

VEP NEWS

February 16, 1979

REPRESENTING OVER 2000 HOMEOWNERS IN VISTAPARK,
ENCORE, ECHO VALLEY, BLOSSOM HEIGHTS, AND PARKVIEW VALLEY

The next meeting of the VEP Homeowners' Association will be Monday, February 19, at 7:30 pm, in the Mercury Savings Bank located on Blossom Hill Road at Pearl Avenue (next to Angels).

AGENDA

- Short Business Meeting
- EIR Update on Proposed Apartment Complex at Capitol and Snell
- Update on Light Rail Proposal
- Discussion of Encore Home Electrical Problems

F E B R U A R Y M E E T I N G

The February meeting can be considered a "Concerned Community" meeting. We will be evaluating and proposing community action plans dealing with the above three items.

Arcadia Development Company is making a zoning request to the city to build 1,897 multi-family residential dwelling units and 20 duplex dwelling units on 78.2 acres. This complex is to be located on the South side of Capitol Expressway between Snell Avenue and Monterey Highway. The EIR hearing is currently scheduled for Wednesday, February 21 at City Hall. If you live near this area, you should be at this meeting.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In her State of the City Address delivered on January 22, Mayor Hayes indicated that the state of San Jose was uncertain. The reasons given for this uncertainty were the financial problems created by Proposition 13, the unquestionable need to control growth, the challenge of effectively implementing districting, the need for a viable economic city development plan and the need for more equitable distribution of the state sales tax between the cities.

In this speech she also made some commendable recommendations to resolve some of the above uncertainties. One of the strong recommendations was to seek citizen input on the solution of these problems. To this end, the council has voted to mail forms to the citizens of San Jose to let you and I decide which of our needed services we obviously did not want when we voted for Proposition 13.

My observations on the above procedure is that while Mayor Hayes and other of our local leaders make many glowing and encouraging remarks in speeches, there is seldom any follow through. For example, Mayor Hayes verbally supports controlled growth, downtown economic development and citizen input. Yet, she voted to commercially develop the Ainsley property in a manner that was against all three of her stated goals. It is our leaders actions that we must watch. Words, verbal or written, are simply outward expressions of inner thoughts not intents. It is the action that denotes the true intent not the words.

VEP is going before the city council to request that they not consent to the Santa Clara Valley Corridor Evaluation (SCVCE) in its present form. We have submitted a detailed written analysis of why we believe the SCVCE should not be passed and recommended some alternatives for our area. VEP is especially against light rail. The final recommendations in the SCVCE are inconsistent with its own analysis.

The above is citizen input, Mayor Hayes. We hope that you and the council hear us. We have heard your words.

James E. Cates
James E. Cates

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BROKEN WATER PIPES

Reports continue to "trickle" in regarding the replacement of broken water pipes between water meters and our homes. If your water bill has been suspiciously high of late, or there is obvious evidence of a leak (a soggy front lawn, the sudden appearance of a "water blister" there, etc.), you probably have a broken pipe. Check to be sure by simply turning off all the faucets in your home -- and see whether the meter is still registering flow. The meter is located under a concrete cover, usually in the parking strip between your front sidewalk and the street. Be sure you are checking your own meter, not your neighbor's!!

Replacement of the broken pipe can be a very messy job. If you opt to tackle the job yourself, remember that it is NOT necessary to remove the old pipe, but IT IS NECESSARY THAT YOU REPLACE THE ELECTRICAL GROUND WHICH THE ORIGINAL PIPE PROVIDED. This must be done whether or not you remove the old pipe. FAILURE TO CORRECTLY REPLACE THIS GROUND WILL POSE A SERIOUS THREAT TO YOUR FAMILY'S SAFETY.

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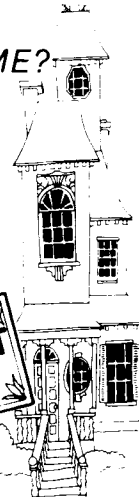
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ELECTION OF NEW VEP OFFICERS

At our March 19, VEP General Meeting, a new VEP Executive Board will be elected. This section is to notify you in advance so that you may send in the names of candidates for the board positions. You should consider running for an office yourself! With their consent you may nominate any of your neighbors that you believe would be interested in helping their own community and yours. The only qualification is that the person believe enough in the homeowner's association to join and become active. The position descriptions are as follows:

- President - Chief executive officer of the association
- 1st V. P. - Publishes monthly newsletter and supervises newsletter distribution system.
- 2nd V. P. - Supervises all committees
- 3rd V. P. - In charge of organizing and operating the new member drives and is chairperson of the Nominating Committee.
- Secretary - Keeps minutes of all general and Executive Board meetings. Handles VEP correspondence as necessary.
- Treasurer - Administers all monetary transactions of VEP and keeps orderly financial records.
- Editor - Under the direction of the 1st V. P. gathers the information articles for the VEP News and creates the newspaper.

Please mail all candidates' names to :

VEP Nominating Committee
P. O. Box 18111
San Jose, California 95158

The deadline for submitting a candidate's name is Monday, March 5.

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HOMEOWNERS AND RENTERS OF ENCORE HOMES

The Willow Glen 1 Association has become aware of what may be severe electrical problems; small receptacle or overhead-light fires, partial electrical loss, sparks, wire burning and blinking lights. Over 70% of the 300 homes surveyed have reported these problems.

