

# VEP NEWS

## • VEP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION •

Representing More Than 2000 Families In The Blossom Valley Area Of South San Jose Since 1969

March 2011

### VEP'S MEETING

7:30 p.m. Tuesday  
► **March 22, 2011** ◀

Vista Park Community Room  
475 Hyde Park Drive

### AGENDA

★ **San Jose Trails System -  
Initial Canoas Creek Proposal** ★  
Implication for VEP Residents

Presentation by  
**Yves Zsutty**  
Manager, Trails System, City of San Jose

★  
**Introduction of Captain Ricki Goede**  
Southern Division Commander  
San Jose Police Department

★ VEP Business Meeting ★

Announcements & Updates

Chynoweth – Fatal Accident  
Martial Cottle Park  
CSA Awards Applications  
Annual Membership Drive Ends  
Save the Date – Garage Sale, May 7th

★ **Your Concerns and Ideas** ★

Your chance to voice your opinion and/or to seek VEP's help.  
Everyone is welcome. Invite your neighbors!

### VEP's March Meeting

*by Marilyn Rodgers*

Topics that are planned for the March general membership meeting:

► **San Jose Trails System and the Initial Canoas Creek Trail Proposal - Featured guest speaker Yves Zsutty, Manager, Trails Program, City of San Jose Department of Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services.** Mr. Zsutty will pro-

vide an overview of the current status of the city's trail program, as well as information on the future goal to provide for 100 miles of urban trails within the City of San Jose. In addition, he will begin the discussion on the proposal for future trail development along the Canoas Creek from Martial Cottle Park north to Capitol Expressway VTA and Hwy 87 onramp. This is an issue that should be of interest to all VEP residents. Take this opportunity to become more informed. See applicable articles elsewhere in this edition of the VEP Newsletter.

► **Introduction of Captain Richelle (Ricki) Goede, Southern Division Commander, San Jose Police Department.** Captain Goede and her staff oversee the Southern Division of San Jose which includes the VEP area.

► **VEP Business Meeting/Announcements.** Updates will be provided on the fatal accident on Chynoweth, the approval of the Martial Cottle Master Plan, as well as announcements of interest.

► **Your Concerns and Ideas** - We always leave time to hear from you regarding concerns or issues that we can work together in resolving. This approach continues to make VEP neighborhoods strong, healthy, and attractive.

We look forward to seeing you, your family, your friends, and your neighbors at our **March 22nd** meeting. Please join us!

### February General Meeting Synopsis

*By Adina Pierce*

VEP's second meeting of 2011 was held on February 22 at the Vista Park Community Room. 40 neighbors attended.

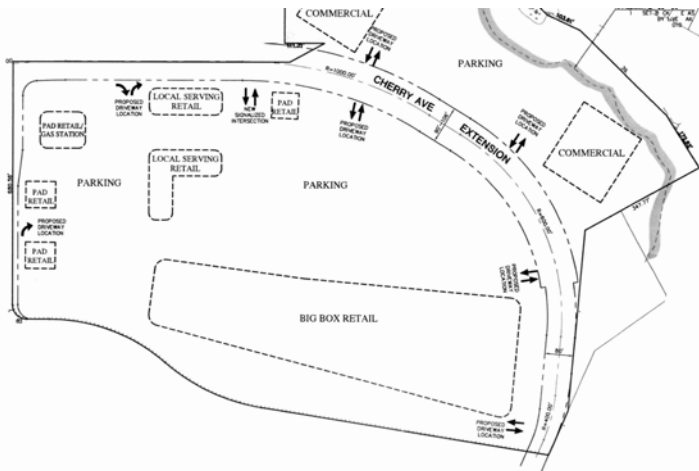
The first topic of the evening was the Almaden Ranch development that is being proposed on Almaden Expwy., between Highway 85 and Chynoweth Ave. **Gerry DeYoung**, President of planning and civil engineering firm Ruth and Going, gave a presentation describing the plans and timeline. As a result of input from VEP and ENA, the developer was removing the Chynoweth Bridge from their development drawings. The City of San Jose will continue to include it, for possible building sometime in the future.

There were no "big box" stores identified by name - that will happen after the project goes through the EIR process, along with a 45 day public review period, and then gets approved by the City Council. The tentative plans are for the EIR to be finalized by late summer, and approval of project early fall, and ground breaking late fall/early winter. It will take 3 years to build out the project from start to finish.

There will also be improvements at the Almaden Expwy/Chynoweth/Cherry Ave intersection as part of this project.

**2011 is VEP's 42nd year!**

The owner/developer of the project, Arcadia, built The Woods Apartments on Snell Ave, Cherrywood Apartments, homes in the VEP neighborhood, Marketplace Center on Coleman Ave, and the new Lowes store near the San Jose airport.



The second speaker of the evening was **Dan Collen**, Deputy Director for County of Santa Clara Roads.

The county will work with the developer and the city to update Cherry/Chynoweth Avenues, which will be the main entrance to the shopping center.

