

# VEP NEWS

• VEP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION •

February 2004

## VEP MEETING

7:30 P.M. TUESDAY  
**February 24, 2004**

GUNDERSON HIGH SCHOOL  
→ Faculty Lounge ←

## AGENDA

### ★ **Route 87 Commuter Lanes** ★

A presentation by VTA on upcoming construction of improvements on Route 87.  
(7:30 to 8:05 p.m.)

### ★ **Vistapark Community Room** ★

A presentation by SummerHill Homes on construction of a community room facility at Vista Park.  
(8:10 to 8:45 p.m.)

### ★ **VEP Community Service Awards** ★

Discuss and vote on our annual appropriation for Community Service Awards to graduating high school students.  
(8:45 to 8:50 p.m.)

### ★ **Your Neighborhood Concerns** ★

An chance for you to tell VEP members your concerns.  
(8:50 to 9:00 p.m.)

Everyone is welcome. Please invite your neighbors!

## Our February meeting

-Dave Fadness

We have an interesting agenda for you on February 24<sup>th</sup>. First-up will be a presentation on VTA's upcoming schedule to actually *construct* lanes and remove the roller-coaster waves on Route 87, up to Route 280. **Ven Prasad** will be our presenter. Mr. Prasad will answer your questions on this project, so come prepared. [Read *Coming: Route 87 HOV lane construction* in this issue, or visit [www.vta.org/highways/index.html](http://www.vta.org/highways/index.html).

Our second speaker will be **Bob Hencken**, Vice Presi-

dent of SummerHill Homes (now building homes at the corner of Vistapark and Branham). Mr. Hencken will present preliminary architectural plans and renderings for the long-awaited Vista Park community room. That facility will be built by SummerHill as a turn-key project, in-lieu of fees the city normally assesses developers for parkland dedication. Your input will be welcomed by him.

We have one piece of official business: our annual allocation of funds for VEP's Community Service Awards has to be approved by a majority vote of members present. VEP's Executive Committee is recommending \$1500 per award to a maximum of three graduating high school seniors. We need your input and formal decision on this.

Last-up is our customary "open-microphone," a chance for you to approach VEP with neighborhood issues. We can't do anything about things we don't know about, so we rely on our members to let us know when there are needs for community improvement. Be sure to speak up!

See you at 7:30 p.m. on February 24<sup>th</sup>. Bring a friend!

## Call for VEP officers

- Dave Noel

VEP executive officer elections will take place in April this year. We closed 2003 with over 450 members, and yet just eight volunteers do the vast majority of VEP's work. We need an infusion of new blood.

Please consider joining the executive board to do great things for our community. No experience is required. Please don't wait for us to call you. If you think you might be interested, please call me--WE NEED YOU!

If you'd like to meet great people and see what happens 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.

## Membership drive

- Dave Noel

At this writing, it's been about three weeks since our annual membership drive envelopes arrived in your mailboxes. I'm elated to report that 247 of you have already

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renewed, over half of last year's record of 455 members. For those who haven't sent your dues, please do so now before you forget.

## \*\* Membership Application \*\*

None of the following information will be sold to or otherwise shared with any third party.

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

Last name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

First name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email address(es): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Comments): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Can you give VEP a few volunteer hours? \_\_\_\_\_

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

If we don't receive your renewal by very early April, your March newsletter will be your last one. We'd hate to see you go! For your convenience, we've printed a copy of the membership form below in case you've misplaced your remit envelop.

This year, our membership goal is 525 members. This is possible since **SummerHill Homes** has generously agreed to buy first-year memberships for our new neighbors at all 78 of their new homes. We offer our

thanks to SummerHill and welcome to our new members!

Remember that gift memberships can be a wonderful housewarming gift for a new neighbor. I'd like to thank Realtor **Wesley Terrell** for buying memberships for the new owners of homes he sells in our area. We'd like to challenge all other realtors in our area to do the same.

\*\*\*\*\*

Please be aware that the informative emails we send to members for meeting and event reminders and urgent news is a benefit of membership. After March, we will drop the email addresses of all non-members from our e-list.

## Hats off to VEP volunteers!

-Jeri Arstingstall

VEP thanks the following people for volunteering to make our annual membership drive a success:

**Bob Aquino**  
**Gene and Betsy Batti**  
**Melvin Blanton**  
**Katherine Decker**  
**Bill Johnson**  
**Frank Kistler**  
**Jim Martinez**  
**Marcy Mossawir**  
**Lisa Miller**  
**Kathy Pang**  
**Lisa Rose**  
**Irene Shoberg**  
**Josie Supencheck**  
**Jeri Valdez**  
**Greg West**



We also want to recognize **Frank Kistler** and **Aiko Fadness** for their enthusiastic help in our recent volunteer pruning of palm trees in the Chynoweth Avenue median. A big job that deserves a big *Thank you!* from all of us.

Now you can do *your* part by filling in and mailing a family membership renewal for 2004. Please make your \$20 check payable to VEP and mail it to P.O. Box 18111, San Jose 95158. VEP needs you!

## VEP liaison representatives wanted

- Dave Noel

**Parks** We're still looking for folks willing to form a parks committee. I'd like to thank **Eric** and **Cathy Weirshauer** for volunteering to be a parks liaison for Meadows Park. Our liaisons can keep an eye on their park and lead occasional work parties for his or her park. VEP can supply member volunteers, high school student volunteers, and refresh-

ments for the work parties.

VEP plans to 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 VEP Parks Committee chair.

If you are interested in this initiative, please contact me.

**Schools** 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.

**Laura Probert**, a VEP member and the Gunderson PTSA president is doing a great job as our Gunderson liaison.

**Irene Shoberg** volunteered to be our Carson liaison. Thank you, Irene!

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

Tue, Feb 24 @ 7:30 - 9 pm = VEP General Meeting; VTA presentation on upcoming Route 87 improvements from Chynoweth to Julian and a presentation of SummerHill's plans for proposed Vista Park Community Room.

Wed, Feb 25 @ 6:30 pm = Meet our new police chief at the Vineland Branch Library, 1450 Blossom Hill Road.

Sat, Feb 28 @ noon = Oakridge Community Policing Center Grand Re-Opening between Sears and Linens N' Things in the Almaden Garage.

Sat, Feb 28 @ 1 pm = Guadalupe River Trail Grand Opening celebration for the new section between Blossom Hill and Chynoweth. Call 277-5251 for more information.


