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behind the scenes, please come to one of our executive meetings-- all members are welcome. Dates and times are listed in the calendar of events, call for location. **WE NEED YOU!**

VEP meetings and community events

Thu Jan 22 @ 7 to 8 pm = Vista Park Community Room Committee Meeting in the Las Brisas Sales Office.

Tue, Jan 27 @ 7:30 to 9 pm = VEP General Meeting: Election Forum in the Gunderson Theater (District 10 city council candidates).

Thu, Jan 29 @ 6 pm = VTA LRT Bell & Horn Meeting at the Ohlone Chynoweth Commons Community Room, 5300 Turner Way, adjacent to the Ohlone-Chynoweth Light Rail Station.

Wed, Feb 4 @ 7:30 to 9 pm = VEP Executive Committee Meeting (call for location.)

Tue, Feb 24 @ 7:30 to 9 pm = VEP General Meeting: VTA presentation re upcoming improvements on Route 87 from Chynoweth to Julian.

Tue, Mar 2 = Election Day. **Get out and VOTE!**

Tue, Mar 23 @ 7:30 to 9 pm = VEP Home Improvement Faire in the Gunderson Forum.

Sat, Apr 17 = VEP Neighborhood Clean-up "Dumpster" Day.

Sat, May 1 = VEP Neighborhood Garage Sale.

Sun, May 16 = VEP Community Picnic.

Meeting on light rail bell and horn noise

-Gail Collins, VTA Special Projects Manager

On Thursday, January 29, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) is hosting a meeting to discuss bell and horn noise levels on VTA's new low floor light rail vehicles. This meeting was scheduled to respond to complaints regarding the bell and horn sounds

of these vehicles compared with the horns and bells on VTA's old light rail vehicles. The meeting will be held at 6 p.m. in the Community Room of the Ohlone Chynoweth Commons, 5300 Turner Way, San Jose (adjacent to the Ohlone-Chynoweth Light Rail Station).

At the meeting, VTA staff will provide background information on safety requirements for the bells and horns and provide an opportunity for attendees to assist in determining the bell and horn sounds that will be used on these vehicles in the future.



We hope that you will join us at the meeting. If you have questions, please contact VTA Customer Service at 408.321.2300 or (TDD) 408.321.2330.

VEP Home Improvement Faire

- Dave Noel

Last year we tried moving our annual Home Improvement Faire from our May General Meeting to our March General Meeting. We suspected that people are more interested in Home improvements in March, and by May they are thinking about summer vacations.

Our turnout in 2003 was much larger than in previous years, so we're going to hold the 2004 Home Faire in March again.

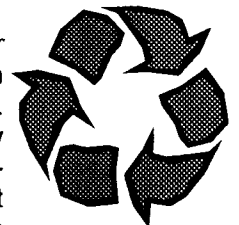
VEP Past President **John Marks** is already beginning the planning for this event. If you know a contractor who does great work, please let them know about our Home Faire. If they are interested, please contact any board member and we'll put you in touch with John.

Dumpster Day set for April 17th

-Dave Fadness

Get ready to unload all that unused "stuff" from your attics and garages! VEPers who live east of Vistapark Drive are targeted for our next **Dumpster Day** on the morning of Saturday, April 17th. This will be an excellent opportunity for you to clean up around your home and yard--and be able to have it hauled away FREE.

The last event VEP co-sponsored for those living east of Vistapark was in the spring of 1997. We started at 7 am. Although we removed approximately 800 yards of stuff that day, and collection was supposed to have ended at noon, the line was still more than a block long when we stopped at 2:30 pm! My guess is there'll be at least another 800 yards this year. So please be prepared to queue-up early, as we are planning to call it quits at noon this year.



VEP is co-sponsoring this event with our Vice-Mayor **Pat Dando** and intend to coordinate with *Willow Glen II Homeowners Association*. Of course, we'll need YOUR

help, too.

Volunteers are an essential element of the success of these Dumpster Day events. We've always had a good showing. Please call and offer your help. The more volunteers we recruit, the less time and effort each of us will have to exert. With your support, this will be fun and satisfying for everyone involved.

We'll publish a schedule and information about dumpster locations in future issues of this newsletter. We'll also be issuing detailed instructions about what kinds of items will be allowed.

Meanwhile, please call me at 578-6428 to volunteer. Do it today!

Kids--create a garden Valentine

Create your own Valentine for Mom, Dad, Grandma and Grandpa, or some special friend! On Friday, February 6, from 3:30 to 5 pm, the *Friends of Guadalupe River Park & Gardens* will provide dried garden materials, along with the paper, glue and all the other fixings. You bring the creativity to make a unique creation!



This workshop is designed for children five years of age and older and will be held at the Guadalupe Garden Center, located at 715 Spring Street in San Jose. The workshop fee is \$5.00. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Space is limited, so reserve your spot early by sending a check to: Friends of Guadalupe River Park & Gardens, 50 West San Fernando Street, Suite 1100, San Jose, CA 95113. Visa and MasterCard are also accepted via phone or mail.

For more information please visit www.grpg.org or contact Kary Wilson, the Education Coordinator, at 408-298-7657 or education@grpg.org.

School liaisons for VEP

- Dave Noel

Do you have a student at Andrew Hill High School? If so, **WE NEED YOU!** VEP is establishing liaisons for our local schools in order to improve our connections with them. We are starting with the high schools, but if you'd like to be a liaison to an elementary or middle school, we'd welcome that help too.



I want to thank **Laura Probert**, a VEP member and Gunderson PTSA president for enthusiastically volunteering to be our Gunderson liaison.

The purpose of our liaisons is to solicit articles from the schools for publication in the VEP News, and to solicit

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articles from VEP for publication in the schools' newsletters. At the high schools, our liaisons will also help increase awareness of our annual Community Service Awards. Our liaisons can also help find volunteers from VEP and the schools to help in each others' projects, fundraisers, and initiatives.

VEP history, 1969-'72 (in a nutshell)

-Greg West, VEP's Past-President

Commemorating VEP's 35th anniversary, this is the first in a series of summaries of our organization's history taken from the VEP NEWS archives. This month's summary covers 1969 to 1972. VEP has taken on a project to scan archived newsletters and make them available on line at the VEP web site.