Several meeting participants asked excellent questions about traffic on Branham Lane and particularly about possible traffic congestion/backlog on Almaden Expwy and Blossom Hill Road. The intersection at both Sanchez and Almaden Expwy would have to be mediated by the City of San Jose (not the County).

See <http://www.countyroads.org/> for more information.

The third speaker was **Laura Wells**, City of San Jose, Dept of Transportation. She provided information on how speed limits were determined, and the process the Traffic Commissioner/Judge looks at how tickets are issued by the SJ Police Department. Federal government, and State government guidelines prevail.

The crash rate and total number of crashes are down in the City of San Jose.

A proposal is going forward from the City and County to increase speed limits to 50 miles per hour on certain sections of both Capitol Expressway and Almaden Expressway. The speed limit will probably not change on Almaden Expwy between Coleman Ave and Branham Lane, as there are several light signals and businesses along this section which would prevent a change from current speed limit of 45.

#### Announcements:

CSA - membership approved suggested criteria and budget forwarded by the Board of Directors.

**Dave Fadness** is looking for Adult Volunteers for the youth auxiliary program. We need a 4/5: 1 ratio of students:adults. We will use students for adopt-a-street landscaping projects.

**Marilyn Rodgers** discussed the latest Martial Cottle Park news. Please see article in this newsletter.

## High-Speed Rail Community Meeting Hosted by Santa Clara County Supervisor Mike Wasserman

**Date:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011

**Time:** 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**Location:** San Martin Lions Club,  
12415 Murphy Ave., San Martin

Santa Clara County District 1 Supervisor Mike Wasserman will host a community meeting on high-speed rail in South County, and has invited the California High-Speed Rail, San Jose to Merced Section Project Team to speak on the subject.

The meeting agenda includes:

- A discussion by Santa Clara County staff about how the environmental process works.
- A presentation by members of the San Jose to Merced team on the latest project information and the next steps for South County.
- An explanation of the property acquisition process for state projects (such as high-speed rail) by a local eminent domain lawyer.

Attend the meeting to learn more about the high-speed rail project and how it will be integrated into South County.

**Contact:** Colleen Valles (408) 299-5010 or  
[colleen.valles@bos.sccgov.org](mailto:colleen.valles@bos.sccgov.org)

## Annual VEP Membership Drives Comes to a Close

*By Marilyn Rodgers & Adina Pierce*

The end of March signals the end of the annual VEP Membership drive. If you have already sent in your membership renewal, thank you for your continued support of VEP! If you have forgotten to send in your renewal, please do it today. An application is included in this newsletter, and is also included online at the VEP website – [www.vepca.net](http://www.vepca.net). Complete the application, make out a check to VEP Community Association for \$20.00, and mail it to:  
VEP Community Association, P.O. Box 18111, San Jose, Ca. 95158.

To assure that there is no interruption in receiving the newsletter and e-mail alerts, your renewal must be received by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

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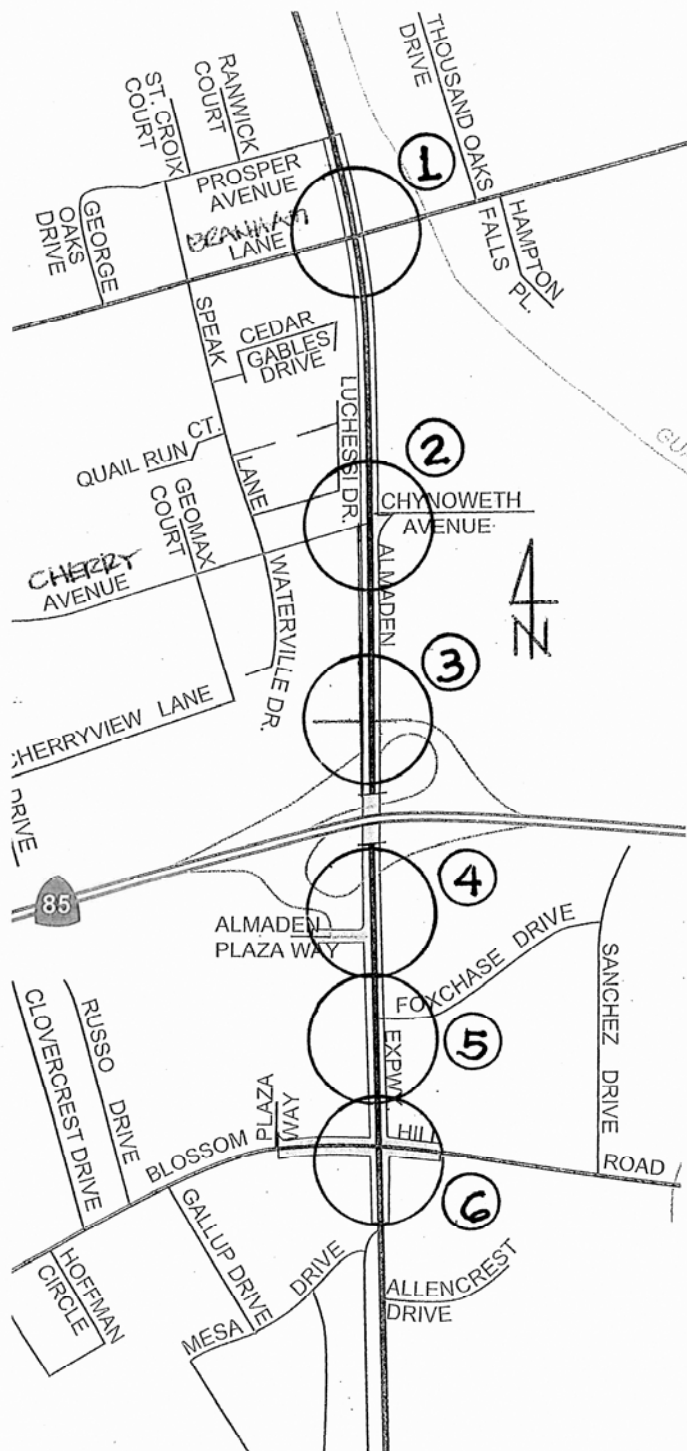
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# ALMADEN EXPRESSWAY LEVEL OF SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



