

V.E.P. News

REPRESENTING THE 2200 RESIDENTS OF VISTAPARK,
ENCORE, ECHO VALEY, BLOSSOM HEIGHTS, AND PARKVIEW VALLEY

DECEMBER, 1976

The next meeting of VEP is this coming Wednesday, December 8, at the Gunderson High School Faculty Lounge, 7:30 PM. Please plan to be there.

SPECIAL AGENDA

LIGHT RAIL - - An update on results of petitions and surveys since the November VEP meeting, including an overview of present status at City and County levels. Special emphasis is planned for the organization of VEP's presentation to the City Council on December 21. The County Transportation Agency will be represented to present its case for the City Council's final decision. VEP must be well prepared at represented at the meeting in force!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the Holiday Season approaches, we find time to reflect upon family, friendships, and the accomplishments of the waning year. It is a time for happiness, for giving without regard for return, for fresh starts, for slowing the hectic pace, for brotherhood; a frame of reference in a world sometimes seemingly mad - - an annual reminder of the goodness in all of us.

The joys of giving and of brotherhood are the rewards of being actively involved in a homeowners group.

*"There is a destiny that makes us brothers
None goes his way alone,
All that we send into the lives of others
Comes back into our own."*

Markham

Speaking for your Executive Board, I wish each of you health and happiness during the Holidays and every success in the New Year! It is our great pleasure to work with and for your - our friends.

Dave Fadness
VEP President

LIGHT RAIL ON LICK BRANCH?

PUBLIC HEARINGS AT CITY COUNCIL

DEC. 21, 1976 • CITY HALL • 7:30 P.M.

FINAL DECISION. BE THERE!

CRACKED DRIVES AND WALKS

If the concrete poured by your developer is severely damaged by natural forces, we're still waiting to hear from you. (To date, response has been quite poor.) VEP may wish to involve itself in seeking help if an adequate number of homeowners respond. Call Dave Fadness at 578-6428, or attend the next business meeting this Wednesday.

BROKEN WATER PIPES

If you have to repair the water pipe between your home and the meter, or if you already have, be sure to retain the receipts for all expenses incurred, whether the work was done by yourself or by a contractor.

Call Dave Fadness at 578-6428 for help if you need to make such repairs. Dave can find reputable help, provide advice for do-it-yourselfers, and MAY be able to qualify you for a refund of up to 50% of the expenses. (Here's one good reason for joining VEP!)

PARKS

Scheduled presentation on Parkview I and Parkview III had to be postponed due to the unexpected length of the light rail discussion involving the SP Lick Branch right of way during the VEP November meeting. These topics have been tentatively rescheduled for review at the February business meeting. At that time, it is expected that the parks and recreation group will have a final design presentation for Parkview I. It will be particularly appropriate to have city officials present to hear our opinions concerning Parkview III, as well as Vistapark. This rescheduling, then, will probably work to VEP advantage.

Apologies to those who attended in November for the specific purpose of the parks discussion. Special apologies are extended to Marsha Ash and Ross Martinez, two area residents whose energies have been dedicated to progress on the long-awaited Parkview III. VEP will schedule the parks discussion early on the agenda in February.

VEP News is printed by The Printing Factory, Inc., 3084 Lawrence Expressway . . .735-0390

JOIN VEP FOR 1977

The 1977 VEP Homeowners Association membership drive is now underway. If you have prepared your check as requested last month, all you need do is place it in the enclosed envelope and mail it. The small annual dues of \$4.00 are probably the new year's best bargain.

Some of the association aims and activities are outlined on the enclosed envelope. VEP goals are community wide on three levels.

- The immediate VEO Country area
- The surrounding areas affecting VEP
- The city and county area-wide general planning and development

Your homeowners association is involved in many activities on behalf of VEP residents - park planning, street planning and development, Operation Identification, Operation Neighborhood Watch, Block Parents, school safety and student transportation, transit development, school/community relations, builders' warranties, etc. These are areas in which VEP has been and is currently active. The "etc." refers to other areas that you, our members, would like to see VEP enter. A comment section has been included on the membership envelope so you may voice your opinion.