1969 - *Parkview Valley Homeowners' Association* constitution and by-laws were ratified on Jun. 28th, thus forming the first of the homeowners' associations that later merged to form VEP. The first officers were elected on Feb. 25th: **Paul Thackery**, President; **George Blanchard**, Vice President; **Bill Stennis**, 2nd Vice President; **Marris Barr**, Treasurer; and **Macine Guerrero**, Secretary. Dues were set at \$2 per person (\$4 for husband and wife). The first PVHA newsletter was published in March (see the full text of that newsletter elsewhere in this issue and a scanned version at VEPCA.org). PVHA meets in June to consider opposing **Ed Rosenbaum's** proposal to rezone the SW corner of Vista Park Drive and Capitol Expressway for use as a neighborhood center in favor of a "Peoples' Park". The city parks department and city council were successfully lobbied between October and December for used playground equipment and a \$25,000 allocation for the neighborhood's first park to be developed in Spring of 1970.

1970 - 66 votes were cast to elect five officers from 13 candidates at the March meeting. At the April meeting, **Ed Rosenbaum** introduces representatives of the Larwin Company, purchasers of the undeveloped Parkview land from Rosenbaum. This land will become the Encore (the "E" in our VEP name) development. PVHA expands to include homeowners from the Vista Park



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development in May. The expanded organization meets for the first time on May 12th. Spring Carnival held at Christopher School, Coyote Road on May 23rd. Neighbors construct the first neighborhood park at the end of Bluefield (Parkview 1) in late May at a total cost of \$68.25 for equipment rental and concrete. Organization holds two-day picnic and camping "Summer Fiesta" at Coyote Park in July. Larwin reviews plans for the Encore development at our November meeting.

1971 - Parkview Valley, Kay Homes, and Pinehurst residents have a "plant-in" to landscape Capitol Expressway in February. Neighborhood babysitting co-op forms in March. Our organization changes name to VEP (Vista Park, Encore, Parkview Valley--or--Very Excellent People) Homeowners' Association at its March 9th meeting. VEP President **Michael de Ruosi** makes "VEP will die without your membership and support" plea in May. Mayor-elect **Norm Mineta** commits to attending a VEP meeting at the birthday party of VEP member Mrs. **M. Peralta**. Audit Committee finds VEP's books in good order with net assets of \$120.27. Neighborhood cabana club committee forms in June. Signalization at Vistapark Drive and Capitol is reported to be completed by March '72. Neighborhood graduates of Oak Grove and Davis High Schools are congratulated. Advertised babysitting rates: \$0.50/hr. before midnight and \$0.75/hr after. VEP successfully lobbies PG&E to fix abnormally high frequency of power outages in the area. Neighborhood completes phase two of Parkview I Park.

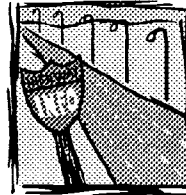
1972 - VEP begins lobbying for a stop sign at Vistapark Drive and Bluefield and for a double yellow line down Vista Park Drive and against gas stations at Vistapark /Capitol and Bluefield/Capitol under VEP President **Carman Filice**. The city council approves a strip mall for the SW corner of Vistapark and Capitol. The Meadows (Kay Homes Development) cabana club opens with membership restricted to 100 families. Membership is restricted to 20 families from Vista Park. Parkview Valley and Encore are excluded by the Meadows. Council member **Al Garza** is the guest speaker at the March meeting at which 137 new members join VEP. Echo Valley development joins VEP. Pearl Ave-

nue Library opens. Normandin Chrysler-Plymouth begins hosting VEP meetings and pays for VEP NEWS publication in exchange for advertising space. VEP sponsors first neighborhood Halloween Party Parade. Arcadia reneges on commitment to plant street trees in Vistapark, gives up bond, and turns responsibility over to the city. The December VEP News reports faulty furnaces in the Vista Park development. Four furnaces are found to have cracked heat exchangers.

Computer corner

-Bob Aquino, VEP's Computer Guru

Now that the holidays are behind us, I'm going to cover the rest of the field in wireless technology in the home.



For my purposes here, I am considering only the home user who wants to connect his laptop to the Internet. The advantage of this is that from any room in your house, it is possible to get online. It is also possible to connect in hotel lobbies, coffee shops, and numerous other "hot spots".

As I said in my last article; there currently are three standards available for wireless connection of your computer to the internet: 801.11a; 802.11b; and 802.11g. The "b" and "g" standards operate on the same frequency and are compatible, while the "a" standard operates on a higher frequency and is intrinsically incompatible with the other two.

Due to this frequency difference, the "a" standard has about half the operating distance of the "b" and "g". All three standards are capable of supporting data rates that are greater than any broadband connection available today.

The "b" standard is the oldest, and therefore, best established standard (and cheapest) approach to going wireless. However, the "g" standard Wireless Access Points (WAP's), being more current, typically have better security measures built into them. The old security method is called WEP, and has been shown to be hack-able, while the latest models have a method called WPA. If you are shopping for a WAP ask whether it has WEP or WPA protection. (If you ask at Fry's, the salesman may flee in terror!)

One caution needs to be raised with respect to setting up a wireless network in the home. This is particularly true for those of you with broadband connections that are on 24/7. Remember that the wireless hub is inside your firewall. That means that your neighbors may be able to log on to the net through your computer. The user IDs and passwords on all the various brands of wireless access points are well known, so when installing the wireless network, change them. You should also use WEP or WPA to keep unwanted intruders out.

Here's a little peek into the future of wireless technology to let you know what is coming: The bandwidth of

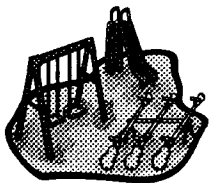
the 802.11 specs is sufficient for broadband connections, but not for some of the applications that are envisioned. The next turn of the crank will be UWB, ultra-wide band. It is capable of creating what is called a WPAN wireless personal area network, which could transmit high density video signals allowing you to view the same material on multiple monitors, have hi-fidelity wireless speakers, and perform many other tasks. You'll start to see it in about two years.