① Improvements on this area include construction of sidewalk north of Prosper Avenue and providing a pedestrian friendly square corner at the southwest corner of the intersection for operational benefits. A fourth southbound thru-lane approaching Branham was dropped from the project because right-of-way could not be obtained.

② A dedicated right-turn only lane from northbound Almaden Expressway onto Chynoweth Avenue will be provided where right-turns are currently prohibited. The southwest corner, free-running right-turn lane will be eliminated to construct a pedestrian friendly square corner for operational benefit.

③ Currently, only right-turns are allowed out of the Best Buy store driveway. The project would construct an additional eastbound lane to allow left turns onto northbound Almaden Expressway.


④ The project would construct an additional eastbound right-turn lane on Almaden Plaza Way. Overhead signs would be installed to assist drivers with selection of the correct lane approaching the intersection.

⑤ On this northbound stretch on Almaden Expressway between Blossom Hill Road and Hwy 85, widening will provide for lanes dedicated to traffic entering southbound Hwy 85 and northbound Hwy 85.

⑥ Eastbound Blossom Hill would be provided with an additional left-turn lane onto northbound Almaden Expressway. Westbound Blossom Hill would be provided with dedicated right-turn lane onto northbound Almaden Expressway. The southwest corner of the intersection will be reconstructed to create a pedestrian friendly square corner for operational benefit.




Please visit website at [www.countyroads.org](http://www.countyroads.org)



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## Community-Wide Garage Sale on May 7th

Our annual *Community Garage Sale* will be held on Saturday, May 7th. Make sure to mark it on your calendar now, and start gathering those treasures you no longer use from your garage, attic, and closets.



We want to get everyone in our community to have a garage sale on the same day. The best way to find a new home for your unused stuff is to increase traffic to your home. So, VEP will advertise this event in local newspapers and by distributing flyers around our neighborhoods.

Activity attracts more activity. Your best resource is you--get your neighbors involved. People will pass by your street unless they think something is happening there. Try to get everyone on your street to join in. You might even pool all your neighbors' goodies into one big second-hand superstore. If your neighbors aren't selling, ask if you can spread out to their driveway.

Plan now to make sure you can be seen from the street. Put up balloons or signs. Have your out-of-area friends bring garage sale items that add to yours--make it a big, fun event on your street or cul-de-sac. A little energy and creativity now will pay off in big dividends, freeing up space in your home and putting extra money in your pocket.

If you will be participating and would like to have your street specifically listed on craigslist, please email just the street name to [vepeditor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vepeditor@sbcglobal.net).

## San Jose March Happenings

### Green Vision Clean Energy Showcase

The City of San José and the U.S. Department of Energy announced the opening of the San José Green Vision Clean Energy Showcase, an interactive new innovation center housing installations of cutting-edge clean energy technologies available on the market now and in the future. The Showcase will give visitors hands-on experience with advanced solar, wind and energy efficiency technologies, provide information required to make informed decisions about clean energy options, and further community participation in San José's Green Vision. Free guided tours of the Showcase will be available to the public starting January 15, 2011.

Visit [energy.sanjoseca.gov](http://energy.sanjoseca.gov) for more information.

### Children's Carousel at Arena Green

Tuesday - Sunday 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Arena Green at Guadalupe River Park & Gardens

Autumn Street at Santa Clara Street

\$1.00 (408)298-7657

[www.grpg.org](http://www.grpg.org)

### Science Safaris

Science Safari: Newt Round-up and Hike

Back by popular demand! Have you ever seen our native California newt in its own habitat? Know why their stomachs are orange? What do you think their favorite foods are? Join us for an interpretive hike around the YSI Sanborn Science Nature Center to see where these little guys live. California newts love the cool, wet weather that is prevalent in the Sanborn County Park. This is a great family event, and all ages are welcome. Please note: the terrain is not great for strollers.

