accidents occur after school, on weekends, and over vacations and holidays. These are the times to be particularly alert. Watch at all times for careless pedestrians and be aware of school locations and crosswalks. The newest school crosswalks are listed on page 3 of this newsletter.

*PARKVIEW* - A repeat performance of last year's fantastic Spring Carnival is being hosted by the Parkview School Community Association. Parkview plans to have Butler Brothers Amusements set up a carnival for a gala 3-day event March 4, 5, and 6. Support is now being sought from neighboring schools. Be sure to set this weekend aside - - and tell the kids to start saving their allowances. This is a weekend of fun and enjoyment that provides money to an educational cause.

*STEINBECK* - At the next general membership meeting of the Steinbeck School and Community Organization, a performance by the school's girls' gymnastic team will be featured. Plan to attend this meeting at 7:30 PM on January 27, and enjoy some good, free entertainment.

The Steinbeck School and Community Organization could use your help on the Ways and Means committee. If you can participate, call Kay Virgilio at 227-3168.

## RENATO

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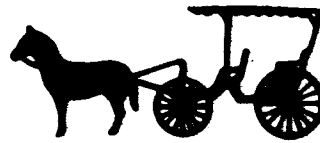
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(VEP MEMBER)

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## AREA STREETS AND INTERSECTIONS TO SEE SOME IMPORTANT CHANGES

*SNELL/ROSENBAUM* - The hazardous conditions at the intersection of Snell and Rosenbaum have been a source of great concern to VEP. Recently a motorcyclist was killed in an accident there. Those who use this route every day can appreciate the urgent need for improved traffic control. Thus far, the city has responded to VEP requests by moving the stop bar forward on Rosenbaum and eliminating parking on Snell north of the intersection to improve visibility. Additional changes include paint striping, either for a right turn lane on Snell, or diagonals to discourage south-bound traffic from driving next to the curb. VEP has also recommended that the speed limit signs to be posted on Snell be at least 10 MPH less than the 45 MPH speed limit recommended to the city council by city staff.

*NEW SNELL/OLD SNELL* - This is a temporary but extremely dangerous junction. VEP demands for improvement cannot be met by the city at this time for several reasons. First, there isn't enough city-owned right of way to allow installation of a left turn lane for north-bound traffic. Second, the alignment of Snell and Skyway cannot be corrected until the developer there completes his obligation to extend Skyway due West to Snell. Once this is accomplished, the old section of Snell will be aligned with the new section of Snell forming a "T" intersection with Skyway. This intersection will have traffic signal control. The completion of Skyway is not scheduled until around March, 1977, and the balance of the work cannot be expected until about mid-year. In the meantime, please exercise extreme caution at this intersection.

*PEARL/OGAN* - Signal work to include a left-turn signal from Pearl to Ogan is finally operational, eliminating at least one dangerous situation. The next improvement that can be expected along Pearl should be in the not-to-distant future when new retail stores at Oakridge Mall will pay for a complete widening and realignment of Pearl to Blossom Hill Road.

*BRANHAM LANE RR CROSSING* - The city public works department is pressing toward an agreement with Southern Pacific and the Public Utilities Commission that will allow the opening of Branham Lane between Vistapark and Pearl. The latest word is that an acceptable *verbal* agreement has been reached wherein the city will hire a flagman to cover the crossing at Branham Lane and the other grade crossings along the Lick Branch. Once this agreement is formalized and signed, the opening of Branham should follow rapidly. This is the best news about this street problem in months.

*NEW SCHOOL CROSSINGS* - Several intersections in VEP Country will have or already have yellow crosswalks and warnings stating "SLOW SCHOOL XING". These intersections have crossings across Edelweiss at Meg, across Bluefield at Edelweiss, across Branham at Crocus, and across Sidlaw at Branham. Please instruct you Carson School students to use the crossings exclusively and when driving, observe that SLOW warning. Incidentally, did you know that the significance of the yellow paint for these crossings is a matter of distance from the school? That's right - yellow means the school is within 1400 feet!

*REMEMBER - THE SPEED LIMIT IN VEP NEIGHBORHOODS IS 25 MPH. PLEASE OBSERVE THIS LIMIT.*

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I extend my personal thanks and congratulations to all who participated in the VEP fight to oppose light rail on the Lick Branch. The Lick Branch is that serpentine set of iron tracks that winds its way through our parks, slinks behind our homes, cuddles up to our schools, and crosses innumerable neighborhood streets. Your hard work, telephone calls, letters, and attendance at the city council meeting on December 21st won a favorable decision in favor of not using this railroad spur as a transit line. Although the city does not have the final decision in this matter, the council's recommendation to the county board of supervisors (which does have the final decision) will weigh heavily. You VEP members did a very fine job, and I was impressed.