[Ed. Note: Here's a tip for you to use whenever you're online and a suspicious message box pops up on your screen, inviting you to click for a download, etc. According to the Mercury-News' **Jim Coates** (Tech Q&A 1/8/04), keep your fingers off the mouse and tap Alt+F4 on the keyboard. This command closes the most recently opened window and so eliminates these kinds of trick message boxes. To get a solid view of the big picture, check out this site: www.spywareinfo.com.]

VEP park liaisons

- Dave Noel

One of my dreams is to create a VEP parks committee. I'd like to have a liaison for each park. That liaison would keep an eye on and lead occasional work parties for his or her park. We can draw upon VEP members and high school students to provide workers and refreshments for the work parties.



VEP will apply with the City of San Jose Adopt-A-Park program to formally adopt Vista Park. I'd like at least one of the park liaisons to represent the committee at the monthly VEP executive meetings. That person could be the parks committee chair.

If you are interested in this initiative, please contact me. We need YOU!

Want to quit smoking?

-County Supervisor Blanca Alvarado

Of the many people who try to quit smoking, only a small fraction achieve success. The County of Santa Clara wants smokers to know that the *Tobacco Prevention and Education Program* (TPEP) provides FREE smoking cessation support classes to aid residents in kicking this deadly habit.

Not another generic 12-step program TPEP personalizes sessions and goals using the "Prochaska/DiClementa Transtheoretical Model of Behavior Change," or TTM. The TTM approach evaluates each individual to find out where he/she stands on the scale of behavioral change: precontemplation, contemplation, preparation, action, or maintenance. Once a person's stage is determined, an appropriate intervention can be developed to best assist that individual.



Precious Moments In Time

Family and Children Portraits

Weddings and Special Events

Photography by Jeri Arstingstall

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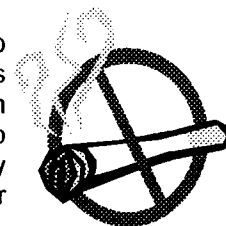
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The classes are offered in either group or individual settings and are divided into two 2-hour sessions that are provided in multiple languages (English, Khmer, and Spanish).

Beneficial tips and advice

The first session guides participants as they explore their smoking habit. The exercises lead smokers to think about why they smoke and why they should quit.

In addition, participants learn how to identify their daily triggers or situations that spark the need to smoke. When identified, smokers are better able to devise substitute activities that they could use instead of lighting up their next cigarette. By the end of the session, smokers are ready to pick a date to quit.



The second session addresses many of the concerns that smokers have about quitting. At that time, participants learn strategies and techniques for overcoming cravings, managing stress, controlling weight, and how to develop a personal quitting plan. TPEP instructors help smokers by explaining the many "pharmacotherapy" options (gum, patches, etc.) so participants can decide what will best suit their needs.

For more information about this program, call (408) 885-5036.

Also: Second-Hand Smoke Line is a statewide service that handles public complaints about second-hand smoke in the workplace, restaurants, bars, apartments, and other multi-dwelling units. Call them at (408) 999-0500 or their main line 1-800-NO-BUTTS.

Winter chores

-John Marks, VEP's Green Gardener

Checklist: Clean rain gutters. Leaves and other debris will hamper drainage and may promote rusting and roof damage. Use binoculars to inspect roof from the ground. Make sure that water flows away from house at down spouts.

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Trim branches around the roof line to keep squirrels, roof rats (squirrels are just fur-covered rats) and other pesky animals off the roof.

Inspect crawl space after rain for water accumulation as indications of water damage on the subfloor and joists beneath the kitchen, laundry, and bathrooms.

Clean condenser coils or fins beneath or behind the fridge.

Turning over weeds

Some people think the easiest way to assassinate a bed of weeds is to turn the soil over. You're just sowing weeds seeds for the future. When tilling the soil, you will turn up weed seeds that have been dormant in the soil since your grandmother did the same thing. They sprout when exposed to light and moisture.



Pre-emergent herbicides are the real answer. When applied to the surface of the soil after removing all the weeds, the chemicals provide a layer that kills the emerging sprouts of nearly all weeds. Pre-emergents are easy to spread, but must be applied before the summer or winter weeds sprout to ensure complete control.

Products are called Preen, Amaze, and Preclude and are sold locally. Applying twice yearly, February and August-September means no more tilling and no more weeds!

[The foregoing items were extracted from the 1/10/03 Mercury-News.]

Add color to your garden

Want color plantings? Winter-bedding plants are a top choice for quick color in the garden. Since the winter season is the time of short days and cold nights, it's best to stick with pansies, viola, primrose, sweet alysum, stock, snapdragons and English daisies.

We have some snapdragons from last year that are still

blooming, and will continue into next year. For larger plantings, go for bare-root roses, fruit and nut trees, berry vines and grapes.

Fuchsias wilting?

Fuchsias may develop curled leaves caused by the fuchsia mite, a serious pest. Control the mite by spraying your plant with Orthene, a systemic insecticide. When sprayed on a plant's leaves, Orthene is absorbed into the tissues; when an insect bites into the leaf, it is poisoned.

Spraying every six to eight weeks during the growing season will keep the mites under control. If you notice any new outbreak this spring, start the spraying program.

[This item was extracted from the 11/14/03 Mercury-News.]

Are coffee grounds good for plants?

As I have stated before, composting your used coffee grounds, or adding them around plants directly is helpful to plants. You can also get a 10-pound bag of grounds from Starbucks and put them around plants like pumpkins, tomatoes and peppers this spring.

Coffee grounds are slightly acidic, which helps lower the pH, making it easier for plants to grow and get nutrients from the soil. This should be done in moderation, however, because it takes a long time for coffee grounds to deteriorate. Mix them with other organic materials and use as a mulch.

Free car seat inspections

- Dave Noel

On Mondays at the Willow Senior Center T.A.B.S. (the community policing division for San Jose Police Department) does FREE car seat inspections and installations, in room #15. If you would like your car seat installed or looked at, please call 277-4133 to schedule an appointment.