A committee was formed to further investigate the problems. What has been found is startling. Our homes seem to be in constant danger of fire. This isn't a pretty picture, when one considers lives are at stake. We are not alarmists, but have heard of too many cases not to be concerned

The VEP meeting Monday February 19 is a crucial one for the committee. We will be able to see if people are really concerned about the problem. We have to know that the residents want us to pursue what might be a very long, possibly even expensive effort to remedy the situation. Problems other than electrical have been reported also.

If there is no real response, we will drop the issue, and hope that everyone will rewire their homes, at their own expense. This issue should not be taken lightly. Believe me, your property and possibly lives are at stake.

At the meeting we will discuss the engineers' findings, the legal point of view, and hopefully answer all questions. Especially "What is this going to do to the value of my house?" At that time we will also get problems down in written form and analyze them to see if they fit into what may be a pattern.

If you cannot make the meeting please call Kathy Scruggs at 226-2787, but PLEASE make every effort to attend.

Encore Home Safety Committee



THE VEP NEWS

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SANTA CLARA VALLEY CORRIDOR EVALUATION MEETING
by Marion Ward

It's February and there will be a few more storms, but Spring is right around the corner, so is light rail for South San Jose.

There was a preview of things to come at the January 18 VEP meeting held at Gunderson High School. If you missed the event, you missed the opportunity to see Mr. Jim Self, Vice-Mayor of San Jose, together with Mr. Rod Diridon and various staff members representing MTC, ABAG, etc. give what was later referred to in the press, as a workshop concerning the light rail situation possibilities for us. Many of us were there as were three City Council members. In the audience were Jerry Estruth, Iola Williams and Larry Pegram. Mrs. Williams and Mr. Estruth came to observe. Mr. Pegram seems to have come to debate with Mr. Self about the pros and cons of the streetcars running from IBM to downtown San Jose. No one seemed to be listening to the people, residents from South San Jose. We were very vocal and several leaders in our community spoke. We DO NOT want light rail with stations and parking lots for hundreds of cars along the way. We DO NOT want every vacant lot remaining, filled with apartments and condominiums. The experts did not say, but that is to insure that our area will be so impacted with people that no one will be able to back their cars out of their garages and the only choice will be to get on a streetcar.

On doing some private research, I found that Mr. Diridon, the hero of light rail, of course does not live in South San Jose. He feels, however, that streetcars are the answer for us because we live on the other side of town. He lives over in the Saratoga-Los Gatos area where most certainly a streetcar would taint the image of the pseudo-rich. The funny part of all this, is that his area is just as congested as ours, but he does not want a freeway either. Apparently it's elegant to be stuck in a lot of traffic when you are inside your Mercedes. Statistics show that streetcars become obsolete soon after implementation because of the expense involved, but Mr. Diridon, seems to feel that statistics can be wrong. So can you Mr. Diridon.

Originally the light rail problem was to come before the city council on Tuesday, January 30 in the afternoon session. But shortly after the workshop at Gunderson High School, it was deferred to February 6. First the hearing was scheduled for the afternoon session and not the evening session. Does that tell you anything? However, at VEP's request the council changed the meeting to 7 p.m. Did you know that if the federal government gives the funding for the light rail system, there will likely never be funding for a freeway system in this area? You can kiss the West Valley and Guadalupe Freeways goodbye.

A single voice is never heard. Many voices can cause a roar that will be heard. Be there and be heard.

FIELD DAY SURVEY

As you know, in the past, the VEP Homeowners Association has sponsored many events such as the Halloween, Easter Egg Hunt and Fourth of July Parade. The events were geared mainly towards the elementary school child. Last year we held an additional one for the first time called the Junior Olympics. We are now in the process of planning a similar event for this year to take place tentatively in April. The question has been raised, would it be better to have this event to serve all age groups? Similar to a Field Day or "Challenge of the Network Stars" type of event. With competition in different age groups such as adult, High School, Jr. High School and Elementary School. It would take place on the athletic field at Gunderson High School with refreshments and prizes. With participation it could be a lot of fun and an ongoing thing from year to year. We could have group competition such as a Tug of War between blocks or volley ball teams made up of neighbors, one block against the other. If you are in the least bit interested, please fill out the coupon below and bring it to our general meeting or mail it to VEP Homeowners Association, P. O. Box 18111, San Jose, Calif. 95118 or call Shirley Wreyford at 226-1560 Weekends only please.

*****COUPON FOR SURVEY*****

Are you interested in a Field Day Event? YES _____ NO _____

What age groups do you think it should include? (please list ages)

() () () () () () () () () () () ()

Would you or a family member consider taking part in one of the events? YES _____ NO _____

Is there a particular event you would like to see included? If yes, please list _____

Do you have any suggestions concerning VEP events in general? Please comment _____

Continued on page 8

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FIELD DAY SURVEY (Continued)

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LICENSED CHILD CARE - Ages, Three and up near Parkview School, lunch and snack provided, Call Norma at 629-0570.

CHILD CARE - Ages, three and up weekdays, near Parkview, call Mrs. Saroj, 226-7463.

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JENNY - Age 14, \$1/hr	578-1037
KARIN - Age 14, \$1/hr	226-8120
LANEL - Age 13, \$1/hr	227-8758
MEG - Age 15, \$1/hr	226-9339
SHARON- Age 16, \$1/hr	225-1791
VALERIE-Age 14. \$1/hr	226-6301
LISA - Age 11½, \$.75/hr	227-7196
DEE - Age 11½, \$.75/hr	225-4241

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GHS CARNIVAL

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