During eight years of community involvement, VEP has become very proficient in directing area problems to responsible public and private agencies and turning these problems into opportunities for the appropriate agency to perform a valuable community service.

The main goal of the association and the officers of the association is to serve the community needs in accordance with the desires of the VEP membership. Join, be active, help us - as a group - help you - as an individual.

VEP NEWS January Deadline: December 31

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(Block Reps)

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Treasurer. Chris Braud 225-9135

COMMUNITY TO OPPOSE LICK BRANCH LIGHT RAIL PROPOSAL AT DECEMBER 21st CITY COUNCIL HEARING

At the November VEP meeting, there was standing room only as members of the community gathered to hear how light rail would affect their community. Bob Pine of VEP gave a presentation on the serious impact that light rail would have on the community, particularly in the areas of extreme and prolonged noise, severe ground vibration, the negative visual impact of overhead wires, and the very serious safety hazard for VEP children. Louis Montini, deputy director of country transportation development, Frank Escobar, and David Minister spoke for Santa Clara County. Councilman Larry Pegram of the San Jose City Council voiced his opposition to the Lick Branch light rail. Also present was Frank Beil, aide to Supervisor Rod Diridon, a well-known advocate for light rail in the county. A meeting with Diridon and VEP representatives Dave Fadness, Bob Braud, Bob Pine, and Al Bender has been scheduled for November 29 to outline the community opposition to the light rail plans.

For two weeks during November, hard-working volunteers walked the VEP area to obtain signatures on petitions to both the SJ City Council and the SC County Board of Supervisors. Special thanks go to Pam Hopkins, Shirley Wreyford, Dave Parks, Tec La Scola and the other dedicated volunteers. Over 1000 signatures were obtained from streets near the Lick Branch. If you did not have the opportunity to sign these petitions, you will be able to do so at the December 8 VEP special Light Rail meeting.

While gathering signatures, the volunteers also obtained information about an alternative for future use of the Lick Branch right-of-way. The results of the canvas will be announced at the December 8 meeting.

Also, the VEP Local Transportation Committee met recently to work out some positive alternative uses for the 100 foot Lick Branch right-of-way after Southern Pacific pulls out, assuming they can. A long list of alternative plans was drawn up, with private individual ownership by adjacent homeowners or flood control canal high on the list of priorities.

At the VEP December 8 Special Light Rail Meeting plans will be made for the December 21 hearing. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO ALL VEP RESIDENTS THAT VEP HAVE A VERY LARGE SHOWING OF OPPOSITION AT THE DECEMBER 21ST HEARING! IT is *very strange* that the scheduled hearing date of December 7 was changed to December 21, *right after VEP began to voice strong opposition* to the Lick Branch light rail plan. Some have queried: "Boy, isn't this a political move to kill our opposition drive! Who't going to come to a meeting on December 21st?" To counter, we can say: "OK! We'll show them we *can* get to a December 21st meeting in *large numbers* to oppose light rail on the Lick Branch despite these political games!"

If you are opposed to light rail on the Lick Branch, you have a responsibility to yourself and your family to voice that opposition on December 21. If you are *not* present, the City Council will assume that you *want* light rail on the Lick Branch. It is up to YOU. . . if VEP opposition is strong with large numbers, we can win . . . it is up to YOU . . . Dec 21.

Bob Pine
Chairman pro tem
VEP Local Transportation
Committee

RENATO KING OF THE PIZZA

TWO CONVENIENT LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU

WILLOW GLEN SHOPPING CENTER
2306 ALMADEN ROAD
* 266-8780 *



1711 H McKEE ROAD
CORNER OF KING ROAD
* 259-6870 *

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RENATO MONTE, OWNER
(VEP MEMBER)

VISTA PARK: FURNACE LAW SUIT UPDATE

As reported in the October issue of VEP News, we have refrained from distributing the law suit settlement money until we are convinced that Heatwell Manufacturing (the furnace manufacturer) is going to honor the extended warranty outlined in the court settlement.