SJFD celebrates 150 Years

- Denelle Fedor

San Jose Fire Department is celebrating their 150th Anniversary in January 2004.

In order to bring public awareness to this exciting milestone, the department is selling 2004 calendars for \$10 each. A committee, including retired and active firefighters, volunteered hours of their time designing the calendar by sharing historic events listed on the appropriate dates and pictures showcasing past and present fire trucks.



We are very proud of our very own fire department. If you would like to purchase a calendar please call (408)

277-4442 or go to the 150th Anniversary website at:
www.sjfd150.org

[Ed. note: Denelle Fedor is Vice Mayor Pat Dando's Legislative Assistant.]

Kudos from Vice Mayor Pat Dando

- Dave Noel

In her article in the January edition of the *Blossom Valley Times*, Vice Mayor **Pat Dando** praised several volunteer groups in the Blossom Valley and Almaden Valley areas. These groups were **VEP Community Association**, "**Citizens Who Care**", **Almaden Winery Neighborhood Association**, **The Atrium Retirement Community**, and "**The Spot**" Youth Advisory board.

Here is what Vice Mayor Dando wrote about VEP:

The work of the VEP Community Association always amazes me. VEP represents over 2000 families in Blossom Valley and they have been active in the community for over 30 years. The Association has addressed countless quality of life issues ranging from park improvements to traffic safety enhancements on their streets. In early spring, they made it their priority to landscape a few dirt-filled median islands on Narvaez, Branham, and Chynoweth. So, they rolled up their sleeves and did the project on their own! Working together, both the residents and volunteers secured a grant from San Jose Beautiful and Our City Forest to plant trees and bushes in the medians. These new trees have greatly enhanced what were once bare median islands.

To see the rest of Vice Mayor Pat Dando's article, pick up a free copy of the January *Blossom Valley Times* at the Pearl Avenue Library, or call *The Times* at 494-7000 for a list of other locations you can find a copy. Ask to talk to publisher **William Bellou** and let him know that your neighborhood really wants free home delivery of the *Blossom Valley Times*.

Vista Park ball field issue

- Dave Noel

A small committee of neighbors continues to work with Parks and Recreation's **Art Rosales** and **Pat Dando's** office to find a solution to inappropriate use of the west ball field by adults who are hitting balls into the street, sidewalk, and neighbors' homes. This is a potentially dangerous situation, threatening pedestrian and automotive traffic and making it uncomfortable to be in one's own back yard. Secondly, the position of the west ball field puts the sun in the batter's eyes after school when the field was intended to be used for youth softball teams.



The current plan is to relocate the west field in a phased approach. The hope is to move the backstop in

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the next few months. This is relatively inexpensive and solves the safety issue. Then, it will be a much more expensive job to move the skinned infield "fines" to the new backstop location. This is where we will need the community's help...

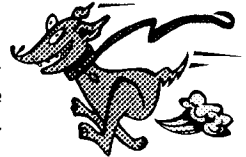
If you are a contractor or know a contractor involved in landscaping trades that would be willing to help do volunteer work and/or donate materials at Vista Park next spring, PLEASE CONTACT US ASAP. As the plan progresses, we anticipate needing help with irrigation piping, cutting/laying sod, hauling soil and fill materials, concrete flatwork, etc. Donations of materials will also be welcomed.

Dog owners must attend to their pets

[Ed. Note: This article is taken from Dennis Rockstroh's column in the *Mercury-News*. A VEP member requested that we reprint it, as this is also becoming a problem in our membership area. VEP urges pet owners to be considerate of their neighbors and the users of parks and other public spaces. Control and pick up after your animals!]

Q: Is there anything that can be done to limit and restrict the inordinate canine population from overrunning our city parks?

Lovely places in San Jose, built ostensibly for human beings, replete with such human amenities as children's playgrounds, tennis courts, bowling lawns, restrooms, barbeque areas, baseball diamonds, and basket ball courts are daily assaulted by dozens, even scores, of dog owners and their pets.



Many of these owners show a total lack of courtesy and consideration for other park visitors and city property by allowing their pets to run around off their leashes, startling and frightening people, barking inordinately, urinating anywhere at will (which is probably why the lawns are brown in patches), and often defecating--while their owners look the other way so as not to have to pick up the mess.



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Keith Bowles	1-800-301-PEST (7378)
▼ A VEP member since 1996 ▼	kbowles@homeguard.com

An occasional pet on a leash is one thing. Fifteen dogs in the park at one time and off their leashes is quite another.

Please let us know if anything can be done to curtail this ongoing daily offense or, if not, to at least bring this problem to the awareness of the "dog people" of all of San Jose, by printing this letter.

A: OK, dog owners. Listen up. Keep your dogs on leashes and pick up after them. It's the law. The fine for a dog off leash or not cleaning up after it is \$100.

Among the almost 1-million people of San Jose, there are approximately 250,000 dogs. And there are 144 community parks.

Overseeing all this are a mere 10 animal service officers. On duty at any one time is a maximum of four. Top priority for them is dealing with animals in traffic, at schools, and running at large. Their strategy is to make surprise inspections at parks on the way back from other calls.

If you have a complaint about animals, call (408) 578-PAWS. And to get more officers on the street to deal with animal control problems, you might want to lobby your city council member.

Neighborhood developments

- Dave Noel

Bella Villagio: Pinn Brothers' huge 357-unit housing project (Capitol Expressway at Vistapark Drive) is moving rapidly toward completion. VEP continues to work with Pinn, Councilwoman **Pat Dando**, and County Supervisor **Don Gage** to secure median landscaping and sound wall improvements promised at time of approval by the city council.



Westfield Shoppingtown Oakridge: The Montgomery Wards building has been torn down and a brand new Target store will take its place. In Decem-

ber, Westfield received city council approval for a plan that saves the bowling alley, while demolishing the Michaels and Walgreens building, and relaxing parking requirements. Michaels and Walgreens will not return (however Michaels is planning to open a store at Blossom Hill and Snell). A smaller new building will replace the existing Michaels/Walgreens building to house different retailers, and the parking lot will be reconfigured for better traffic flow in that location.