I was impressed because of the impressive member turnout, and I was impressed because so many residents saw their city government in action for the first time! These residents were impressed, and perhaps even surprised, by the democratic receptiveness of the council to public input. Perhaps most important is the fact that residents and taxpayers witnessed the fact that their personal opinions count - and are considered. Secondly, they may have realized the importance of a homeowner group. I, personally, was very pleased. VEP has strived for years to convey this very message, with and without success, but there is nothing quite the same as first-hand experience.

There are two election issues in March that should be of particular interest to you and should provide another incidence of first-hand experience. The first is a school board election on March 8. It is important because approximately 65% of your property taxes will be spent by the new school boards. (The city gets only about 10%.) February 9, 1976 has been scheduled as a school candidate/consider meeting for VEP. This is your opportunity to meet the candidates and learn about their jurisdictions, powers, and capabilities. It is also an opportunity to register to vote for these candidates, if you are not already registered. Voter registration forms are available at all VEP meetings.

The second election issue, equally important, involves the new VEP Executive Board for 1977/78. March is VEP election month, and a nominating committee will consider nominees for VEP office from members present at the February 9th meeting. VEP elections will be held at the March 9th meeting to determine your representatives for the following year. You do not need to register to vote in a VEP election; you only need to be a VEP member. Membership costs you only \$4.00 per family per year. VEP can only spend \$4.00 of your after-tax dollar, AT THE MOST, per year, and VEP gets results. (See \$11,000.00 article.) The importance of your vote for a VEP officer cannot be overstated.

VEP needs YOUR continuing involvement in YOUR community. A VEP membership is THE important first step. January is membership campaign month. The effectiveness of this successful volunteer organization is directly proportional to your contribution, in the form of membership and participation. Please join VEP, and I'll see you Wednesday evening.

Dave Fadness  
President  
VEP Homeowners Association

VEP NEWS	February Deadline:	January	25
Editor . . . . .	Ib Larsen	578-6292	
Assistant Editor . . .	John Marks	225-8195	
President. . . . .	Dave Fadness	578-6428	
1st VP . . . . .	Diane Christensen	578-5231	
	(Block Reps)		
3rd VP . . . . .	Bob Ward	224-0281	
Secretary. . . . .	Larry LaFleur	226-8140	
Treasurer. . . . .	Chris Braud	225-9135	



LIGHT RAIL VICTORY!!! BUT the battle still rages

Dear Editor:

It was heartwarming to see all those VEP faces at the San Jose City Council meeting on December 21, 1976. It was obvious from the beginning that the hard work of VEP leaders was successful, because the city council was fully aware of the issue before the meeting and was also convinced to vote in favor of VEP's stand on the LICK RAIL BRANCH use. All VEP area residents should send a note of appreciation to Councilman Larry Pegram, who made the motion to ban trains from the Lick Branch. Also, each family affected should write to council members Al Garza, Suzie Wilson, Roy Naylor, and Joe Colla in appreciation of their supporting votes. (SJ City Council, 801 N 1st St, SJ 95110)

VEP's appearance at the council meeting was almost overkill, since the stage had been well-set by VEP leaders. I have been attending city council meetings for four years and have never seen as large a neighborhood participation. This was a proud day for VEP!

However, it must be remembered that the city council only makes recommendations to the county board of supervisors, and the actual decision about the use of the Lick Branch rail line will be decided by the county. Therefore, it is essential that an even more impressive VEP representation be made at the county board of supervisors meeting when this issue will be decided. (VEP will notify you of the time and date of this meeting.)

The idea of using the Lick Branch for transit may sound silly to us, but those at the December 21st meeting heard people absolutely committed to such rail transportation. Al Spivak claimed that VEP is "uninformed" about the benefits of light rail to the VEP neighborhood. Are you aware that present plans call for an INCREASE in property taxes for homes CLOSE to the line in order to finance and expanded rail systems in OTHER PARTS of the county? Do you realize that Supervisor Rod Diridon is absolutely committed to light rail?

If you have any respect for your property and VEP Country, help double VEP representation at this very important Board of Supervisors meeting.