Date: Saturday, March 19th, 2011

Time: 9:00am-11:00am

Location: YSI at Sanborn Park, Saratoga

Fee: \$10/adult; \$5/child; Free if redeeming Member pass (Parent must accompany child)

Meet Our  
Pet of the Week

**Barnum**  
ID# 79867

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### Adopt Me!

Barnum is ready to show you why cats make awesome companions! This 11-month-old kitty gets along with everyone. He loves other cats, likes to play with dogs, and loves toys. If you are looking for an affectionate, active kitty who will greet you when you get home and follow you from room to room, then come meet Barnum at Humane Society Silicon Valley in Milpitas!

Meet Me at Humane Society Silicon Valley!

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## Gunderson Updates

Henry T. Gunderson High School is proud to be a member of this community. The VEP community really showed its support on March 4 during the counter-demonstration held to protest the possible appearance of the Westboro Baptist Church prior to the drama department's last, sold out showing of "The Laramie Project". The outpouring of support was outstanding and the Grizzlies wanted to extend their personal thanks for the time and energy spent. The media was out in force, and Gunderson High School and the surrounding community were presented in a very positive light.

The SADIES Dance is scheduled for Saturday, March 26 in the gym. This year's theme is "Beauty and the Geek".

The March Honor Roll assembly will take place March 24 in the gym. The honor roll has nearly doubled this year, with about 400 honorees. The Grizzlies have been working hard, and it's paying off. GO GRIZZLIES!

The annual POETRY SLAM will take place the week of March 28. Student poets will slam during the lunch break, be judged and hopefully move on to the final evening of competition, March 31 at 7pm in the Gunderson Theater. It's a great event, so come on over if you can!

Don't forget to check out all of the other events at Gunderson by logging on to: <http://gunderson.sjUSD.org/>

GRIZZLY PRIDE!

## City's Aquatics Partnerships Now Serving Seven Sites

- San Jose Parks and Rec

The City's summer aquatics program is now operational at six pool sites and Almaden Lake. Residents have a choice of swim lessons and recreational swim at Biebrach, Camden, Fair Swim Center, Mayfair and Rotary Ryland pools sites. Silver Creek High School pool is available for recreational swimming while Almaden Lake offers recreational swim and a beach setting. The City created a unique partnership with local non-profits, East Side Union High School District, California Sports Center and Sparkle Swim School, to ensure residents are able to enjoy water recreation this summer. For hours and fees please view

**Aquatics Sites:**

<http://www.sanjoseca.gov/prns/aquatics/>



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## Fatal Accident on Chynoweth Avenue

by Marilyn Rodgers

On Tuesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, at approximately 7pm a fatal car crash occurred on Chynoweth Avenue in front of Gunderson High School. It was later determined to be a single car crash, with one young man dying at the scene of the accident. The two young men in the car were brothers whose family are VEP residents. We extend our heart felt condolences to the family.

As many VEP members will remember, there is a history of serious car accidents along this stretch of Chynoweth Avenue. Approximately four years ago, a young woman who was a passenger in a car, sustained a critical injury in a car accident which left her a quadriplegic. Following that accident, VEP brought together members of the Community, San Jose Police Department, Gunderson High School and the San Jose Unified School District, San Jose Department of Transportation, as well as representatives from District 10 Councilmember Nancy Pyle's office. Several improvements were made along Chynoweth, including receiving a grant to install flashing light monitors which warn drivers of vehicle speeds exceeding the speed limit.

While, as of this writing, the accident investigation is still under way, VEP will be re-evaluating any and all possible opportunities to improve vehicle safety along Chynoweth.

## VEP NEEDS YOU!!

by Marilyn Rodgers

There are many different types of volunteer opportunities for you through your community association! We are currently developing a list of volunteer activities which will highlight **2-hour** volunteer commitments. The list will include brief descriptions of each activity. One such volunteer offering is the opportunity to "test" the waters...to learn what it might be like to be a board member – with as little as a 2 hour time commitment per month. Volunteer by assisting a very active volunteer - one of our board members. Don't be afraid to ask what it might mean to assist the Webmaster, Newsletter editor, or Volunteer Coordinator. For additional information, or to make suggestions, please contact Helen Castillo, Volunteer Coordinator, at 408/981-5902 or [hcassillo@vbprop.com](mailto:hcassillo@vbprop.com).

**VEP will also be initiating a "hospitality" committee.** The purpose of the committee will be to welcome new residents to the community – including encouraging them to join and participate in VEP activities. Other "hospitality" activities will include welcome, refreshments and door prizes at VEP meetings and events. For additional information, or to volunteer, contact Board Member Katherine Decker at 408/972-4098 or [kddedcker@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kddedcker@sbcglobal.net).