The city is doing something new and smart with this project. They are allowing Westfield a provisionally reduced parking ratio requirement (parking spaces per retail square footage), but the city will follow-up with a future parking study later, and will re-impose the previous parking requirement if the study shows it is needed.

The allowed reduction in parking spaces essentially offsets parking spaces that would have been built in place of the bowling alley. Not only would we hate to see the bowling alley demolished, but common sense says that parking in that location would not be ideal for shoppers at the mall and would normally go unused.

Kmart: After nearly 30 years, Kmart on Blossom Hill will be closing on February 13th. This Kmart may be replaced by a Kohl's department store.

Branham and Cherry: The owner of the property at the northeast corner of Branham and Cherry is requesting rezoning in order to build three single-family detached residences on that 0.36 gross acre site.

Gunderson Crab Feast

- Candra Bailly

The Gunderson Athletic Booster Club is sponsoring their 4th Annual Crab Feast on February 21. This year it will be held off campus at the Italian Heritage Hall on 4th Street. Tickets cost \$35 per person. There will be lots of good food, entertainment, music, a silent auction and a raffle. We hope to see you there.



For tickets, contact Kanika Ah Yo at 224-0336, Candra Bailly at 281-0343 or Coach Ball at 535-6340. When contacting Coach Ball, you may request that the proceeds from your tickets benefit a specific sport. Tickets are now on sale.

VEP Community Room

- Dave Noel

VEP salutes **Saul Villanueva, PE**, a long time resident and VEP member who has volunteered his mechanical engineering services free of charge towards the design of the community room. Saul's offer may allow SummerHill Homes to stretch their available budget to allow additional amenities for the project.

Saul owns his own business, specializing in the design of air conditioning/heating and plumbing systems for buildings. Thanks, Saul!

Our November meeting

- *Ginger Cardona and Dave Noel*

November's meeting left standing room only as Santa Clara Supervisor **Don Gage** led an open forum discussion of the recently announced Martial Cottle regional park. Along with Don, our guest panel consisted of **Joe Schultz**, Deputy Director of Park Operations; **Rachel Gibson**, Don Gage's land use policy aide; **Mark Frederick**, County Parks Planning and Real Estate manager; **Kathy Berry**, County Counsel (attorney), and **Ed Piggins**, **Walter Lester's** personal advisor.



The panel reviewed the history of the land, the agreement that will transfer this land to the county and the state for use as a regional park, the objectives for the new park, and the master planning process that will be used to define and then build the park amenities.

This long anticipated park on the current Lester Property will be named **Martial Cottle Park**, after Walter Lester's grandfather who originally farmed the area. It is Mr. Lester's desire is that the park will preserve historic farming. The land was originally settled in 1860.

The land will be divided between the county (153 acres) and state (137 acres). Thirty acres of the county land will be Mr. Lester's life estate; its ownership will transfer to the county upon Mr. Lester's passing. The county will plan, build, and run the park using a joint powers agreement with the state.

The plans for the park have not been defined. Initial ideas include a farm area, museum, picnic areas, projects for children, and water features. Sports facilities are not planned for the park.

Concerns for traffic, funding, and types of functions were shared by those attending our meeting. The road infrastructure is not designed. Chynoweth will definitely not be accessible for through traffic.

There will be a number of community meetings over the next three years as the Master Plan is created. These meetings will allow neighbors to share desires and concerns for the park. VEP will publish all public meeting dates.

For more information about county parks and volunteer opportunities, visit www.parkhere.org.

After the park discussion, our membership voted unanimously to approve \$325 for the annual VEP executive holiday dinner. (Thank you!)



Wesley W. Terrell

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We finished our program with a second opportunity to get to know three of the candidates for the upcoming District 10 City Council election. Each candidate spoke for a couple minutes about their background, their platform, and their intentions for city council.

The candidates and their websites are:

Rich De La Rosa = www.vote4delarosa.com

Nancy Pyle = www.nancypyle.net

Ron Siporen = www.ronforcitycouncil.com

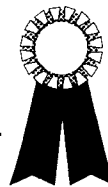
[Ed. Note. After our November meeting we learned that William Garbett is also a candidate. We have invited him to our January 20th election forum. We are not aware of a website for Mr. Garbett.]

Community Service Awards

- *Dave Fadness and Dave Noel*

At our February general meeting, the VEP executive board will seek funding approval for VEP's 2004 Community Service Awards. Our community service awards are grants towards higher education or vocational training for graduating high school seniors who have demonstrated exceptional records of volunteerism and community service during their high school careers.

We will recommend a repeat of last year's appropriation of up to three awards of \$1500 each; one each for graduating students at Gunderson and Andrew Hill, and one for a graduating At-Large student.



Our At-Large category is currently defined as a graduating high school senior residing in San Jose and nominated by a current VEP member.

Some members have expressed that At-Large candidates should also be VEP residents. **Dave Noel**, **Dave Fadness**, **Greg West** and **Steve Kinsey** have formed a committee to review this suggestion and will propose By-Laws changes to the membership at our February meeting.

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This year we are taking steps to greatly enhance the visibility of our Community Service Awards at Gundersen and Andrew Hill high schools. We have created flyers that will be made available later this month in the schools' career centers. We will also work to publicize our award in school or student newspapers. We hope this will motivate more students to do volunteer work, and to increase VEP's visibility at our local schools.

President's message

- Dave Noel, VEP President

2004 is upon us. VEP formed 35 years ago this month—can you believe it? We'll celebrate by printing retrospective articles summarizing four years of VEP history in each newsletter this year.

With the New Year, we launch our annual membership drive. Please send your membership renewal today before you forget. I urge you to include your email address so we can send you timely meeting reminders and news items that may come up between newsletters. We won't share your email address.

VEP closed 2003 with an all time record of 455 members. This year we'll gain 78 new members from the start since SummerHill Homes has generously paid first year's membership for all of the new homeowners at Las Brisas. Thanks, SummerHill!, and welcome to our new neighbors and members.

Please come to our January meeting, and bring questions that you would like answered by our District 10 city council candidates in our election forum. We'll be meeting in the Gunderson Theater this month.