Tue, Mar 2 = California Primary Election Day: Get out and VOTE smart!

Thu, Mar 4 @ 7 pm (tentative) = Planning meeting with the city for our April 17<sup>th</sup> "Dumpster" day. Call for date/time/location.

Tue, Mar 23 @ 7:30 - 9 pm = VEP Home Improvement

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Faire in the Gunderson Forum.

Sat, Apr 17 = VEP's neighborhood clean-up "dumpster" day.

Sat, May 1 = VEP's neighborhood garage sale.

Sun, May 16 = VEP's community picnic.

Tue, May 25 @ 7:30 - 9 pm = VEP General Meeting; presentation from Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren.

## VEP 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Home Improvement Faire

*- Dave Noel*

Last year we moved our annual Home Improvement Faire from May to our March General Meeting. Your response proved our suspicion that people are more interested in Home improvements in March than they are in May, so we'll do it in March again this year.

We are lucky to have VEP Past President **John Marks** on board to coordinate this event again this year. 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.

Mark your calendars for this event: 7:30 pm March 23<sup>d</sup> at Gunderson High School.

## VEP's Annual Garage Sale

...will take place on May 1<sup>st</sup>

It is time to start gathering your items.

(More information to follow in next month's NEWS.)

## Community Policing Center grand opening

*-Denele Fedor(\*)*

The Community Policing Center will have its grand re-opening on February 28, 2004 at Westfield Oakridge Mall (located next to Linen N'Things).

Westly the Kangaroo will make an appearance and our very own San Jose Mounted Unit will be on hand to

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welcome you. The Sharkey Truck will also be there. Light refreshments will be served, compliments of Westfield Shopping Mall. Please bring your children, neighbors and friends.

For further information please call Vice Mayor Patricia Dando's office at 277-5251.

We look forward to seeing you there!

*[Ed. Note: Denelle is Vice Mayor Patricia Dando's Legislative Assistant.]*

## Get out and Vote!

- Dave Fadness

Remember that, in addition to presidential hopefuls and the high profile initiatives on the ballot, we will be voting for our next San Jose City Council District 10 councilperson. If you missed our election forum in January, be sure to look at your January VEP News for answers from three of the candidates to ten questions posed by VEP. For more information on the candidates, see their websites:



**Rich De La Rosa** = [www.vote4delarosa.com](http://www.vote4delarosa.com)

**Nancy Pyle** = [www.nancypyle.net](http://www.nancypyle.net)

**Ron Siporen** = [www.ronforcitycouncil.com](http://www.ronforcitycouncil.com)

**William Garbett** = (no website)

Election day is Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Don't miss it. Let's be sure to maintain our consistently high voter turnout, letting the world know that VEP members continue to be genuinely interested and involved in the future of our country and its fine, hard-won democratic tradition.

GRUMBLE, MUMBLE, GRITCH, COMPLAIN—**VOTE!**

## San Jose Boards & Commissions

Isn't it time for *your* voice to be heard? You can make a difference in your community on a number of issues be-

ing considered by the Advisory Commission on Rents, Airport Commission, Arts Commission, CDBG Steering Committee, Disability Advisory Commission, Early Care and Education Commission, Historic Landmarks Commission, Library Commission, Mobile Home Advisory Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission, Senior Citizens Commission, Small Business Development Commission, and Traffic Appeals Commission.

### QUALIFICATIONS

You must live in the City of San Jose and have a commitment to being active in the community.

### APPLICATION PROCESS

To take advantage of this unique opportunity, please call the Office of the City Clerk at (408) 277-4424. Applications will be accepted through 5 pm, Friday, February 27, 2004.

Log onto <http://www.sanioseca.gov/clerk/vacancy.htm> for more details.

## Free trees

Neighborhood groups and public schools in San Jose are being invited to request free, 15-gallon shade trees as part of *Our City Forest's Green Neighborhoods* program.

Groups and schools with ten or more eligible tree sites will be put at the top of the list. An eligible site is a parking strip—that space between the street and the sidewalk (not private property)—or school grounds.



Our City Forest will help with species selection, planting permits, site preparation, planting assistance and tree-care planning. Where necessary, auguring and cement cutting also will be provided.

Those requesting trees must submit a one-page grant application that includes a section where a commitment is made to provide ongoing care for the new trees. Able-bodied applicants will be expected to help with the actual planting. Think of it as a little party for your neighborhood or school.

For details: [www.ourcityforest.org](http://www.ourcityforest.org) or call (408) 998-7337.

*[Ed. Note: This article was taken from the San Jose Mercury News Green Stuff by Holly Hayes.]*

## Gunderson Crab Feast

- Candra Bailly

The Gunderson Athletic Booster Club is sponsoring their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Crab Feast on February 21<sup>st</sup>. This year it will be held off-campus at the Italian Heritage Hall on

4<sup>th</sup> Street. Tickets cost \$35 per person. Tickets are now on sale.

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.

## President's message

- Dave Noel, VEP President

I hope you enjoyed our candidate coverage in the January VEP News and at our January *Election Forum*. A lot of hard work and planning went into these efforts. I want to thank all of you who took time from your busy schedules to attend and participate in our Forum.



In January we just kicked off our membership drive. This also takes a tremendous amount of volunteer time, and it's very gratifying to see that so many of you have renewed already. For those of you new to the VEP family, welcome!

If you've been a member for years, you may not realize that we send a mass mailing to all non-members in our area letting them know about VEP and inviting them to join. This involves writing a letter, compiling the mailing list, and stuffing and labeling about 1500 envelopes. With ten volunteers, the stuffing job only took one hour! Thanks so much to everyone who volunteered, and especially **Kathy Decker** who recruited and coordinated all the volunteers.

Finally, I want to thank **Jeri Arstingstall** who has been coordinating our outreach to the new members and neighbors in SummerHill Homes' *Las Brisas* development at the corner of Branham and Vistapark.

## Master Composter news you can use

The Santa Clara County Home Composting Education Program has gone high-tech! Anyone wanting to take a Composting Basics 2-hour workshop or sign up for the 10-week *Master Composter Training Class* can now register on-line.

Simply pull up their website [www.ReduceWaste.org](http://www.ReduceWaste.org), click on Living & Working, click on Integrated Waste Management Program, and there you are at the Home Composting pages. This makes life easier and quicker for those on computers.