## Martial Cottle Park Master Plan Approved

by Adina Pierce and Marilyn Rodgers

On Wednesday, March 2, 2011, the California Parks Commission approved the Martial Cottle Park Master Plan and Final Environmental Impact Report. This is cause for celebration! It is the culmination of over two and one half years of planning and development of the 1400 plus page document that will be the blueprint for development of the agricultural park envisioned by Mr. Lester. VEP members participated in this process as members of the Advisory Task Force. VEP has a long history of supporting, indeed advocating for, Mr. Lester's dream of seeing his family's property (which dates back to the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century) becoming an instrument to preserve the history and importance of agriculture in the "Valley of Heart's Delight".



On March 1<sup>st</sup>, VEP members, joined members of the California Parks Commission, California State Parks staff including State Park Rangers, Santa Clara County Parks staff including County Parks Rangers, members of the Advisory Task Force,

and other interested public members for a tour of the Lester property. Key staff members provided information highlighting partnerships and major components which will make Martial Cottle a unique urban park. The tour included walking portions of the property, highlighted by walking along the edge of the Life Estate, where Mr. Lester continues to live and which will remain private property until after his death. It was a beautiful clear day, increasing all participants appreciation of this truly amazing gift provided by Mr. Lester to the people of the County of Santa Clara and the State of California – a gift with a financial worth of over \$300 million dollars.

The evening of March 1<sup>st</sup> included a social event held at the newly renovated Casa Grande Mansion (of Quicksilver Mining fame) in Old Almaden. Advisory Task Force Members were invited to join California Parks Commission members and key staff and elected officials for a reception and tour of this important historic site. Santa Clara County Parks Commission members, including VEP member Greg West attended. Also participating was newly elected Santa Clara County Supervisor Mike Wasserman, and former Supervisor Don Gage. The Advisory Task Force Members were introduced and thanked for their participation. VEP members of the Advisory Task Force who were in attendance to accept a certificate of appreciation were Charlie Friedrichs, Adina Pierce, and Marilyn Rodgers.



As of this writing, Santa Clara County Parks staff are planning to send out additional information on the next steps in the process of park development.

## Martial Cottle Park Plan – Additional Park Entries

By Marilyn Rodgers and AdinaPierce

During the final stages in the development of the Martial Cottle Park Master Plan and Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR), two additional non-vehicular entries were added to the plan. One entry is on the southern border of the park, and the second is on the western edge – later determined to be on the north (east) side of the Canoas Creek. Upon requests for additional information, VEP was told that the additions were to facilitate connecting possible "future trail development".

The intent is to provide access to the park via the VTA station on the southern edge of the park, close to Hwy 85, and on the northern edge of the park, via a proposed trail along Canoas Creek (with portions meandering along some neighborhood streets including Edelweiss) to the VTA station at Capitol Expressway and onramp to Hwy 87.

It is unfortunate that the inclusion came late in the process without opportunity for all stakeholders to weigh in on the potential impacts to both the park and to surrounding neighborhoods. VEP did provide testimony to the California Parks Commission, voicing our concern that the late inclusion (among other issues) did not have the benefit of extensive discussions provided to all other aspects of the plan development. We asked the Commission to reconsider the inclusion of the additional non-vehicular entries. Staff responded that concerns would be addressed through the development phase of the park, and that the City of San Jose would provide an extensive process for discussion and community input regarding connection to the park through future trail development.

The California Parks Commission approved the Martial Cottle Master Plan and Environmental Impact Report as presented which included the inclusion of the two additional non-vehicular entries to the park.

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## March Presentation of City of San Jose Trail Program

By Marilyn Rodgers and Yves Zsutty

The City of San Jose has made a commitment to the development of an extensive non-vehicular trail system within the city. The goal being to eventually develop 100 miles of trail.

We appreciate Mr. Yves Zsutty providing a presentation to VEP on the city's overall trail program, and to provide initial information on the possible proposal for trail development along Canoas Creek. Additional information provided by Mr. Zsutty below:

"San Jose is developing a 100-mile interconnected trail network. The network is defined by the City's Greenprint and completion by 2022 is guided by the Mayor and Council's Green Vision. San Jose is already recognized as having one of the nation's largest urban trail networks. The trails support both recreation (walking, biking, access to parks) and commuting (biking to and from work and commerce). Development of the network includes closing gaps in existing systems, linking trails to nearby transit, and extending systems to regional parks and employment.

The Federal Highway Administration recently commended San Jose's trail development efforts with two awards that recognize the city's structured planning processes and its development of a non-motorized transportation system. A majority of San Jose's trails are being developed in collaboration with the Santa Clara Valley Water District. The agencies have a partnership agreement to provide recreational access along the valley's many waterways. Development of trails along waterways provides an opportunity to quietly enjoy nature near home and increases the number of stakeholders for maintaining the quality and cleanliness of the waterways. National studies indicate that trail development supports higher property values, reduce crime and encourage exercise."