We have had a series of personal meetings and telephone conversations and feel all the existing claims under the warranty will be resolved by early December. Thus, barring other problems, the checks should all be in the mail by Christmas time. We received as a cash settlement about 80% of the actual cash losses. After returning 100% of the money to those homeowners who contributed cash to the furnace fund for attorney fees and certain other expenses, those who had cash losses for exchanger replacement will receive 50% of their out-of-pocket expenses. This, combined with the 4-year extended warranty, and the other provisions of the settlement provide Vistapark homeowners with an excellent settlement.

The following is a full accounting of the Vistapark Furnace Fund. Since VEP sued with the Hidden Glen Homeowners Association, a new account has been opened in order to distribute the settlement money.

VISTAPARK LEGAL FUND ACCOUNTING:

INCOME

Legal Fund	\$ 1,665.12	
Stipulation # 1	320.00	

TOTAL INCOME	\$ 1,985.12	\$ 1,985.12
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EXPENSES

Legal Expenses	\$ 1,283.00
Printing	245.73
Postage	37.15
Miscellaneous	37.15

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,599.03	(\$ 1,599.03)
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TRANSFERRED TO HIDDEN GLEN-VISTAPARK LEGAL FUND	\$ 386.09
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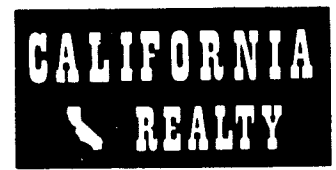
Bob Braud
Plaintiff for Vistapark
225-9135



George Cain
REALTOR ASSOCIATE
(VEP MEMBER)

— BUYING - SELLING - INVESTING —
SERVING YOU
IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING I DO.
BE A WELL INFORMED VEP OWNER
ASK FOR A FREE MARKET RESEARCH
— PUT ME TO WORK FOR YOU —

DAY 226-9000 NITE 226-8804



DOYLE CUMMINGS PLUMBING

BROKEN WATER PIPE? DOYLE IS AWARE OF THE PROBLEM OF WATER PIPE FAILURES BETWEEN METER AND HOMES AND HAS DEVELOPED A SPECIALIZED TECHNIQUE ALLOWING HIM TO DO EACH JOB FASTER, WITH MINIMAL LAWN DAMAGE, AND AT A CONSIDERABLY LOWER PRICE. CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE.

* EVERY JOB BACKED BY A 10-YEAR
UNCONDITIONAL WARRANTY *

WHATEVER YOUR PLUMBING NEEDS, CALL

259-2586

COMMUNITY CALENDAR EVENTS

DEC

- 7 SJ City Council, 1:30 & 7:30 PM at SJ City Hall
- 7 Carson Home/School Exec Board Meeting, 7:30 PM at Carson School
- 8 VEP General Meeting, 7:30 PM, Gunderson
- C 9 SJ Unified Board Meeting, 7:30 PM at 1605 Park Avenue, SJ
- 9 Parkview School Winter Concert, 7:30 PM
- 9 Belden Home/School Exec Board Meeting, 7:30 PM at Belden School
- 14 Parkview Home/School Exec Board Meeting, 7:30 PM at Parkview School
- 14 Belden School Christmas Program at Gunderson High - time to be announced
- 14 SJ City Council, 1:30 & 7:30 PM at SJ City Hall
- 15 Steinbeck School Christmas Festival, 7:30 PM at Steinbeck
- 16 Carson School Christmas Program, 7:30 PM at Carson School
- 16 Oak Grove School District Board Meeting, 7:30 PM
- 21 SJ City Council, 1:30 & 7:30 PM at SJ City Hall, BE THERE 7:30 - LIGHT RAIL!