The popular composting **Rotline**, where Master Composter volunteers answer all your compost-related questions, can also now be accessed by email at [compost@pln.sccgov.org](mailto:compost@pln.sccgov.org).

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## News FLASH from Vice Mayor Pat Dando

Mark your calendars. I want to alert you to these upcoming community meetings and events that I am hosting for District Ten residents.



Wednesday, February 18

6:30 pm = Public Art Meeting for the Almaden Community Center and Library. This will be your chance to see the conceptual designs of the artwork being proposed for the new Almaden Community Center and Library. A mural reflecting the history of the Almaden Valley and a work fabricated from glass are among the works being considered for this facility. Your feedback and participation will ensure that the art at the Library and Community Center reflect the wishes of the community.

Wednesday, February 25

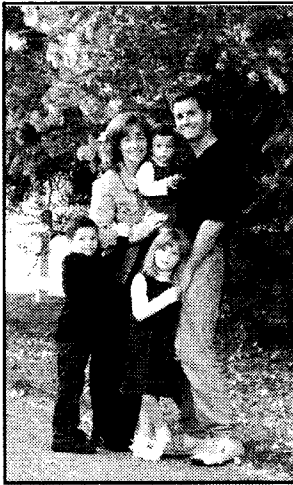
6:30 pm = Meet the new Police Chief. I will be hosting a neighborhood meeting to introduce our new Chief of Police, **Rob Davis**, to the community. Chief Davis is a District 10 resident and is very familiar with San Jose. This will be your opportunity to greet our new chief and share with him any questions or concerns you may have.

This meeting will be held at the Vineland Branch Library, 1450 Blossom Hill Road.

Saturday, February 28

12 noon = Dedication of our Community Policing Center. Please celebrate the re-opening of the Community Policing Center (CPC) at Oakridge Mall with me and the police officers who protect our neighborhoods. The new CPC will be located between Sears and Linens N' Things in the Almaden Garage.

1 pm = Guadalupe River Trail Opening. Join me to celebrate the opening of Guadalupe River Trail from



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Blossom Hill Road to Chynoweth. The dedication ceremony will take place on the trail under Highway 85.

I look forward to seeing you at one or all of these events.

### Parks and trails

- Dave Noel

Guadalupe River Trail: The new Guadalupe River Trail section from Blossom Hill Road to Chynoweth was completed and turned over to San Jose' Department of Parks & Recreation on January 30<sup>th</sup>. This newest section of trail is a beautiful addition to our community and connects with Almaden Lake Park and further south, following Camden Avenue through the Almaden area. A grand opening ceremony will be held on Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m.



Cilker Park: If you've driven down Winfield Boulevard lately, you've seen the construction between Chynoweth and the light rail tracks. This is Cilker Park, and it will provide another gateway to the Guadalupe River Trail. For safety reasons, this will be a low impact park with beautiful landscaping and no children's activities. You've probably noticed the sidewalk and curb are being straightened out where they used to curve around a large Oak tree.

Many thanks are due to Pat Dando and her staff for making this park possible and for securing grant funding that required quick implementation, significantly speeding up this project which is now scheduled for completion in early June.

### Donations needed for GHS scholarships

-Laura Probert(\*)

Each year the Gunderson High School PTSA sets aside \$1000 for scholarships. Normally five students are awarded \$200 each based on their essays on what Gunderson High School has done for them and their success in academics.

This year however, due to strained membership and the loss of several fund-raising programs, we are only able to provide three students with a scholarship. PTSA is accepting donations from the community to fund additional scholarships for students.

Mail your tax-deductible donation to:

GHS - PTSA  
622 Gaundabert Lane  
San Jose, CA 95136

All amounts, large or small, will be accepted and greatly appreciated. Donors will receive a receipt on school letterhead within 10-days of receipt of check or money orders. Unless otherwise requested, we will also honor donations on our web-page and in the VEP News.

Please help!

[(\*) Ed. Note: Laura Probert is President of the Gunderson High School PTSA.]

### Neighborhood developments

- Dave Noel

Chynoweth at Winfield: Cars traveling westbound on Chynoweth now have two left turn lanes to go southbound on Winfield Boulevard. Cars will need to slow down to make this turn, and that was probably the intent of this re-striping. Traffic calming was requested in this location, especially with new Cilker Park nearing completion there.

Did you know that cars often ended up on the sidewalk at the completion of that turn, at least once knocking the "Bike Lane" sign over?



### Community Service Awards

- Dave Fadness and Dave Noel

At our February general meeting, the VEP executive board will seek your 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 are recommending 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 VEP member.

This year we have taken steps to greatly enhance the visibility of our Community Service Awards at Gunder-

son and Andrew Hill high schools. We have created flyers and made them available for posting at the schools. We will also strive to publicize our award in school or student newspapers. Our hope is that this will motivate more students to do volunteer work, and increase VEP's visibility at our local schools.

Earlier this year there was discussion of proposing a change to the rules to require At-Large candidates be VEP members. We've decided to wait and see what our experience is in our 2004 awards cycle. If we were to make such a change, it would require a vote of the membership to approve changes to our By-Laws.

Although major rules changes are not proposed, we will make minor improvements to our forms to clarify some items that became confusing in previous years. We strive to get sufficient information on the candidates so that our judges can make the best selection.

If you're interested in the details of this, contact one of the members of the Community Service Awards Committee: Dave Noel, Dave Fadness, Greg West, and Steve Kinsey.

## VEP Community Service Awards!

This year we will not publish the At-Large application form in the VEP News. Instead, it will be available for downloading from our website beginning in early

March. We will also post the Gunderson and Andrew Hill application forms on our website. If you lack website access, contact any of the executives listed on the mailing page of this newsletter for an At-Large application form.

As president, my priorities for changes to this year's Community Service Awards were:

1. Improve visibility of our award and VEP at Gunderson and Andrew Hill to:
  - Improve chances of unknown heroes getting awards instead of "teacher's pets" (schools still nominate the academic superstars);
  - Enhance chances that our award will motivate students to perform community service in high school long before they are graduating seniors; and
  - Get VEP recognition among the school communities.
2. Ensure the student fills out the application, or at least signs for veracity of all information on the application form.
3. Clarify forms for ease and fairness of judging:
  - Be explicit about what information will be presented to the judges;
  - Minimize and further standardize the paperwork provided to the judges; and
  - Ensure correct versions of all three application forms are posted on the VEP website

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4. Improve coordination with school administrators and find liaison representatives to help publicize our award and coordinate with administrators.

