

V.E.P. News

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

February 1977

The next meeting of the VEP Homeowners Association will be held this coming Wednesday, February 9, at 7:30 PM in the Forum at Gunderson High School. It is open to all VEP members and residents of the VEP area. Please plan to be there. It is informative!

AGENDA

- School Board Candidates Night (see below)
- Nominations for 1977-78 VEP Officers

61.8% OF YOUR PROPERTY TAXES GO TO SCHOOLS
(WHETHER OR NOT YOU HAVE CHILDREN IN SCHOOL)
DO YOU KNOW THE ISSUES AND YOUR SCHOOL BOARD? DO YOU CARE?

School district representation divides our membership area along Vistapark Drive. To the East we have the Oak Grove Elementary School District and East Side Union High School District. These represent Parkview Elementary, Herman Jr. High, and Andrew Hill High School. West of Vistapark Drive, there is one school district, the San Jose Unified School District, represented by Belden and Carson Elementary, Steinbeck Jr. High, and Gunderson High School.

In order to accommodate the different issues and candidates from these districts, there will be TWO meetings the night of February 9, both at 7:30 PM. The Candidates Night for those in the San Jose Unified School District will be held in the Forum at Gunderson High. For those living east of Vistapark Drive, please come to Parkview Elementary School, 330 Bluefield Drive. Both meetings will feature school board candidates and both will have interesting keynote speakers to help in this effort to improve community understanding and involvement in education.

Randy Saugstad, Principal of Parkview Elementary, will lead off the meeting at Parkview. His topic will be the special revenue limit increase at stake in the Oak Grove District. John W. Anderson, President of the Santa Clara County School Boards Association and a member of the Santa Clara Unified School Board, will introduce the evening agenda at Gunderson with a discussion of the authority and limitation of school boards.

The March 8 election pits eleven candidates for two vacancies on the SJUSD board and twelve candidates for three openings in the East Side Union District. A special revenue limit increase is at stake in the Oak Grove District where nine candidates vie for three board positions.

Cooperating with VEP in urging voter turn-out are Belden, Carson, Parkview, Steinbeck, and Gunderson parent-teacher organizations. Avail yourselves of this opportunity to meet the candidates and discuss the issues before going to the polls. Let's have a 100% voter turn-out from VEP Country on March 8!

SCHOOL NEWS AND DEVELOPMENTS

● BELDEN - The Belden Home and School Club is sponsoring a wine tasting event at Meadows Cabana Club, 3983 Lux Court, Saturday, February 12 from 7:30 to 10:30 PM. Tickets for this event are on sale now and will be available at the VEP Candidate's Night meeting February 9 at \$1.50 each. Please take advantage of this fun way to get acquainted and win valuable door prizes while contributing to the worthwhile goals of this parent group.

Belden student and artist Jeff Snell designed the cover for the new Belden Cookbook. A fangastric buy - now on sale at \$2.00 each. Call Susan Fuchs at 226-6903.

● Carson - The Carson Home and School Club will feature a Historical Program on February 15 at 7:30 PM in the Multi-Purpose Room at Carson. The students will act out various historical events for your enjoyment in this free program. Come, see your kids, meet your neighbors, have fun!

The Club will hold its monthly executive board meeting on February 8 at 7:30 PM in the Faculty Room. The public is welcomed to attend.

Tickets are currently on sale on a reservation basis through the Carson group for the Parkview School Spring Carnival. (See below.) Proceeds from these sales will be retained for various educational needs at Carson School.

Future Home and School Club plans include an adult wine tasting party sponsored as a fund raiser and mixer for parents and teachers. Watch for announcements related to this event.

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

Be sure to attend the Candidates Night presentation at Parkview School on February 9 at 7:30 PM. (See story on front page.) Your understanding of the special revenue increase issue and knowledge of the school board candidates will be greatly enhanced.

The monthly meeting of the Parkview Executive Board will be held at 7:45PM on February 22. Call Edythe Fehling at 578-9682 for details.

● STEINBECK - The Steinbeck School and Community Organization could use your help on various committee assignments, including their annual Pancake Breakfast. Please show your support by calling Kay Virgilio at 227-3168. If everyone helps a little, no one needs to work a lot.

● GUNDERSON - Community of Gunderson urgently needs help on their Site Beautification Committee. Especially important at this time is that a professional landscape architect be contracted to lay out comprehensive plans. The SJUSD has some money available for this, but not enough. Donations are solicited from VEP and its membership. If you want to help, have a few dollars to contribute, or are or know an architect, please contact chairman Don Loncasty at 265-5849 or Unit Principal Norris Hill at 998-6340.

BLOCK PARENT PROGRAM

Block Parent Coordinators met with VEP at the home of Rosemary Capitalo on January 18 to discuss recruitment progress for this school year. We are proud to announce that significant progress is being made toward our goal of having every street covered by at least one Block Parent. Each school now has more than fifty Block Parents; last year we only had about 50 total.