JAN

- 4 Community of Gunderson Meeting, 7:30 PM
- 6 SJ Unified Board Meeting, 7:30 PM at 1605 Park Avenue, SJ

BLOCK PARENT PROGRAM

Response to requests for volunteers for the worthwhile block parent program have been very good. Although we have many new Block Parents, there are still many streets without the familiar yellow and black sign - a beacon to children in distress.

If you haven't mailed your application form from last months NEWS, why not do it today? It is simple, and the program takes little, if any, of your time, and you don't have to be home all day every day. The Block Parent program helps guarantee the safety of our neighborhoods for children. It is effective and is established for action in emergencies only. For information or an application, contact your school office or your coordinato

Patty LaFleur (Belden)	226-8140
Rosemary Capitalo (Carson)	265-1561
Carole Wilson (Parkview)	226-2477

STUDENT DESIRES WORK - Cleans pools & checks chemicals, \$1. Cleans filter, \$1. Call George Marks, 225-8195.

FOR SALE - Home made Barbie Doll outfits, \$.50 each, Call Flo Sayer, 225-8583.

RICH'S GARDENING - Clean yard, haul trash, trimming, mowing, guaranteed work. Call for rates, Rich Baronni, 225-0563.

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

SCHOOL AND EDUCATION NEWS

BELDEN SITE DEVELOPMENT - A committee for developing the Belden property, is being organized. Volunteers are urgently needed. Contact Chairman Jim Wendling at 578-0266.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS - Schedules for all of the local schools Christmas programs are in this month's calendar. Please attend.

TEACHER'S ACTIVITIES - On November 18, 1976, the San Jose Teachers Association, newly elected bargaining agent for the SJ District's 2000 classroom teachers, submitted its first contract proposal to district trustees. Arguments related to the proposal were to be aired first by SJTA officials on November 29, then by the public November 30, and finally by the trustees at a time yet to be set. Major features of the contract proposal are:

- 10.1% salary increases for certificated personnel, adding \$3.2 million to salary
- Binding arbitration of grievances, a factor dropped from the original proposal for collective bargaining in the state legislature.
- Reduction in class size in elementary schools from 31 to 22, adding \$4.2 million in cost for 250 new teachers. (No figures were given for new rooms.)
- Additional preparation time for elementary teachers, estimated to mean \$2.2 million for 130 more teachers.
- A 7-hour maximum work day, overtime for extra hours & reduced time with students.
- Retroactive benefits.
- Teacher evaluation of administration.
- Right to ban disruptive students.

Any decision reached by the Board of Trustees, if unacceptable to the SJTA, could result in a teachers strike. At best, the resulting 2-year contract will cost the taxpayer a LOT of money. At worst, the taxpayer may pay MORE for LESS education.

BRANHAM LANE STILL NOT OPENED!

Another month has passed without progress toward opening Branham Lane at Canoas Creek and the SP rail crossing. The SP stubbornly refuses any agreement short of abandonment. The city waits powerlessly for a decision by the ICC, hoping to avoid an expensive crossing gate. The county wants abandonment AND a crossing gate - to stop traffic for their light rail abomination. VEP wants abandonment, PERIOD, with NO FUTURE transportation usage. VEP wants Branham Lane and an end to the hassle.

It looks like the whole issue of abandonment rests in Washington. You can help to expedite action by writing to:

Mr. Philip Israel
Deputy Director of Finance
Interstate Commerce Commission
Washington, DC 20423

Keep the pressure on. Be sure to mention in your letter that there is not opposition to abandonment as long as the right of way is not be used for future transportation purposes.

OGAN AND PEARL SIGNAL STILL WAITING

The additional left turn signal for Southbound Pearl Avenue traffic is being delayed by hardware shortages. The public works department estimates installation shortly after the first of the year.

Until then, please be very careful at this extremely dangerous intersection.

NORMANDIN CHRYSLER-PLYMOUTH

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(AT PEARL)

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