Links for additional information:

San Jose Trail Program – Home Page: <http://www.sjparks.org/Trails/>

- Albertson Parkway – Case Study: [http://www.sjparks.org/Trails/documents/CaseStudy-AlbertsonParkway\\_001.pdf](http://www.sjparks.org/Trails/documents/CaseStudy-AlbertsonParkway_001.pdf)

- Award Winning Trail Projects: <http://www.sjparks.org/Trails/TrailsAwards.asp>

- Inventory of Existing and Future trails: <http://www.sjparks.org/Trails/TrailsList.asp>



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## Comments of Renewing Members

by Adina Pierce and Marilyn Rodgers

Many members have already sent in their membership renewals. Several members have also included an additional \$5.00 to \$50.00 donation. We truly appreciate your continued support of VEP!!

We also enjoy reading the comments many of our members share with us. Here is a sample:

Thank you everyone, for a lovely, friendly neighborhood!  
Keep up all your great work!

Thanks for the great support. I was happy to read about Gunderson students receiving awards.

Thanks for your service to the community.

Thanks a bunch everyone.

Thanks to all of you – for all you do!

Thank you for the help you offer to the community.

Thank you for your faithful and diligent service to our community.

Thank you for all you do. You are appreciated!

Thank you! (several)

Thank you for all you do –

I have included an extra \$10.00 donation!

The newsletter is worth the \$20.00 membership!

Thank you – I read every article in the newsletter!

We are retired – have lived in the VEP neighborhood for 40 years. We really appreciate receiving the newsletter as it helps us keep up with neighborhood developments.

## VEP Community Service Awards

by Marilyn Rodgers and Lu Anne Behringer

At the February VEP meeting, the membership approved the specific criteria and budget for the 2011 CSA Awards Program.

The specifics are as follows:

*"Up to 3 awards be granted at the judges' discretion, evenly distributed among selected winners. Nominations to be solicited from AHHS, GHS, and in the VEP newsletter (for Member-at-Large). School administrators will be asked to nominate at least 2 students per school with no upper limit. No more than 1 award per category (AHHS, GHS, At-Large). Ok to grant an award in a category with only 1 nominee. Ok not to grant an award in any category, if judges feel the candidate(s) don't merit an award."*

The budget approved for 2011 is \$1,000.00.

Applications for students at Andrew Hill and Gunderson High Schools will be available through each school after March 15<sup>th</sup>. The application for At-Large candidates will be available online at website at [www.vepca.net](http://www.vepca.net), or by request.

For additional information, or requests for applications, please contact Marilyn Rodgers at 408/225-7553 or by e-mail at [MRodgersRN@aol.com](mailto:MRodgersRN@aol.com).

Completed applications are due April 29<sup>th</sup>. Selection of award-ees will be made by the middle of May with awards presented at each participating high school the end of May/first of June. If an award is given for At-Large, it will be presented at the VEP meeting, May 24<sup>th</sup>.



## San Jose Family Camp

By Office of Nancy Pyle

San José Family Camp is located in the heart of the Sierras near Yosemite National Park. The Stanislaus National Forest and the middle fork of the Tuolumne River serve as the scenic backdrop to this mountain playground. Family Camp



provides a retreat where guests of all ages can fish, hike, swim, participate in organized programs or just sit back, relax and take it easy. It's a great experience for the entire family!

Early Registration begins Saturday March 5, 2011 from 7:00am-1:00pm.

Download the registration: [http://sanjoseca.gov/prns/familycamp/docs/Early\\_Reg\\_Process\\_Mailer.pdf](http://sanjoseca.gov/prns/familycamp/docs/Early_Reg_Process_Mailer.pdf)

Mail-in Registration begins April 11, 2011. All applications received on or before April 11th will be randomly processed starting April 11th.

Walk-in Registration begins May 17, 2011. Office hours are Monday – Friday 10:00am to 3:00pm

Fax-in Registration begins May 17, 2011. Fax number (408) 286.3682

For more information visit [www.sanjoseca.gov/prns/familycamp/](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/prns/familycamp/) or call 408-794-6523.



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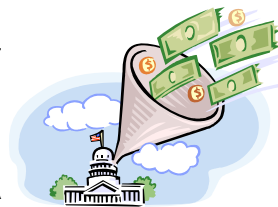
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## Free Tax Services

By Office of Nancy Pyle

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) offers free tax help to low- and moderate-income (generally, \$49,000 and below) people who cannot prepare their own tax returns. Certified volunteers sponsored by various organizations receive training to help prepare basic tax returns in communities across the country. VITA sites are generally located at community and neighborhood centers, libraries, schools, shopping malls, and other convenient locations. Most locations also offer free electronic filing.



Volunteers are trained to prepare basic 2010 Forms 1040EZ, 1040A, 1040 with Schedule A, B, limited Schedule CEZ, C and California State Income Tax returns ONLY.

To find a VITA site near you, download the VITA Sites and [Schedules.pdf](#) or dial 2-1-1 from any phone in Santa Clara County. Most sites are walk-in (no appointment necessary). Questions? Call (408) 345-4311.