Bob Braud  
Vice President, San Jose Alliance of Homeowners  
Past VEP President, VEP

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VISTAPARK FURNACE MONEY (ALMOST \$11,000.00) HAS BEEN DISBURSED

Almost \$11,000.00 in lawsuit settlement checks were mailed on December 24, 1976, to area homeowners involved in the class action suit concerning furnace failures in Vistapark homes. These checks are only valid for 30 days, so please cash them right away. This represents a significant accomplishment for VEP, an action-oriented homeowner group. After returning all monies contributed to the VEP Legal Fund, those homeowners who suffered cash losses received 50% reimbursement. That's action oriented.

Because of resales in the area and the related difficulties of record-keeping, you may have received one of these checks payable to the former owner of your home. If so, please contact the former owner or return the check to VEP at 4281 Windsor Park Drive, San Jose, CA 95136. If you have any questions, call me, Bob Braud, after 8:00 PM at 225-9135.

If you received a reimbursement, why not use \$4.00 to renew your VEP membership. If you didn't receive a reimbursement, the \$4.00 sounds like a good investment.

Bob Braud

## MORE LIGHT RAIL

The San Jose City Council gave its qualified endorsement to county transit plans for some light rail, excluding the proposed use of (APRR's Lick Branch as a part of the starter line. In the December 21st session, the council first voted five-to-two opposing the use of the Lick Branch. (Mayor Hayes and Councilman Jim Self dissenting.) A subsequent unanimous seven-to-zero vote favored a plan that includes busses and will consider the results of ABAG's Santa Clara Valley Corridor Evaluation, due to be completed in March, 1977.

San Jose's city council stance against use of the Lick Branch for light rail was in response to a 2-month volunteer campaign by members of VEP and residents of the surrounding areas. Bob Pine, Chairman Pro tem of the VEP local transportation committee, organized and stimulated this tremendously successful opposition. The city council and board of supervisor offices were flooded with telephone calls, letters, and other indications of disapproval.

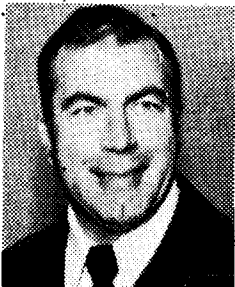
At the meeting, more than 300 residents representing VEP appeared at the council chambers to voice support for a formal petition signed by more than 1000 local residents objecting to light rail on the Lick Branch.

VEP had prepared a formal speaking agenda including presentations by Dave Fadness, Bob Pine, Shirley Wreyford, Paul Nichols, George Cain. San Jose Alliance members Bob Braud and Karen Daley also presented arguments.

Many other area residents were involved in the successful attempt to prohibit light rail in VEP Country. These people deserve special credit for producing and distributing posters, and serving on various telephone and personal-contact committees: Pam Hopkins, Shirley Wreyford, Dave Parks, Chuck MacLean, Ted LaScola. VEP appreciates and thanks these and all others who have dedicated their time and talents.

The battle, however, is not over yet. The success at the city council chambers does not guarantee success at the county board of supervisors meeting. It is doubtful that the board would decide contrary to the San Jose City Council decision, but it is equally important that the county board be convinced that the decision of the city council has merit. This can be determined by a sound representation of VEP members and residents at the board meeting. (This time and date will be announced to VEP residents soon.)

*EDITOR'S NOTE:* Notice something new in this newsletter? It's now up to eight pages. Not that it will be this large each month, but this is an indication of the strong interest and support in VEP. The presidents message is not on page 1 this issue; it gave way to the important item concerning the new Neighborhood Watch and the selection of VEP areas for a pilot study program. This issue also devotes a page to past VEP president Bob Braud, who is continuously working for community development and is now a SJ Alliance vice president. A lot is happening in VEP Country because of many volunteer hours contributed by area homeowners. Help by joining, attending meetings, and participating in community decisions.



**George Cain**  
REALTOR ASSOCIATE  
(VEP MEMBER)

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#### HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS SUPERVISION

The San Jose Unified School District Board of Education recently set Superintendent Charles Knight to the task of formulating guidelines for campus supervision that are compatible with the particular needs of the individual schools. His recommendation to the board, which will probably be honored, is that each school establish a 3-part group of student, faculty, and parent representative to evaluate each campus problem and determine the appropriate action for solving the problem. Supervision, when necessary, may range from the presence of a community liaison person to requests for armed police officers, as the situation demands. The development of such guidelines was made more important recently because of difficulties at district high schools involving both students and non-students on the campuses.