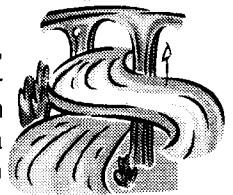
5. Review the proposal to require At-Large candidates to be VEP members.

### Coming: Route 87 HOV lane construction

#### ★Route 87 (South) HOV Lanes ★

This Caltrans-managed project will construct a high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane in each direction in the existing median of Route 87 between Branham Lane and I-280, a distance of approximately 4.25 miles. The project includes the installation of ramp meters at selected locations.

The project will also repair pavement, median barrier, sound wall and drainage systems damaged by settlement in this segment of freeway. In addition, a collector-distribution system and an auxiliary lane will be constructed in the southbound direction between I-280 and Almaden Expressway.



Project Objective: To relieve traffic congestion by adding HOV lanes.

Project Features: High occupancy vehicles, HOVs, are cars with at least two occupants, shuttles and buses. The collector-distribution system being built relieves traffic congestion for vehicles entering southbound Route 87 from both northbound and southbound I-280.

A collector-distribution system utilizes auxiliary lanes running alongside the mainline roadway to provide extra time and distance for vehicles from multiple on- and off-ramps to merge together before entering onto the main roadway.

Vehicles from I-280 that are exiting at either Alma Ave-

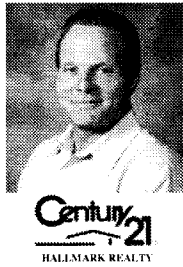
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nue or Almaden Expressway will remain on the collector-distribution roadway and never travel on the main Route 87 roadway. Vehicles from I-280 traveling to points further south on Route 87 will now enter onto the freeway past Alma Avenue.

Maintenance of Traffic Flow: For the safety of the public and construction workers, traffic control measures (such as temporary lane closures and detours) will be used when needed. Contractors will make every effort to maintain access and minimize disruptions.

Operations: Upon completion, Caltrans will operate and maintain the newly widened Route 87.

Use of HOV lanes is restricted during commute hours (commonly weekdays between 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.) to vehicles carrying two or more occupants.

Capital Cost/Project Funding: \$75.2 million: \$40.9 million from Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicles (GARVEE) bonds, \$18.5 million from State Highway Operations and Safety Program (SHOPP) funds, and \$15.8 million from 1996 Measure B local sales tax and other local funds.

Project Schedule: Construction begins: Fall 2004. Project complete: Fall 2006.

### ★ Route 87 (North) HOV Lanes Project ★



This Caltrans-managed project will construct a high-occupancy vehicle (HOV, or carpool) lane in each direction in the existing median of Route 87 between I-280 and 0.2 miles north of Julian Street in San Jose. The project will also include the installation of ramp meters at selected entrance ramps.

Project Objective: To relieve traffic congestion by adding HOV lanes.

Project Features: Widening Route 87 from a four- to a six-lane freeway in this section would be accommodated within the existing right-of-way.

Maintenance of Traffic Flow: For the safety of the public and construction workers, traffic control measures (such as temporary lane closures and detours) will be used when needed. Contractors would make every effort to maintain access and minimize disruptions.

Operations: Upon completion, Caltrans will operate and maintain the newly widened Route 87.

Use of HOV lanes is restricted during commute hours (commonly weekdays between 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.) to vehicles carrying two or more occupants.

Capital Cost/Project Funding: \$46.2 million: \$35.7 million from Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicles (GARVEE) bonds and \$10.5 million from 1996 Measure B local sales tax funds.

Project Schedule: Construction begins: Summer 2004. Project complete: Summer 2006.

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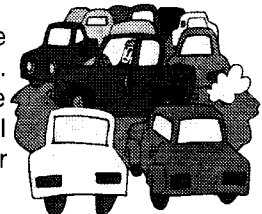
How to Reach VTA: For more information on the highway projects or existing bus and rail transit service, call VTA Community Outreach at (408) 321-7575, TDD only (408) 321-2330.

## Gunderson parking & traffic problems

-Jeri Arstingstall

As many of you know, the neighbors around Gunderson High School have experienced an increase of traffic. The Monday to Friday traffic has been increasing.

I have been in direct contact with the City of San Jose Police Department. They have been patrolling the streets to keep the traffic flowing. I would like to thank Lt. Jack Farmer (408- 277-5530) for responding.



One of our neighborhood concerns is the blatant disregard for signs posted on the streets which state "No Parking 8-3:30". When we ask the people picking up students from school why they are parking there, they typically respond with "We know it is not patrolled."

Well, it is now patrolled. Not everyday, of course, as we know that the police department has other areas of concern.

We had to call the police again this week, as our garbage could not be picked up because cars were blocking the street during pick up.

Parking tickets are now being issued. It is a violation to be sitting in your car in a posted no-parking zone, even if you're only waiting to pick someone up. If you are picking up a student at Gunderson, please respect your neighbors and use that big beautiful parking lot in front



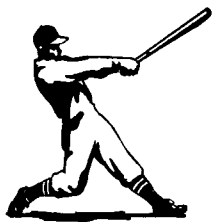
of the school.

All of us that live across the street from Gunderson own our homes. We purchased our homes *because* they are across the street from the school. We consider Gunderson to be a community asset-and only ask we be treated the same by Gunderson.

## Vista Park ball field

- 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, the sidewalk, and the 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 use for our youth.

The current plan is to move the west field in a phased approach. The hope is to move the backstop in the next few months. This is a relatively inexpensive step and solves the safety issue. Then, it would 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 this coming 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 would also be welcomed.***

## Sound wall problems?

-Dave Fadness

A member called VEP recently to say that the masonry sound wall behind their back yard is leaning outward precariously, potentially threatening the safety of pedestrians who use the adjacent sidewalk. This condition at first appeared to be related to rainy weather, which we thought may have softened its footings. The walls in our area are getting old, too.

I called our City of San Jose friends to ask them to take a look at it. The first thing they did is to check to see who owns the sound wall. It turns out that approximately 95% of sound walls are owned by and the responsibility of the adjacent property owner; only about 5% are in public ownership.

# HomeGuard

**Let HomeGuard Pest Control protect you against ants, spiders, roaches, mice, rats, & general pests.**

*HomeGuard* takes care of pests so you can relax. Keith has 16-years of experience. He lives in the VEP area and knows its pests.