## What is VEP Community Association?

- VEP is an all-volunteer organization of your neighbors working to improve our neighborhoods; VEP is our community's "homeowner's association".
- VEP volunteers participate in a variety of activities, all of which originate in and benefit our neighborhoods.
- VEP volunteers make our neighborhood's views and needs known to government at all levels.
- Founded in 1969, we are one of the largest, most successful, and most active and enduring grass roots volunteer organizations in Santa Clara County.

## Why join VEP?

- To receive our newsletter nine times a year, keeping you up-to-date and informed.
- To participate in and support neighborhood activities and representation.
- To contribute to our annual VEP Community Service Awards for area high school graduates.
- To be part of an outstanding community organization with a long record of success for our neighborhoods.



## Save the Date

### VEP Memorial Day Parade and Family Field Day.

May 30, 2011

Vistapark



For information about volunteering in  
planning or Day of events activities,  
please contact

Susan Iverson  
vepeditor@sbcglobal.net  
Helen Castillo  
hcastillo@vbprop.com

### Sign Up, Pick Up, Clean Up !

By Office of Nancy Pyle

Help the City of San Jose and your neighbors clean up  
litter at the Great American Litter Pick Up on Saturday,  
March 19th. Councilmember Pyle and District 10 resi-  
dents will meet at the front of Pioneer High School, 1290  
Blossom Hill Road. Registration begins at 8:00am and  
upon registration you will receive litter clean-up supplies  
and information on which areas in District 10 need clean-  
ing. From 8:30am to 11:30am we will pick up litter and  
drop off full bags. Following the event, we will meet back  
at Pioneer High School for a celebratory lunch. Think  
about organizing your neighborhood to join! For more  
information contact Servando Perez at 277-3208 or  
[Servando.perez@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:Servando.perez@sanjoseca.gov).

Note: VEP members participate in this event each year.  
Organizers highlight streets/areas of concern for litter  
pickup. Or, if you know of an area in the VEP neighbor-  
hood that needs attention, you can choose that area to  
work as well.



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### Communication with Our Members

by Marilyn Rodgers, Adina Pierce, Susan Iverson

Face to face communication is usually  
the most meaningful and rewarding.  
Monthly membership meetings between  
September and May, special events and  
projects provide this opportunity. Howev-  
er, we have many non-face to face oppor-  
tunities as well – they are as follows:



As you are reading this newsletter, you already know about  
our Number 1 (and most popular) way to communicate with  
our members – through the **VEP NEWS**. Our members con-  
tinue to tell us how much they enjoy receiving and reading the  
newsletter.

We continue to evaluate and utilize electronic means of com-  
municating with our members, particularly in between editions  
of the newsletter (remember **e-distribution of the newsletter**  
is available upon request as well).

**E-mail alerts** – if you have e-mail and would like to receive  
monthly e-mail Alerts, please be sure we have a current e-mail  
address. (We usually send one or two e-mails per month, so  
we will not fill your mailbox with junk e-mails; and e-mail ad-  
dresses are confidential).

**VEP Website** – [www.vepca.net](http://www.vepca.net) – find current information,  
highlights of upcoming events, as well as historical information  
on the website. Our website is intended for use by both mem-  
bers and non-members. Look for an increasing amount of  
information to be available on the website in the future.

**VEP - Yahoo groups and Facebook** – for those members  
interested in additional electronic access and use “social me-  
dia” sites, VEP has a **Yahoo group** and is on **Facebook**.

**Renew your  
VEP membership  
today!**

**Invite your neighbors  
to join VEP**

## It's Time to Renew Your VEP Membership

VEP membership is based on a calendar year, January through December, so it's time to renew your membership. You'll find a remit envelop in this newsletter. Please be sure to fill in the information requested, enclose your \$20 check made payable to VEP, and mail it back to us as soon as possible--while it's still fresh in your mind. That's all there is to it!

In a very real sense, renewing membership is your vote of confidence and support for the work we do as VEP volunteers. Yes, we get an occasional "thank you," but proof positive of your appreciation is your willingness to renew membership each year. We also appreciate the nice comments many of you offer along with your renewal—for that, we offer our thanks!

VEP membership is the best value you'll ever experience. Renew today and ask your neighbors to join our growing family. Thank you.

### What is VEP Community Association?

VEP is an all-volunteer organization of your neighbors working to improve our neighborhoods.

VEP sponsors many projects and events that improve safety, our quality of life, and the appearance of our community.

VEP volunteers make our neighborhood's needs, views, and concerns known to government at all levels. VEP was founded in 1969. We are one of the largest, most successful, and most continuously active and enduring grass roots volunteer organizations in Santa Clara County.

### Why join VEP?

To receive our newsletter nine times a year.

To receive monthly email alerts.

To keep our neighborhoods beautiful, safe, strong, and prepared.

To participate in and support effective neighborhood activities and representation.

To support VEP's annual *Community Service Awards* for high school graduates.

To be part of an outstanding volunteer community organization with 40 years of success in our neighborhoods.