The January 9th Mercury-News stated in a feature article on Child Molesting that "In a (recent) three month period in San Jose, 36 cases of child molesting were reported." That averages 12 per month! It can happen in our neighborhood to our children. Attempts here have already been reported and, according to that article, many cases are not reported to avoid implication of family, friends, and neighbors.

It takes only a few minutes to fill out an application and chances are, you will never be called upon. Did you know that streets with many Block Parent signs will deter not only child molesters, but other criminals as well because they do not want to be identified and know that Block Parents are alert and aware.

Block Parent success to date is a tribute to the following local women for their hard work, and to the community for recognizing the importance of the Program.

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

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

Belden School Area Note: The following streets have NO Block Parents--- Birmingham Court, Fort Royal Place, Hornblower Court, Muirhouse Place, Narvaez, New Ireland Court, Pure Court, Royal Gate Place, Rutherglen Place, Sussex Park Court, Tarrytown Court, Tottenham Court, Turnberry Place, and Wellington Park Court. If your street was mentioned, do your part to protect our children--BECOME A BLOCK PARENT.

NEW POLICE TELEPHONE NUMBERS - KEEP THESE HANDY AT ALL TIMES

For routine reports, call the Information Center at 277-5300.

If you need help right away call the Emergency Number 297-3565.

Telephone stickers are available at all VEP general membership meetings.

RENATO

KING of the PIZZA.

NOW, TWO LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU

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● AND 1711 MCKEE AT KING RD - 259-6870

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STREETS UPDATE

● SNELL/ROSENBAUM - Continuing improvements at this dangerous intersection are expected through the month of February. A work order has been submitted by the Department of Public Works to paint a right turn lane on Snell for south-bound traffic and a center line on Rosenbaum up to this intersection. No word yet on progress by the City Council toward an established and posted speed limit on Snell.

● PEARL/OGAN - Despite the addition of signalization and overhead lighting there, this intersection continues to be the scene of serious accidents. Discussion between the City and new retail tenants at Oakridge Mall, once showing promise for a complete realignment of Pearl to eliminate those dangerous sharp bends, now centers on a plan to merely widen the existing roadbed to 4-lanes. VEP feels that this would be ridiculous, but the City sees it as a no-cost alternative since the widening would be paid for in its entirety by the new Oakridge tenants, while a complete realignment and widening would require additional City funds and condemning some additional land. The City is hesitant to condemn and claims not to have the required money. The resulting plan merely defers the ultimate need for realignment to a day when no outside money will be available.

Write or call your Councilmen--let them know what you think. In the meantime, please be careful!

● BRANHAM/LICK BRANCH - The City, PUC, and SPRR are expected to reach a formal agreement which may result in the opening of Branham Lane as early as the third week this month.

● SCHOOL CROSSINGS - All new crossings are now complete in the Carson area. Please make special note of all such crossings, urge your children to use these exclusively, and be sure to heed their warnings when behind the wheel.

REMEMBER - The speed limit in VEP neighborhoods is 25 MPH.

Please observe this limit.

● For Sale - Olive green Tappan dishwasher \$30. Needs some repair. Good for parts. Call 227-5908.

● Odd jobs - specialty is pool work. Call George Marks, 225-8195.

● For Sale - Antique brocade silk drapery and valance. Fits Olympic or Columbia. Excellent condition. Call Kim Davis at 265-0560 or 226-8668.

● Babysitting - Trisa at 578-6292
Smita at 578-3238
Julie at 226-4787
Jayme at 226-4787

Dear Editor:

V.E.P. has rarely endorsed a candidate for any election. However, with the upcoming San Jose Unified School Board election, I would urge those voters in V.E.P. Country west of Vistapark Drive to strongly consider Dave Fadness as a member of the Board. Dave has been active with the Carson School Home and School Club, the San Jose Alliance of Homeowner Associations and, ofcourse, our President. He has led V.E.P. through its finest year and will be an independent and sound fiscal thinker (and voter) on the school board. Since each V.E.P. family pays about \$7500 a year to the school district we should all be lining up at Dave's door asking how we can help. I'm asking the Editor to print this letter in both the February and March issues of "VEP News". Dave could use two votes from each household!