I'd like to thank all of you who attended our November general meeting regarding Martial Cottle Park. We had nearly 60 attendees and guests. This *fantastic* turn-out came in spite of the fact that our newsletters arrived late due to "competition" with holiday bulk mail. Our turnout demonstrated how much we truly appreciate Mr. Lester's generous donation and the hard work done by our elected officials and government staff on our behalf.

Finally, I'd like to extend special thanks to VEP's Vice President **Jeri Arstingstall** for publishing the November VEP News. As you may know, **Dave Fadness** has edited and published nearly every VEP newsletter since the mid 1970's. On rare occasions he needs a substitute for this major task. Jeri cheerfully and fearlessly accepted the challenge and did a wonderful job for us in November--Thanks!

**** MARCH, 1969 ****

PARKVIEW VALLEY HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

[Ed. note: This is a full transcript of the first newsletter of the parent organization to VEP. Spelling and punctuation are as they appeared in the original newsletter. The formatting has been changed. To see a scanned copy of the original newsletter, visit:

<http://www.vepca.org/PVHANEWS0369.pdf>

TRIAL PUBLICATION

This is the first edition of our newsletter, if the response is favorable, publication will be monthly. In the future we hope to expand to a bi-monthly publication. If you are aware of any item of interest for this newsletter, please contact one of the members of the executive board.

In the near future we hope to introduce new residents of Parkview Valley.

COMMITTEES FORMED

WELCOMING & MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Chairman **George Farrell** 355 Viewpark Circle, Mr. & Mrs. **Lester Steer** 368 Viewpark, Mr. & Mrs. **Bryan Mackay** 374 Viewpark, Mr. & Mrs. **Phil Westfall** 322 Springpark

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Chairman **Mario Pinedo** 346 Bluefield Drive, Mrs. **Joan Pesavento** 456 Viewpark, Mrs. **Martha Blanchard** 344 Viewpark, Mrs. **Jeanne Little** 359 Viewpark, Mrs. **Ruth Hennessy** 345 Bluefield, Mrs. **Maria Pinedo** 346 Bluefield, Mrs. **Sharon Barr** 346 Springpark

EASTER EGG HUNT

The program Committee is sponsoring a Easter Egg Hunt for the children of Parkview Valley and any visiting children you may have Easter Sunday up to age 12. The Easter Egg hunt will begin a 1PM Easter Sunday at the east end of Bluefield Drive, it will take place in the adjacent field.

Donations of decorated boiled eggs, or wrapped candy for this event would be appreciated. You can bring your eggs or candy to one of the persons on the Program Committee, their names and addresses are listed above, Friday April 4, or Saturday April 5 in the morning.

Teenagers are welcome to help hide the eggs and help the pre-school children find the eggs.

In the event of rainy weather, children may pick up their goodies at the Program Committee members home for their street, between 1pm and 2pm, as listed below:

VIEWPARK CIRCLE Mrs. Martha Blanchard
BLUEFIELD DRIVE Mrs. Marcia Pinedo
SPRINGPARK CIRCLE Mrs. Sharon Barr

DONATE SOME EGGS FOR THE CHILDREN

Interested in joining the PARKVIEW VALLEY HOME-OWNERS ASSOCIATION??? Contact a member of the WELCOMING & MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

NEXT MEETING

APRIL 8, 1969 AT 7:30 PM AT THE PARKVIEW VALLEY SALES OFFICE. TRY AND ATTEND!!!!



Bulletin Board Ads

FOR SALE: Upright exercise bicycle, Keys 550, Model CM550. Like new—used only short period for knee replacement recovery. \$200. Call David or Mary @ 224-6512.

WAYNE'S LAWN AERATION SERVICE: Most front & back yards aerated and fertilized for only \$60. Also do sprinklers, dethatching, overseeding, and lawn renovations. Call 265-0165 or www.wayneslawnaeration.com.

U.S. MILITARY ITEMS WANTED: Top \$\$ paid. Call Doug at 978-3093 or 629-7436.

GOING ON VACATION? Responsible, experienced 13-year old is available for pet, house, and yard care. Call Matt @ 225-5878.

AFTER SCHOOL & WEEKEND DAY CARE: On Vistapark Drive, near Rachel Carson and Parkview Elementary Schools. Call Peggy @ 224-2243 or 250-3236.

MR. FIX-IT will repair leaks, sticking doors, locks, latches, lights, and life's little ills. No job is too small. Call John @ 629-6433.

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTARY PUBLIC: Call Peggy at 224-2243 or 250-3236.

ABC'S & MORE: Licensed family childcare in the Vistapark neighborhood. Infants and up. 7am-6pm, M-F. Call Kristine at 224-7616 or email: alexanderkristine@hotmail.com

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VEP will print free ads for its members for transactions involving less than \$250, for lost-and-found, for announcements of general interest to our community, and for kids under 18 or retirees who are looking for work. Free ads must be submitted monthly for publication.

Commercial ads cost \$1.00 per line per month, 10 lines maximum, must be prepaid before publication, and may only be run once per calendar quarter. Commercial ads must be submitted quarterly. No graphics allowed. For information on full-sized ads with graphics (camera ready), contact VEP'S Treasurer listed on the mailing page of this newsletter.

One line contains 50 characters, including spaces. Mail to VEP, P.O. Box 18111, San Jose, 95158. Ads must be received no later than the 10th of the month for inclusion in that month's newsletter. Use the following form as a guide for submitting an ad:

NAME: _____

PHONE # _____

AD WORDING: _____

The VEP Executive Board reserves exclusive right to refuse any ad for any reason. VEP does not certify nor is it responsible in any way for the claims, goods, or services of any advertisers.

VEP wishes you a
Happy Valentine's Day!