The SJ Unified District philosophy is to maintain open campuses with strong emphasis on student self-discipline. This is in sharp contrast with the East Side Union High School District (Oak Grove and Andrew Hill) policy of closed campuses, strict enforcement of rules and the use of armed security officers at each campus.

#### BLOCK PARENT PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Rosemary Capitalo will be hostess for an area Block Parent Coordinators meeting at her home on January 18th at 7:30 PM. Included as her guests will be representatives from Belden, Carson, and Parkview Schools. All three schools have seen a significant improvement in Block Parent enrollment this year and are dedicated to meet their goal of at least one Block Parent per block. Success to date is a tribute to the following local women for their hard work, and to the community for recognizing the importance of the program.

Belden School Representative	-	Patty LaFleur	226-8140
Carson School Representative	-	Rosemary Capitalo	265-1561
Parkview School Representative	-	Carole Wilson	226-2477

If you are home most of the week and want to give these gals a boost, call and volunteer as a Block Parent. Information and applications are available from them, the schools, or at any VEP meeting. Remember, Block Parents are for children in EMERGENCIES.

#### WANT ADS

If you are a VEP member, you can place a non-commercial want ad free in the VEP News. This newsletter is circulated to over 2200 local neighborhood families. To place an ad in the February newsletter, call Assistant Editor John Marks at 225-8195. The deadline for the February issue is January 25th.

C O M M U N I T Y    C A L E N D A R

- JAN 11 Carson Home & School Club Board Meeting - 7:30 PM at Carson School  
SJ City Council - 1:30 and 7:30 PM at Council Chambers, SJ City Hall
- JAN 12 VEP General Membership Meeting - 7:30 PM at Gunderson High School
- JAN 13 Belden Home & School Club Board Meeting - 7:30 PM at Belden School  
Steinbeck School Community Association Board Meeting, 7:30 PM at Steinbeck School  
Oak Grove School Board Meeting - 7:30 PM at Oak Grove District Offices
- JAN 18 Block Parent Coordinators Meeting - 7:30 PM at Capitalo's residence  
SJ City Council - 1:30 and 7:30 PM at Council Chambers, SJ City Hall
- JAN 19 Belden Home & School Club General Meeting - 7:30 PM at Belden School
- JAN 20 San Jose Alliance of Homeowners Association Meeting - 7:30 PM at Franklin Savings  
SJ Unified School District Board Meeting - 7:30 PM at 1605 Park Avenue, SJ
- JAN 21 VEP Executive Board Meeting - LaFleur's residence
- JAN 25 Carson Home & School Club General Meeting - 7:30 PM at Carson School  
SJ City Council - 1:30 and 7:30 PM at Council Chambers, SJ City Hall
- JAN 26 Parkview Home & School Club Board Meeting - 7:30 PM at Parkview School
- JAN 27 Steinbeck General Membership Meeting - 7:30 PM at Steinbeck Jr High School  
Oak Grove School Board Meeting - 7:30 PM at Oak Grove District Offices
- FEB 1 SJ City Council - 1:30 and 7:30 PM at Council Chambers, SJ City Hall
- FEB 3 San Jose Alliance of Homeowners Association Meeting - 7:30 PM at Franklin Savings  
SJ Unified School District Board Meeting - 7:30 PM at 1605 Park Avenue, SJ
- FEB 8 Carson Home & School Club Board Meeting - 7:30 PM at Carson School  
SJ City Council - 1:30 and 7:30 PM at Council Chambers, SJ City Hall
- FEB 9 VEP General Membership Meeting - 7:30 PM at Gunderson High School

WANT ADS - CLASSIFIEDS - SERVICES - WHATEVER

BABYSITTING - Call Melinda at 578-9133, or Trisa at 578-6292, or Smita at 578-3238, or Julie at 226-4787, or Jayme at 226-4787.

STUDENT DESIRES WORK - Cleans pools and checks chemicals for \$1.00. Cleans filters for \$1.00. Call George Marks at 225-8195.

FOR SALE - Sears Craftsman 20" power rotary lawn mower, completely overhauled last season. Has lever height adjustment, folding handle, includes large catcher, \$30.00. Also king headboard, brass with walnut, \$12.00. Call 578-6292.

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NOW IS THE TIME TO JOIN VEP FOR THE COMING YEAR. ONLY \$4.00 ANNUAL DUES FOR YOUR OWN COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION. BE HEARD AND REPRESENTED IN IMPORTANT NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENTS. JOIN VEP. SEND YOUR CHECK TO VEP, PO BOX 18111, SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA 95158. THANKS.