Bob Braud
Past V.E.P. President

V.E.P. Homeowners Association

P.O. BOX 18111 SAN JOSE, CA 95158

VEP NEWS March Deadline: February 22

Editor.....Ib Larsen 578-6292
Asst. Editor.....John Marks 225-8195

President.....Dave Fadness 578-6428
1st VP....Diane Christensen 578-5231
(Block Reps)
3rd VP.....Bob Ward 224-0281
Secretary....Larry LaFleur 226-8140
Treasurer.....Chris Braud 225-9135

ALVIN L. SPIVAK
1913 QUEBEC WAY
SAN JOSE, CA 95124
TELE: 377-1316 January 13, 1977

V.E.P. News
c/o Ib Larsen
589 Hyde Park Dr.
San Jose, CA

Editor:

Sooner or later, someone from your area is going to visit a place where Light Rail service is provided. Maybe it'll be the Philadelphia suburbs, Shaker Heights (an exclusive Cleveland suburb), Europe, or even San Francisco. When they do, they'll note that the electric cars make very little noise. They may see how inconspicuous the track and its single contact wire are (especially when compared to the usual busy highway). They'll note that the electric cars are providing a highly-appreciated travel mode, and one which fits quite well into residential areas.

When that happens, V.E.P. people will realize that they've been fooled -- and that they've been deprived of a useful and attractive transit facility. They will then, of course, be quite unhappy with those who misled them. And "misleading", unfortunately, has been noted in the V.E.P. Light Rail arena. As an example, note the letter in the January issue of the V.E.P. News -- in particular, its claim that "present plans call for an increase in property taxes for homes close to the line". This is not true. There has been a federal guideline set up that suggests that new transit be financed in part by "recapturing" the increased tax yield resulting from increased property values on land surrounding stations -- but that's ALL. If, as V.E.P. leadership has claimed, land values will be reduced as a result of the new transit line, then there is no increased value to be recaptured. They simply can't be right both ways, can they?

I hope that all folks who are truly interested in better transportation, better communities, and better life quality in our valley will investigate the Light Rail matter for themselves. That's the only way that well-founded decisions can be made. One simple way would be to go to San Francisco, to see and hear the old Light Rail cars in action -- and realize that the modern ones proposed for Santa Clara County will be even better.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Alvin L. Spivak
Alvin L. Spivak, for the
Light Rail Coalition

EDITOR'S NOTE: HUMBUG!

TWO DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR!
One is February 23, when the Transportation Commission will make its recommendations on the Light Rail Feasibility and Alternatives Analysis study. The other date is March 7 when the Board of Supervisors will make their final decision on this vital topic. Of course, the public is urged to attend and let these two bodies know what is wanted.

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VEP MEMBER

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Could it be that a whole year has passed already?! How well I remember trying to look inconspicuous that night as Carmen Filice scanned his audience for volunteers. Sure, I'd come to meetings before -- spouted off my concerns, then waited for my homeowners group to do something about them. Carmen's eyes rested on me, then asked the question. The group's gaze shifted my way. My wife nudged her disapproval. My lazy nature asked, "PRESIDENT? YOU?!" I heard my mouth say, "Uh...okay." That, friends, is one of the most rewarding decisions of my life. My selfish lack of involvement ended that night as I stepped out of my small world into a sphere of new friendships and personal satisfaction-- MY community.

The same opportunity is now yours. What will YOU make of it? Our nominating committee has already put together an impressive slate of VEP officers for 1977-78. Nominations will be accepted from the floor during our meeting on February 9, then be closed--you will have to lose another year of your life before another chance avails itself unless you step forward now. DO IT! Elections follow at our March meeting.

Speaking of elections, don't forget to GET OUT AN VOTE ON MARCH 8. We would like a 100 % turn-out of well-informed school board voters. Our Candidates Night meetings this month will help you know both candidates and issues. Join the trend toward increased personal involvement and expertise in public education. Your kids and money are at stake.

We'll be asking you to voice your opinion on Light Rail again as the final vote is taken by the County Board of Supervisors on March 7. Will you please help as you did on December 21? Thanks.

VEP needs your continuing involvement in YOUR community. A VEP membership is THE important first step. The effectiveness of this successful volunteer organization is directly proportional to your contribution, in the form of membership and participation. Please join VEP; we need you. See you Wednesday evening.

Dave Fadness, President

HOME ALERT PROGRAM

At last month's general membership meeting, Officers Neil Payne and Frank Kossick of the San Jose Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit gave an introduction to the HOME ALERT Program (formerly the NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH Program) for which VEP has been selected as a pilot study group. The officers have asked for two more meetings with the general membership in order to implement the Program in the community. The next informational meeting on HOME ALERT will be in March at which time they will show a film related to home security and VEP will be responsible at that time to set up a Block Captain representation in the neighborhoods to start the Program rolling. Once the Program is underway, the date for the final follow-up meeting will be determined. Please watch for future announcements related to this important Program.

PLUMBING NEEDS?