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**Keith Bowles**

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**kbowles@homeguard.com**

Fortunately for the property owner, the city engineer called back to report that the wall belongs to San Jose. He agreed to send one of his people out to check the wall.

A few days later, the engineer called to say that the wall is leaning, but appears to be safe. Understanding the need to be very careful to verify such assessments (a pedestrian injury lawsuit could cost our city many times more than the repair), he said he would have an independent appraisal done. As of this writing, I am waiting for a final decision.

The other thing the original inspection disclosed is that the property owner had piled 3 or 4 feet of dirt against his side of the sound wall. There were also thick vines growing between the wall panels and their vertical support columns. The wall panels fit into those columns, forming what resembles a tongue-and-groove joint; vines were forcing the wall out of its supporting groove, thus allowing it to move away.



I'm told that problems like these are quite common. A little preventive maintenance will greatly extend the life of your masonry wall.

Obvious stuff, like cutting back vines that invade support column fit-up, not planting trees and bushes too close, and not piling dirt against your sound wall are easily implemented tips residents should follow.

Why bother? I already mentioned that 95% of these walls belong to the adjacent property owner. That means the cost of any repair and/or liability rests on *you*, the owner. A typical wall panel replacement runs approximately \$5000. That fact underscores the obvious need for appropriate maintenance by residents- especially the easy, common sense items mentioned above.

If you have a sound wall at your property line, do yourself a favor: take time to inspect for and remedy signs of trouble before they occur. *An ounce of prevention...*



**Wesley W. Terrell**

★VEP Member★  
Vista Park Specialist



- ★ GHS Class of 1994
- ★ Full-Time Realtor
- ★ #1 Northern California Office
- ★ High Quality Customer Service

### Buying, Selling, or Refinancing

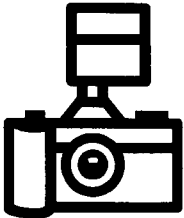
Call me today for a free market analysis of your home's value, a free homebuyer's guide, or updated interest rates.

**(408) 445-4302**

### Computer corner

*-Bob Aquino, VEP's Computer Guru*

One of the more interesting developments in technology in the past five years has been the broad introduction of digital photography. This bridges several gaps. Photography itself bridges the gap between technology and aesthetics, and making it digital bridges the gap to computers. I thought it would be a good idea to look at the technical details involved in this trend.



In this article I'll talk about the camera itself. Next month, I'll cover picture files and reproduction. I will avoid the issue of color in this article because it would really complicate things.

If you have had any experience with a conventional camera, there are some aspects of film that you have run into. I need to go into a little detail here. Film is a mixture (technically, an emulsion) of small particles of certain silver compounds called *grains*. These grains change their composition when exposed to light which, during development, results in the negative image.

Film is generally characterized by a *speed number*. The higher the number, the less light it takes to expose the film and also, the higher the number, the larger the grain is. When the film is exposed, the grain is either exposed or not. As a result, the higher the speed of the film, the more the image will degrade if it is enlarged.

Now, on to digital cameras! In place of the film, the digital camera has a sensor, which is a silicon chip having an array of small photosensitive structures called *pixels* (picture elements). These pixels correspond to the grains in film.

When you see ads for digital cameras, they are characterized by the number of pixels in the image, or more accurately megapixels (million pixels). If you only want to take snapshots, 3 megapixels is more than enough. If you aspire to be Ansel Adams, go to a higher figure.

Most digitals have lots of features that make it easy to

take good average pictures. These are referred to as "point-and-shoot" cameras.

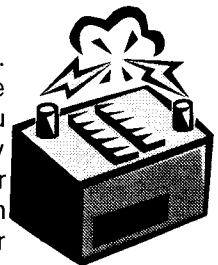
If you think about it, one of the advantages of a film camera is that you can change the film to handle differing light conditions. The speed of the sensor is fixed by its design. Digital cameras deal with this issue by altering the gain of amplifiers in the camera. The more expensive the camera you buy, the better suited the computer (yes, there is a computer in there!) is to handle those issues.

Digital cameras also frequently have zoom lenses. In the ads, this is referred to as "optical zoom". This is true magnification of the image. Because the focal length of the lens changes, you can zoom in on a feature (say a person's face) and spread it out over a larger number of pixels.

Pay no attention to "digital zoom" features which result in false magnification. Basically, these crop out unwanted areas of the picture and blow the remainder up to fill the frame. The result is fewer pixels per frame, and a poorer image.

Most cameras have a flat panel display on their back that enables you to compose the picture. I have found that in bright light, the image tends to be difficult to resolve, so you still need a viewfinder to get some pictures right.

Battery life is another issue with digitals. Whatever battery life numbers the manufacturer quotes, it's likely that you will experience less. This is particularly true if you take a lot of flash pictures or leave the display on at all times. When you buy a camera, include in your budget two sets nickel metal hydride (NiMH) rechargeable batteries and a charger, and get a case that is roomy enough to accommodate extra batteries. The last thing you want to do is have batteries die on you just as you have found the perfect image!



In the next article, I'll discuss computer software support for digital cameras and making prints.

### New local news section in SJM-N

*- Dave Noel*

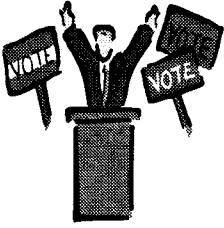
Beginning in late February, the San Jose Mercury News will introduce a new weekly section called "The Guide" which will focus on south San Jose and south county news, events, and community calendars.

In early February, VEP executives met with **HongDao Nguyen**, the reporter responsible for this new section. Watch for references to VEP as well as our community calendar in this new weekly section.

## Wanted: Clean elections

-Dave Fadness

Almaden Valley and VEP Community Associations' executive boards have developed a set of ethical principles we would like to see followed voluntarily by candidates in city council (and other) election campaigns.



Our first coordinated attempt to have candidates agree to a set of campaign conduct guidelines was launched in the 2000 election campaign. Although last-minute violations were experienced that year, our efforts appeared to be generally successful. Based on that

success, we are trying again--and thought you should know about it.

First, an ethics document was written in the form of an agreement. (For the full text visit the AVCA web site at [www.avca-sj.org/ethics.html](http://www.avca-sj.org/ethics.html).) It has been distributed to and voluntarily signed by all but one of the candidates now vying for San Jose City Council District 10.