**★ March 2, 2004 Election Special ★
San Jose City Council District 10 Candidate's Responses to VEP's Questionnaire**

VEP Question	Rich De La Rosa	Nancy Pyle	Ronald Siporen
<p>1. As a city council member, how will you address the infrastructure and urban services needs of our city? What will your priorities be?</p>	<p>This is one of the greatest challenges facing our community. My approach will be to ensure that we are using common sense and fairness to prioritize improvements, push for super-high density housing projects where appropriate along light rail, and ensure that we continue to invest in our neighborhoods. I will work hard to be responsive to community and neighborhood groups who know best what is needed in their areas. To do this, we must use common sense in the budget, stop state raids on local funds and jump-start our local economy.</p>	<p>I would begin by defining the problem and gathering data from the City. Secondly, I would seek input from the Homeowners' groups to verify that these assessments are in sync with each other. Third, I would want to institute a timeline for correction of areas identified to be in need with an order based on immediacy, cost and benefits. The timeline may become a 5-10 year plan without which little progress is made.</p>	<p>Given that the City's budget is not in balance; my first priority will be to maintain the existing services that the City provides at the highest level possible. This can only be accomplished by aggressively managing our budget.</p> <p>My priorities will be those services that impact the residents the most; emergency services (including police and fire protection), road maintenance, parks and recreation, and libraries.</p>
<p>2. What is your position on the widening of Branham Lane from two lanes adjacent to the Lester property?</p>	<p>I support widening Branham Lane because it will help reduce traffic problems in the area. I also believe that we need to replace and improve inadequate sound walls, and ensure adequate sidewalks as well.</p>	<p>Generally I'm opposed to widening roads but I am concerned about the bottleneck that has occurred due to the fact that Branham Lane is too narrow for the neighborhood needs such as shopping at the local Center and traveling to and from business. There are some serious safety considerations to consider in this case plus there is also a need to prepare for the future engagement of the Lester Property which will need a smoother flow of traffic. I would seek neighborhood input first, however.</p>	<p>The new County Park will bring increased traffic into the area and will necessitate the widening of Branham Lane. My hope is that the widening is completed in conjunction with the new park to make sure that this stretch is both functional and beautiful.</p>
<p>3. As a city council member, would you support the expenditure of city funds to build a bridge over the Chynoweth Ponds and the Guadalupe River to connect Chynoweth and Cherry Avenues?</p>	<p>This has been part of the City master plan for many years; however, with the opening of the 85/87 interchange, I think we should reconsider the need for this connector. I would also want to ensure that we avoid environmental impacts on the ponds and creek from added traffic.</p>	<p>The thought of bringing another flow of traffic into the neighborhoods gives me great pause. I would want to know that there is an absolute need for this bridge which would have a negative effect on the beauty of the ponds and the serenity of the affected neighborhoods. This is an item that would call for a townhall type of meeting with the City and the neighbors. I am opposed to this idea.</p>	<p>No, connecting Chynoweth through to the Almaden Expressway will subject the surrounding neighborhoods to a significant increase in traffic as drivers look for alternative ways to get to the expanded Oakridge shopping mall or try to avoid other busy intersections in the area such as Blossom Hill and Almaden Expressway.</p>

VEP Question	Rich De La Rosa	Nancy Pyle	Ronald Siporen
<p>4. What would you propose to do to keep our streets and highways free of graffiti and trash? Do you think this is an important issue?</p>	<p>I believe that litter and graffiti are real problems, first because they diminish the quality of the area and second, because they are often a precursor to more significant problems. I support San Jose's anti-graffiti ordinance and will work hard to ensure that city, county and state road crews are keeping our streets and highways clean. I have had the privilege of working with several community groups in litter clean up, graffiti wipe out and neighborhood or park beautification projects. I think a balance between government programs and community involvement is the best way to keep our neighborhoods and communities clean and safe.</p>	<p>Graffiti and trash-free streets, highways and buildings are a must. The message of a clean, well-tended area is a strong one but the opposite is also true. Whatever we can do to continue the fine job that is being done at this time needs to continue. We need to encourage a growing list of volunteers who have a vested interest in keeping District 10 pristine. That is a full-time job for which there is insufficient funds. We need to develop a 5 - 10 year plan to address some viable solutions.</p>	<p>The only way to stop graffiti is to have city maintenance crews that are able to respond quickly and remove it. The longer graffiti remains in place, the greater the likelihood that more graffiti will follow adjacent to it.</p> <p>We take great pride in our community and we work hard to maintain and improve our homes. As new visitors enter into our neighborhoods, their first impression of us based on what they see. When they see a community that is clean and well maintained, they see a community that they would like to be a part of in the future. We do our part and we expect the City to do its part to maintain our environment so that it meets our high standards.</p>
<p>5. What is your position on lowering our city's adopted traffic level of service (LOS) standard from "D" to "E"? How will you hold firm on the requirement that developers either reduce their project scope or pay for corrective mitigation when traffic studies show that their projects will cause LOS standards to be violated and neighborhoods to be adversely impacted?</p>	<p>I oppose lowering the LOS. Traffic is already too big an impact on our residents. - And a growing barrier to economic recovery. I believe we can include LOS standards in development agreements, and then aggressively monitor projects to ensure they meet the objectives for mitigation.</p>	<p>The traffic level is very disturbing and the thought of just lowering our standards makes no sense to me. Since traffic is a part of the EIR it would make sense to address the problem before the plan gets out the door and the damage is done. We need to be very firm throughout the City since the problem is worsening as the population increases. We also need to take a look at other mitigation such as light coordination and relief for severely congested areas and public transit efficiency.</p>	<p>Most new development projects create an adverse impact on our roadways. Rather than waiting for the project that proves to be the "straw that broke the camel's back", it makes more sense to have all development projects pay into a fund, similar to the park fee, which is to be used to mitigate traffic problems and maintain the current LOS.</p> <p>In the future, however, it may be impossible to maintain the LOS as the City pursues its policy of high-density housing. Our streets can only handle so much traffic no matter how much money we put into them.</p> <p>What the City must do is create a long-term plan which integrates housing and transportation so that high-density housing goes where the roadways and public transportation handle the additional load</p>