**VEP helps you solve  
community problems**

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

Note: none of the following information will be 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?  
\_\_\_\_\_

### I am willing to volunteer for:

- ☐ Beautification/clean-up projects
- ☐ VEP News/mailling prep
- ☐ Memorial Day Parade & Festival
- ☐ Distribute flyers ☐ Serve on a committee
- ☐ Serve as a VEP officer or committee chair
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Please let us know:

- ☐ I prefer getting my newsletters by email.

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

I am a VEP member

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## VEP Community Association

Representing More Than 2000 Families in the Blossom Valley Area of South San Jose Since 1969

### ★ 2011 Community Service Award - "At Large" Nomination Form ★

VEP's annual *Community Service Award* is an attempt by VEP to encourage and reward high school students who have begun what we hope will be a lifelong pattern of volunteer community service. Awards will be granted exclusively on the basis of a graduating high school senior's voluntary community service accomplishments during his or her high school years.

To be considered for this award, a nominee must:

- A. Live in the VEP area (see [www.vepca.net](http://www.vepca.net) for a map), or be the son or daughter of a VEP member and live in San Jose.
- B. Mail an original signed hardcopy to VEP at the address shown below to be received by April 30, 2011;
- C. Be certified to be a graduating high school senior by:
  - 1. An administrator from the nominee's school;
  - 2. If home schooled, by a state-credentialed tutor;
  - 3. If an independent study student, by an administrator from the school where enrolled in independent studies;
- D. Not also be a nominee in the Andrew Hill or Gunderson High School categories.

This form may be downloaded and printed from VEP's website, [www.vepca.net](http://www.vepca.net).

A cover letter and/or letter(s) of recommendation may be submitted with this application. Please limit to one page each.

For any questions, see the **VEP News**, visit [www.vepca.net](http://www.vepca.net), or email Marilyn Rodgers at [MRodgersRN@aol.com](mailto:MRodgersRN@aol.com).

Please print legibly and fit your answers in the space provided. You may cut and paste typed text onto the form.

#### ★ PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ★

Nominee's name:		Date:
Nominee's address:		Email address: _____
		Telephone Number: _____
Name and address of nominee's high school:		Month/Year Graduating:
Number of community service hours required for graduation: _____	Number of community service hours required for any other purpose: _____	Please explain:
<input type="checkbox"/> I live in the VEP area (see <a href="http://www.vepca.net">www.vepca.net</a> for a map); and/or		
<input type="checkbox"/> I am the son or daughter of a VEP member – List VEP member info below:		
Name: _____		Address: _____
Phone: _____		Email address: _____
I certify that my community service record reported on this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.		
Nominee's signature: _____		Date: _____
I certify that the nominee has senior class standing at the above named high school, is expected to graduate in the month and year indicated above, and that the nominee's community service record reported on this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.		
High school administrator's signature: _____		Date: _____
Print high school administrator's name: _____		

►► Be sure to include information requested on the next page. ◀◀





## **VEP Community Association**

Representing More Than 2000 Families in the Blossom Valley Area of South San Jose Since 1969

### ★ Community Service Record Form ★

★ PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ★

Nominee's name:

Please describe in detail below the nominee's high school community service record. Use additional sheets if necessary.

Name of volunteer organization:

Dates involved (example: 1/03 – 5/03):

Total volunteer  
hours:

Describe activities and accomplishments:

Name of volunteer organization:

Dates involved (example: 1/03 – 5/03):

Total volunteer  
hours:

Describe activities and accomplishments:

Name of volunteer organization:

Dates involved (example: 1/03 – 5/03):

Total volunteer  
hours:

Describe activities and accomplishments:

Name of volunteer organization:

Dates involved (example: 1/03 – 5/03):

Total volunteer  
hours:

Describe activities and accomplishments:

(Use additional sheets if necessary.)

(Optional) List any other information our judges should know about the nominee and his or her volunteer community service record:

# VEP Community Calendar

March / April 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
13 Start DSL— Move Clocks Forward One Hour	14 PI Day! 	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18	19
20	21	22 VEP General Meeting 7:30— Vistapark Community Room	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1 April Fool's Day 	2
3	4	5 VEP Executive Meeting 7:00— Vistapark Community Room	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Palm Sunday	18	19 Passover begins 	20	21	22 Good Friday 	23

# THE VEP NEWS



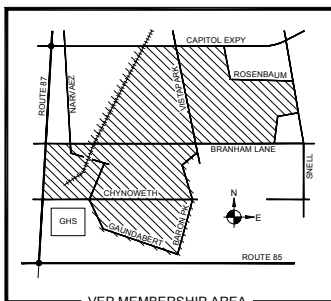
## VEP Community Association

P.O. Box 18111 San Jose, CA 95158  
Email: [vepca@vepca.net](mailto:vepca@vepca.net) Website: [www.vepca.net](http://www.vepca.net)

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.

### VEP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Let us know at [vep@vepca.net](mailto:vep@vepca.net).



Check our website: [www.vepca.net](http://www.vepca.net)

Community Room

Vista Park

in the

7:30 pm

March 22nd Meeting

VEP's

Be sure to attend