A Review Committee was established to evaluate candidates' behavior and their campaign literature. Members this year are: **Lee Dimmitt**, **Roland King**, and **Bob Boydston** from AVCA; and **Bob Aquino** from VEP. They will act as referees to determine whether there are violations and, if so, what action to take.

The objective here is to encourage decency, honesty, and fair play into the electoral process. We want the candidates to be open in expressing their ideas and fair in discussing the positions of the other candidates, but to avoid whispering campaigns--and to refute those who do so.

The Review Committee will review campaign material using the following five criteria:

1. Statements must be relevant to issues pertaining to District 10 and the city as a whole or to the qualifications of the candidate.
2. Statements must be factual, substantially accurate, and verifiable.
3. Conclusions based upon the facts or statements of opinion must be reasonable as judged by a reasonable person; opinions must be appropriately identified as such within the same text.
4. Statements cannot be used out of context for the purpose of drawing erroneous or misleading conclusions.
5. Campaign material must not be demagogic or use inflammatory rhetoric.

If, after weighing these criteria, the Review Committee concludes that there has been a significant violation of the agreement by a candidate, that candidate will be notified in writing. The Committee's letter will also be sent to opposing candidates, be posted on AVCA and

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- ◆ Electrical & Plumbing
- ◆ Counter Tops
- ◆ Flooring
- ◆ Refacing
- ◆ References

VEP web sites, and be sent to the Almaden Times, Almaden Resident, and the San Jose Mercury News.

Watch for Review Committee reports. If you see or hear anything you think is inappropriate in a candidate's campaign, call a Committee member to let them know. (Mr. Aquino's number is listed on the mailing page of this newsletter.)

## Thanks for the compliments

- Dave Noel

One of the most enjoyable things I get to do at the beginning of the year is read the compliments that you send on your membership renewal forms. On behalf of the VEP executive board and our committee volunteers, thanks so much for your kind words.

Some members generously have sent extra money with their dues, typically \$5 to \$30 over our regular dues. This is truly an honor, thanks for your confidence in us.



Here is a sampling of your comments:

- Keep up the great work! Thank you!
- Congratulations on your great work and for VEP's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- VEP is the best and does great work for all of us. Glad to be a part! Thank you for all you do.
- Great leadership! Thanks, Dave Noel a bunch.
- The newsletter seems to be bigger and better than ever - a job well done.
- Thank you for all of your wonderful work.
- You are very helpful! Thanks a million.
- Thanks for all your hard work - the newsletter is great!
- Thank you very much for all the useful information that is provided in the newsletter.
- Thanks again for all you do. We really appreciate it.

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**VISA and MASTER CHARGE CARDS ACCEPTED**

- Thank you for your dedication to our wonderful community. You have created it.
- My heros: Pat Dando & Mr. Lester!

## Your questions answered

- Dave Noel

Some of you put questions in the comment section of your membership renewal forms. Here are some of your questions, along with answers:

*Q: I have resided in my home 33-1/2 years. What is being done regarding vandalism in the community and trash on the streets thrown from cars?*



A: Please call 911 or 311 to report vandalism. We all have to watch out for our community. I'm not sure how to stop people from littering our streets. When there is trash on my street, I pick it up and throw it away. I encourage you to do the same. As of January 2004, budget cuts have reduced street sweeping from every two weeks to every four weeks, so it's even more important to try to keep our cars off the street on street sweeping day.

*Q: It would be NICE to seek a post office collection box in this area. There is only one on Vistapark @ Capitol. It would also be appreciated to be annually included in the dumpster day as members of your community association.*

A: Have you tried contacting the postmaster regarding your desire for a mailbox? Please do so and let me know what you find out and how VEP can help.

Community cleanup "Dumpster" days are wildly popular in San Jose. Unfortunately, the city only funds enough to cover each neighborhood every 3-4 years. VEP works closely with our city council member to make sure we get our fair share of available dumpster days, and to coordinate volunteers for the event. We will have a dumpster day in your area (east of Vistapark Drive) on April 17<sup>th</sup>. We have tentatively scheduled a planning meeting with the city on the evening of March 4<sup>th</sup>--please join us. Call for more info.

*Q: I am an original homeowner since 1969. When am I going to see a trash bin on my street? Never in over 33 years. Once on the second half of Grandpark, never on mine. Let's see some action on this request in '04!*

A: Your neighborhood will be covered by the April 17<sup>th</sup> dumpster day. Please come to the planning meeting mentioned above. Would you like a dumpster in front of your house? Be careful what you ask for!

*Q: We are interested in being park liaisons for Meadows Park. Our backyard borders it.*

A: Thank you, **Eric and Cathy Weirshauer!** All you need to do is keep an eye on the park and let us know if you see problems that need to be attended by the city. If you'd like to arrange a work party there, let us know and we can help arrange volunteers and refreshments.

*Q: Pot hole at intersection of Hyde Park Drive and Chynoweth needs tilling. It's been there 2 months and the city ignores it!*

A: Have you notified the city? You can call the city operator at 277-4000 to be connected with the correct department for any city service. You can also contract Pat Dando's office at 277-5251. If you don't get a satisfactory response, let me know.

## VEP's history in a nutshell: 1973-1975

- Greg West

The following is the second in a series of summaries of VEP history taken from our newsletter archives. This summary covers 1973 to 1975. VEP has taken on a project to scan archived newsletters and make them available on line at the VEP web site.

**VEP's  
35  
this year!**

**1973** VEP meetings continue to be held on second Tuesdays in the Carriage Room at Normandin Chrysler-Plymouth. Heatwell Manufacturing commits to replace cracked heat exchangers in the Vista Park development for a \$50 labor fee. Inspections reveal that 40% of heat exchangers are cracked. VEP sues Heatwell at a cost of \$6.50 per litigant. Court grants Class Action petition including VEP and Hidden Glen homeowners. 250 neighbors turn out to watch 50 VEP girls perform their first dance recital put on by a neighborhood dance teacher. VEP joins the San Jose Alliance of Homeowners Associations and updates Constitution and By-Laws. VEP supports bond measures for new schools in both Oak Grove and San Jose Unified School Districts. 1971 Vega Hatchback advertised for \$1800. City Councilman Al Garza speaks at March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Membership reported at 200 households of the 1400 in the VEP area, mostly from Vista Park. VEP begins lobbying for neighborhood

speed limit enforcement and stop signs at major intersections. VEP holds City Council Election Forum (incumbent Goglio, Jim Self, Suzanne Wilson, and Dorothy Silva). VEP forms a teen group meeting at the Meadows cabana club. VEP opposes proposed \$30.50 City Health and Safety Inspection fee to be paid by home sellers. VEP reported in the center of the Grapeleaf Skeletonizer moth quarantine area. Tax assessor increases Vista Park tax valuations by 25% over a two year period. VEP files tax appeal in September. Larwin Homes plans Encore Expansion of 219 single family detached homes and 419 apartments on the east side of Snell. Arcadia plans apartments. Standing water and severe dampness reported in crawl spaces of Parkview Valley homes. VEP supports a proposed \$10- \$13 per year per home parks assessment for the development of the 135 acre Guadalupe Oak Grove Park at Almaden and Redmond.