VEP Question	Rich De La Rosa	Nancy Pyle	Ronald Siporen
<p>7. What role do you think neighborhood organizations like VEP should have in high-lighting and resolving neighborhood and citywide issues? As a Councilmember, how will you communicate with and respond to your constituents and neighborhood organizations?</p>	<p>Neighborhood groups are critical in my approach to leadership – which is to gather information and ideas from those most directly involved and impacted, then coordinate to find solutions that work. I will be continuing Pat Dando's good work, and also building a "neighborhood advisory committee" to help facilitate communication with neighborhood groups. Additionally, I plan to regularly participate in neighborhood meetings and will be hosting "town hall" type meetings within 60 days of taking office.</p>	<p>I want to develop a Citizens' Advisory Group which I would keep apprised of upcoming changes and/or projects. Much of the information could easily be forwarded via e-mail and regularly scheduled meetings. Input from Homeowners' groups is essential to me as those community leaders have a vested interest and a willingness to be involved in matters that affect their environment. I would try to make as many meetings as possible and assign a representative for those that I can't make. I also have an open door policy and will work toward phone responses in no more than 24 hours. I also want to establish an emergency hotline which could be manned by trained community volunteers.</p>	<p>for businesses and eventually, home owners. The City should also create an energy incubator similar to what it did for bio-tech and software firms. This is our future and Silicon Valley must be the leader.</p> <p>The voice of the resident will be first while the voice of the lobbyist will be last! Organizations such as VEP will play a primary role in determining what issues are of importance. To communicate with groups I will make time to meet regularly with leaders and attend organization meetings.</p> <p>Many residents are not part of organizations and their schedules do not allow them to easily attend public meetings. In order to seek out their opinions, I will set up neighborhood "newsgroups" through the internet, where residents can voice their issues and respond to the issues of others. I will participate in these newsgroups and will let residents know what is going on at City Hall so they can participate at the beginning of new ideas.</p>
<p>8. As a Councilmember, how would you insure that tax money spent on City projects is used effectively and efficiently? In light of current revenue shortfalls, what are your fiscal priorities?</p>	<p>My objective in running is to ensure a strong independent voice for common sense at City Hall, and as a business owner, I understand the need to prioritize funding and set clear goals. My priorities will be to invest in our communities and neighborhoods (street repairs and improvements, sign walks, traffic lights, recreation and community facilities and parks), ensure strong public safety and create a stronger local economy to create jobs and save businesses.</p>	<p>There has to be a real return on investment regarding the use of tax money. There also needs to be strict built-in accountability on every dollar that we spend and a definite value to the community based on an order of priority. To stimulate the economy I would address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job creation through incentives to attract new businesses, retain current business and provide mentoring and training for small businesses • Cooperation with neighboring colleges to provide programs that are in sync with needs of business 	<p>The Council must first create lines of communication between the Council and the various departments so the Council can be on top of and direct the operations of the City. The Council must then create accountability at all levels in order to serve the residents.</p>

VEP Question	Rich De La Rosa	Nancy Pyle	Ronald Siporen
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of efficient, user-friendly city services and clear and timely communication with those who must interact with the City. A long-range financial plan for our City that honors priorities such as Public Safety and infrastructure concerns. Common sense fiscal management of our City budget with an eye toward neighborhood services first. Optimal usage of our public facilities and land with dedicated space for sports for our youth 	
<p>9. As Councilmember, how will you insure that commercial and retail projects, like Westfield Shopping town Oakridge, have adequate parking and traffic circulation?</p>	<p>We need to ensure that any development agreement addresses traffic and parking issues prior to moving projects forward, and I will insist that adequate parking and effective traffic planning are part of development agreements for any major renovations, expansions or new construction projects.</p> <p>For existing projects, we need to ensure a clear traffic plan is in place for San Jose, and that funding through local, state and federal dollars is prioritized to meet those needs and goals.</p>	<p>First, careful examination of the plan and the EIR as it is presented to the Council is a must. A follow-up with the Homeowner groups which would help to bring out any considerations that might have been missed would be next and finally I would invite the District 10 constituents to examine and comment on the plan before it is implemented.</p>	<p>I will work with the departments within the City and the residents to make sure we create an adequate standard from which to work and that is clear to developers.</p>
<p>10. Will you continue Pat Dando's Neighborhoods First philosophy? How would you improve or change her approach to neighborhood services?</p>	<p>Yes, I will continue Pat's Neighborhoods First philosophy. San Jose has a rich tradition of well-defined and active neighborhoods. The reality is I will have to work very hard to be as effective as Pat, and I will be looking to create an informal "committee" of neighborhood leaders to help communicate with and ensure that am getting firsthand information regarding neighborhood needs.</p> <p>I will start by planning neighborhood town hall meetings in each neighborhood within 60 days of taking office. In addition,</p>	<p>I want to continue the neighborhood services that have been a product of Vice Mayor Dando's leadership. It is particularly important to me to communicate as often as possible with our Neighborhoods and to listen to concerns, formulate a plan and work toward viable solutions. My first order of business is to hear what the stake holders of this District are thinking.</p>	<p>My philosophy is residents first! Residents, not lobbyists, will have the loudest voice when it comes to raising and resolving issues and the channeling of City resources.</p> <p>I will work closely with organizations such as VEP and AVCA that do a great job of organizing and leading their neighborhoods and I will use the internet to create newsgroups which will allow residents to participate according to their schedule, not mine. With so many of our residents traveling and working long hours, it is</p>

VEP Question	Rich De La Rosa	Nancy Pyle	Ronald Siporen
	tion, I will look to the "neighborhood committee" to help me build a strong communications program that ensures regular conversations between various neighborhood leaders and myself.		about time that government changed to meet their needs.

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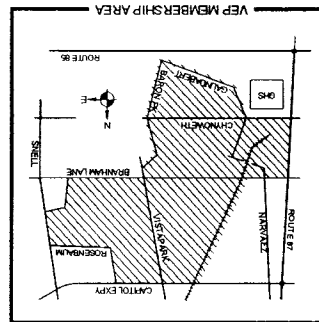
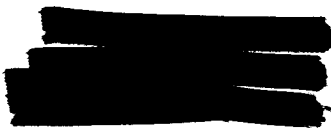
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Published monthly by VEP Community Association, a not-for-profit organization of volunteers established in 1969 to serve and represent more than 2000 homes in the Blossom Valley area of southern San Jose. VEP is dedicated to neighborhood maintenance 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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