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MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

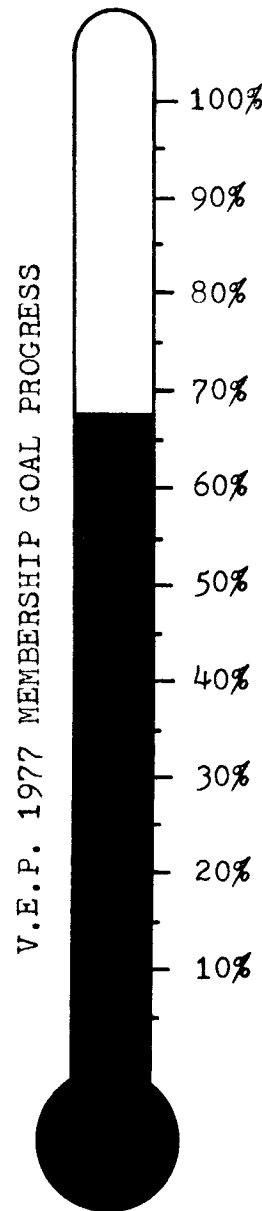
Thank you to everyone who joined the VEP Homeowners Association in response to our December Newsletter item and the furnace suit mailing.

Several membership facts may need refreshing - membership is on a yearly basis January through December. New residents will have their membership dues pro-rated on a quarterly basis for the first year they live in VEP Country - all others pay the full annual dues on a January-December basis even if they joined late the preceding year. Paid-up members run the Association through the officers of the Association. Only members may vote on Association business matters including the election of officers. New officers will be elected in March 1977.

If you like what is being done by the Association, join and have a voice in continuing these activities. If you don't like what has been going on, join so you can recommend and vote on new activities, directions, and goals. In any event, join and help the new officers keep the VEP Homeowners Association an association in which we can all share pride.

NOW IS THE TIME TO JOIN VEP FOR THE COMING YEAR. ONLY \$4.00 ANNUAL DUES FOR YOUR OWN COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION. BE HEARD AND REPRESENTED IN IMPORTANT NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENTS. JOIN VEP. SEND YOUR CHECK TO:

VEP HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
 PO BOX 18111
 SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA 95158



- Found - Black female Poodle puppy, Tuesday January 25 near Gunderson. Has red collar with bell, age about 4-6 months. Call 578-6292.
- Love and attention - Licensed child care for your children. Perfect location 1/2 block from Gunderson, 2 blocks from Belden. Call 578-9133.
- For Sale - Woven wood blinds, new "Privatized". Fits Park Royale kitchen and diningroom. Also custom oil portraits. Call 227-9651.
- For sale - Odyssey 100 TV game, like new \$20 or best offer. Also, large fully insulated dog house \$20. Call 225-9135.

● C O M M U N I T Y C A L E N D A R ●

- FEB 8 -Carson Home & School Executive Board Meeting - 7:30 PM at Carson
-SJ City Council - 1:30 & 7:00 PM, Council Chambers, SJ City Hall
- FEB 9 -SJUSD School Board Candidates Night (VEP)-7:30 PM at Gunderson
-Oak Grove School Board Candidates Night-7:30 PM at Parkview
- FEB 10 -Oak Grove School Board Meeting-7:30 PM, Oak Grove District Office
- FEB 12 -Belden Wine Tasting-7:30 to 10:30 PM at Meadows Cabana Club
- FEB 14 -Community of Gunderson General Membership Meeting-7:30 PM in
Gunderson Forum
- FEB 15 -Carson Home & School General Membership Meeting-7:30 PM at Carson
-SJ City Council - 1:30 & 7:00 PM, Council Chambers, SJ City Hall
- FEB 17 -SJUSD School Board Meeting-7:30 PM at 1605 Park Avenue, SJ
- FEB 18 -VEP Executive Board Meeting-7:00 PM at Fadness', 445 Stratford
Park Court
- FEB 22 -Parkview School Community Association Board Meeting-7:45 PM,
place to be announced
-SJ City Council - 1:30 & 7:00 PM, Council Chambers, SJ City Hall
- FEB 23 -Santa Clara County Transportation Commission final recommendation
on Light Rail
- FEB 24 -Oak Grove School Board Meeting-7:30 PM, Oak Grove District Office
- MAR 1 -SJ City Council - 1:30 & 7:00 PM, Council Chambers, SJ City Hall
- MAR 4,5 & 6 -Spring Carnival at Parkview School, 330 Bluefield Drive
- MAR 7 -Final Decision on Light Rail, County Board of Supervisors--VEP
course of action to be announced
- MAR 8 -County-wide School Board Election - GET OUT AND VOTE!
- MAR 9 -VEP General Membership Meeting - ELECTION OF OFFICERS - 7:30 PM
at Gunderson

ATTENTION: Carson Home & School Club is in need of various prizes for the "Fun Fair" to be held at Parkview School on March 4, 5 & 6. Businesses donating prizes will receive free advertising at the "Fun Fair". Donations will benefit you and your community. Call Barbara Erling at 225-7598.

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