**1974** VEP area grows to 1500 homes. Councilman Jim Self speaks at January meeting. San Jose Chief Building Inspector, Don Koenig responds to VEP home crawl space water concerns stating that homes were built to code and suggests that homeowners run clear plastic tubing from downspouts to the front of the home to improve drainage. Three private airplanes crash land in VEP area: Capitol at Narvaez; Snell at Baroni, and in an Encore front yard. FAA representative, Olan Young, speaks at the February meeting. VEP considers severing 300 home Encore development from VEP Area for lack of participation by the Encore neighborhood. Past VEP President, **Carman Felice**, elected Vice Presi-

**Remember when...**

dent of the San Jose Alliance of Homeowners Associations. VEP loses property tax assessment appeal at the 3 hour Feb. 25th Assessment Appeals Board meeting attended by 75 VEP homeowners; many homeowners cited for parking 3 hours in a two hour parking zone. Further negotiations with the County Tax Assessor's office results in agreement for more rational valuations. County Public Works approves VEP's request to more than double the length of the left turn stacking lane at Capitol and Vistapark Drive. Oak Grove School District abandons plans to build a school near the Parkview III Park; Larwin plans to build 28 homes on part of the site. VEP joins Valley Coalition; 7 VEP members part of 1100 that attend first conference at McCabe Convention Hall on March 30. City Council approves Parkview I and II park master plans and funds Parkview II construction to begin in July. Heatwell makes concessions in furnace suite; Arcadia refuses to participate. VEP establishes first advertising policy in April. By-laws change approved in June to allow general membership meetings to change from monthly to every two months. City enacts fence ordinance effective July 1. Parkview School opens. Replacement of corroded water pipes becomes an issue. SJ Council seat #3 candidates Larry Pegram and Nick Lickwar, and Mayoral candidates Janet Hayes and Bart Collins speak at October meet-

ing. Carson Elementary reported to be opened in Feb. 1975. Babysitting rates advertised at \$0.75/hr.

**1975** Over VEP's objections, City Council approves the closure of a portion of Seabury Drive connecting Heppner Lane and Narvaez. Pinehurst residents in favor of the closing prevail. 200 VEP and Meadows residents carrying 650 signatures win appeal to temporarily reopen the street in one direction until Branham is completed from Narvaez to Pearl. City accelerates the plans to complete Branham. Branham completed in May.

Steinbeck Junior High is reported to be opening in the Spring of 1976. Junior high aged VEP children in the SJUSD neighborhood will transition from Muir to Steinbeck after the opening. SJUSD implements a reduced bussing policy: Students within 1.5 miles of their elementary school or within 2.5 miles of their junior or senior high school walk.

Parkview II Park is completed. VEP forms action group with Councilman Al Garza and the SJPD to combat neighborhood vandalism. 317 survey respondents report that half of the households were victims of vandalism within the last few months. VEP joins *Operation Identification* and *Neighborhood Watch* to help stem neighborhood crime and vandalism.

VEP lobbies County against the closing of the median on Capitol at Bluefield Drive. VEP considers lobbying to have neighborhood east of Vistapark Drive realigned into San Jose Unified. City Council considers General Plan change to re-zone Lester Property from Agricultural to single-family and light industrial. The Canoas Creek bridge at Branham lane is scheduled for completion at the end of 1976.

\* \* \* \*

Here are a few classic articles from past issues of our newsletter:

### AIR CRASHES

(Reprinted from the February, 1974 VEP NEWS)

Unfortunately, there have been three private airplane crashes in the VEP area fairly recently. One plane crashed at Capitol Expressway near Narvaez, one came down in an Encore front yard, and one settled to earth near Snell and Baroni. VEP members voted at the January meeting to invite a representative of the FAA to the February meeting to discuss and explain these undesirable circumstances. Olan Young of the FAA is our scheduled guest for the February 13 (1974) meeting. Thanks to a neighbor, **Holly Manning**, for arranging this FAA speaker.

### TAX APPEAL LOST?

(Reprinted from the March, 1974 VEP NEWS)

On Monday February 25, 1974, VEP appeared before the Assessment Appeals Board. Seventy-five homeowners sat through 1-1/2 hours of testimony presented by VEP President **Bob Braud** and Treasurer **Mary Mueller**. VEP presented the following:

- Assessments on contemporary homes have increased 8.7% in two years. In the same time period, Encore assessments have risen 27.3% and Vistapark assessments have risen 21.7%.

- Similar neighborhoods have experienced a 9% annual increase during the time model homes existed. This dropped to 3.6% annually after the model homes were closed.

- The county tax assessor has passed the full impact of the abnormal (12% annual) inflationary increases in labor and housing materials along to Encore and Vistapark homeowners, but has allowed our contemporaries to more "normal" increases.

The appeals board either would not or could not comprehend the documented facts presented. The board only wanted to listen to comparable sales figures. When the following facts were presented regarding an identical house in another neighborhood, the board turned a deaf ear.

Assessment: VEP - \$39,800; Example - \$36,400  
Sales Price: VEP - \$41,000; Example - \$41,000

The result of the appeal was a ruling by the board against VEP. Our next attempt to satisfy these inequities will be in superior court or through the legislature in Sacramento.

## PARKING CITATIONS

(Reprinted from the March, 1974 VEP NEWS)

Many homeowners received a \$2.00 parking citation for parking three hours in a two-hour parking zone while attending the property tax appeal hearing on February 25 (1974). Please DO NOT PAY these fines yourselves. VEP will submit them all with a letter of explanation to the municipal court. Please drop them off with your NAME, ADDRESS, and PHONE NUMBER at 4281 Windsor Park Drive.

## Artsopolis.com

- Dave Noel

Have you heard of *Artsopolis.com*, your online arts metropolis? Billed as Silicon Valley's Ultimate Guide to Arts and Culture, this online calendar lists Arts and Cultural events by artistic discipline (dance, music, theater, and art)--plus a special section for Kids & Families. Look for information on half price ticket offers.



Artsopolis.com is a collaboration of the San Jose Convention & Visitors Bureau and Arts Council Silicon Valley.

## Our January 2004 meeting

- Dave Fadness

All four city council candidates turned out for our January 27 *Election Forum* at Gunderson. **Rich De La**

**Rosa, Nancy Pyle, and Ronald Siporen** each responded to a list of ten questions VEP sent them earlier last month. Those responses were included in our January newsletter. Candidate **William Garbett** did not respond.

After brief introductory speeches, each candidate was allowed to answer questions from our audience. This probing Q&A session ran about 45-minutes, giving our small group of about 25-30 residents an excellent chance get to know each candidate and see them think on their feet.

March 2 is **Primary Election Day** in California. Vice-Mayor **Pat Dando**, our current District 10 San Jose City Council representative has termed-out, so she cannot run for re-election.

If you were unable to attend, you missed an excellent opportunity to get to know these council candidates first-hand. You can go back to your January VEP NEWS (or visit [www.vepca.org](http://www.vepca.org)) to review their answers to our questions. For more information on council candidates, visit their websites:

**Rich De La Rosa** = [www.vote4delarosa.com](http://www.vote4delarosa.com)

**Nancy Pyle** = [www.nancypyle.net](http://www.nancypyle.net)

**Ron Siporen** = [www.ronforcitycouncil.com](http://www.ronforcitycouncil.com)

**William Garbett** = (no website)

There are a host of other candidates and ballot measures to learn about. We urge you to take time to study the literature, then VOTE SMART ON MARCH 2<sup>nd</sup>. It's *your* basic responsibility as a good citizen in our representative democracy. Do it!

## VTA light rail bell and horn meeting

- Dave Noel

On Thursday January 29th, I met with **Gail Collins** and **Christof Eichin** at the Ohlone Chynoweth light rail station to listen to proposed new bell and horn sounds for VTA's new low-floor light rail cars. As you may have noticed, VTA is replacing all of its older light rail cars with the new low floor models. These new models are from a different manufacturer, and some of the bell and horn sounds are different from what we are used to in our neighborhoods.



The three sounds are:

Low bell: A mechanical bell, sounded as the train enters stations. This bell was used on the old cars. It is pleasant and 'real' sounding (because it is a real bell) and will continue to be used on new rail cars.

High bell: This is a louder bell, located higher on the train to alert folks in louder areas, such as when crossing streets and running through downtown. This bell is

a digitally recorded sound played through a loud-speaker. The new sound that shipped originally with the new light rail cars is a little harsh. The proposed new sound is smoother. Due to equipment differences, the recording from the old trains cannot be replicated on the new trains.

Horn: The horn is used as you'd use the horn on your car. Like the high bell, it is a digitally recorded sound that is currently fairly harsh, but will be improved.

Residents near the Mountain View Whisman light rail station were very involved in selecting the new sounds. Trains run very close to their homes.

Although we have many people who live in earshot of the light rail in our area, especially in the Ohlone-Chynoweth light rail station housing complexes, I was the only one who attended this meeting.

## Bulletin Board Ads

*-Dave Fadness*

After more than two decades of publication under the old rules, VEP's Executive Committee undertook a general review of its Advertising Policy. In particular, this was done in order to objectively clarify who qualifies for free advertising. On February 4<sup>th</sup>, the new rules listed below were adopted.

To those of you whose ads no longer qualify for free publication, we offer our sincere apology.



# Bulletin Board Ads

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

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

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.

\*\*\*

### Bulletin Board advertising rules:

1. Bulletin Board ads are limited to four (4) lines of text. One line contains 50 characters, including spaces.

2. VEP will print **free** Bulletin Board ads for its members for one-time transactions involving less than \$400, for lost and found, and for services offered by kids under 18 or retirees over 60 years of age. Free ads may be published in a maximum of three successive issues of the VEP News per submission. After three issues, non-renewed ads will be dropped

without notice.

3. VEP will print commercial Bulletin Board ads for its members for \$6 per issue of the VEP News. (A commercial ad is one that offers goods and/or services for a fee. The VEP President and/or Editor has final say in determining whether an ad is commercial.) Ads must be prepaid before publication and be of four (4) lines or less in length (see 1, above). Commercial bulletin board ads may be published indefinitely so long as payment is received in advance of publication. Non-renewed ads will be dropped without notice. No graphics allowed.

4. Bulletin board ads and payment must be received at least 12 days prior to the fourth Tuesday of the month for inclusion in that month's newsletter. Mail to VEP, P.O. Box 18111, San Jose, 95158.

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.

## Free car seat inspections

*- Dave Noel*

On Mondays in room #15 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. If you would like your car seat installed or looked at, please call 277-4133 to schedule an appointment.

## Handy phone numbers

*- Dave Noel*

Did you know that cell phone calls to 911 are handled by a call center outside of San Jose? That can delay a response to a local emergency. The city of San Jose has made the following phone numbers available for cell phone users to access its emergency call center:

911 calls (emergency) = (408) 277-8911

311 calls (non-emergency) = (408) 277-8900

Here's another handy number: Call (408) 277-4000 to reach a friendly operator who can connect you with the correct City of San Jose department for just about anything you can think of, from abandoned shopping carts to building permits to household hazardous waste collection.

Check us out at [www.vepca.org](http://www.vepca.org)

7:30 pm at Gunderson

# Be sure to attend VEP's February 24th Meeting

## THE VEP NEWS



### VEP Community Association

P.O. Box 18111 San Jose, CA 95158

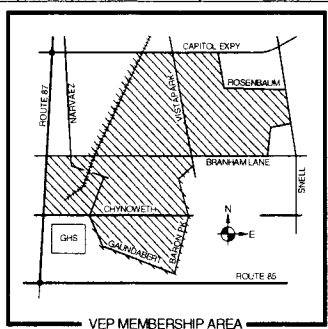
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**VEP**  
Meeting 7:30 pm  
Tuesday, February 24