

VEP NEWS

March 19, 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, March 19, 1979, at 7:30 p.m., at Mercury Savings & Loan, located on Blossom Hill Road at Pearl Avenue (Next to Angels).

AGENDA

- Short Business Meeting
- Election of VEP Officers
- Presentation on Disaster Planning

M A R C H M E E T I N G

What would you do in case of an earthquake, flooding, air raid? COME TO THE VEP MEETING. Bob Black from the City of San Jose, Office of Emergency services will discuss what the homeowner can do to protect his family in case of disaster.

Also do not miss participating in the election of six VEP officers. These officers will run your organization for the next year. Come to the general meeting and show your support if you care.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This is my last message to you, my neighbors. My term will end on March 19, 1979 at our March general meeting. I hope I will see you there actively selecting your new officers for VEP's 79-80 year. All those among you who have disagreed with me or believed this or that should have been done can now come forward and actively influence your VEP team for the next twelve months. Do not miss this opportunity. Perhaps you can try it yourself! However, before I pass on to posterity, I would like to leave you with a few observations.

It has been stated that it is better to have the support of 100 fanatics than 100,000 lukewarm supporters when one is trying to accomplish a goal. We are constantly reading in the news media where the dedicated efforts of a faithful few have accomplished some end, good or bad, that the silent majority does not agree with. However, the silent majority is always in a reactionary mode rather than a preventive mode of operation. One can usually influence the outcome of any particular event that one becomes involved in while it is happening, not after it has happened. VEP needs a few fanatics who would like to improve the quality of life in their community.

The 1979 VEP Executive Board elections will be held during our March 19, 1979 VEP general meeting. The February issue of VEP NEWS described the duties of each of the positions. We are still enlisting your aid to help us find candidates for these positions. The only qualifications is that the person live within VEP boundaries, be a member of VEP and have a desire to help people in this community.

Each of you can help your community by making a commitment in at least one of the following areas:

1. Being a candidate for a VEP office.
2. Convincing someone else to be a candidate.
3. Supporting VEP by paying a four dollar membership fee.
4. Attending VEP general membership meetings the third Monday of each month to let your views be known.

Continued on page 4

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OFFICIAL VEP BALLOT - VOTE!

VEP elections will be held March 19, 1979. Only paid members may vote. Please bring this ballot to the March 19 meeting. Each household has two votes. Absentee ballots will be received until March 16 at our P. O. Box.

PRESIDENT	Al Bender	_____	THIRD VP	_____
WRITE-IN	_____	_____	SECRETARY	Cathy Melton
FIRST VP	_____	_____	WRITE-IN	_____
SECOND VP	Marion Ward	_____	TREASURER	Bill Johnson
WRITE-IN	_____	_____	WRITE-IN	_____

Note: Absentee voters must indicate name and address to verify membership in VEP
 NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____

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President's Message (Continued)

5. Volunteer to serve on VEP committees if requested.

If you live in VEP country and are not willing to do at least item four, DO NOT complain the next time a school, city, state or federal decision goes against your community's interest. You should consider VEP your community's lobbying representative. Remember no lobbying, no receiving of benefits (via political control decisions or allocating of funds to areas that would benefit our community). Of course, if enough of you supported all five activities, there would be no limit to the amount of community improvement that could be accomplished.

Some of the current community interest items are impact of Light Rail in the Edenvale area, completion of highways 85 and 87, various zoning requests before the city that will impact VEP, continuation of our VEP Field Day event, 79 Easter Parade, 79 Fourth of July Parade, input to the city financial priority setting as a result of Proposition 13 budget cuts, input to city implementation of districting, electrical problems with Encore homes and finally input to the city's general plan review. All of these things will affect you and your family. You could influence any one of them by contributing as little as four hours per month. If you really care, why won't you help!

Do not use the time excuse, I worked from 50-55 hours per week and still made time to actively support my community for a period of one year. You could do the same if you think it is needed. If you do not think the organization is needed then drop us a note to that effect also. I have extended the candidate deadline to 7:30 p.m., March 19. Bring your candidates or their names to the general meeting.

In summary, I and the Executive Board have enjoyed serving you this past year. I have learned a lot about our civic government, state government, school government and community. The VEP Executive Board has been able to help some of you and not help some of you. We have pleased some of you and vice versa. But, remember we are your neighbors, we have your best interest at heart. If it hurts you, it hurts us too. Come help us and we can learn together.

James E. Cates
James E. Cates

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1091 Foxworthy, Near Capitol & Almanden Expwy

HAZARDOUS ALUMINUM WIRING

If your home is one of approximately two million built between 1965 and 1973 having an aluminum wiring system, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has a free publication we urge you to obtain. Their pamphlet, "Do You Have An Electrical System With Aluminum Wiring?" is available upon request by writing to CPSC, Washington, D.C. 20207, or by calling their toll-free number (800) 638-2666.

CPSC has a lawsuit pending against 26 companies who manufactured hardware for such systems during that time period. Their suit asks the court to declare these products 'imminently hazardous'. It also demands that the manufacturers issue warnings to consumers and will require that repairs be made as needed to make their products safe.

The concern is over possible fires as a consequence of faulty connections. Due to the oxidation of aluminum wires at connections to outlets, switches, etc., the resistance to electrical current is increased. Resistance generates heat. Over a period of years this oxidation can worsen, leading to higher resistance and potentially enough heat to ignite nearby building materials.

If you think you have aluminum wiring that was installed between 1965 and 1973, CPSC advises that you have your home inspected by an experienced and qualified electrician. Be sure to follow his recommendations-- DO NOT try to make necessary repairs yourself! CPSC also advises that you watch for these warning signs:

- (1) Obvious evidence of a problem like strange odors (from burning plastic), smoke, sparks, or arcing at switches or outlets;
- (2) Noticeable warmth of cover plates on switches or outlets;
- (3) Lights that flicker periodically; and/or
- (4) The failure of any portion of your home wiring circuit.

Retain receipts for any repairs until after the terms of settlement of CPSC's lawsuit are known-- VEP will publish an update at that time.



THE VEP NEWS

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CANCELLATION OF VEP Field Day Event

Due to the fact that we received only one response to our Field Day survey, we are cancelling the event this year. If VEP residents want to have this event continued, they will have to let us know.

EASTER PARADE

Easter is just around the corner. If any of you would like to have an Easter Parade or some other Easter event for VEP parents & children, please drop us a note and let us know. Do not forget to send your name and telephone number if you are interested.

A NIGHT AT CITY HALL

The league of Women Voters are hosting "A Night At City Hall". All interested VEP residents are invited to attend. It is intended for people who are interested in our city and would like to know more about it. A Night At City Hall will be presented Thursday, April 19, at 7:45 p.m. in the San Jose City Council Chambers, 801 North First Street.

A Night At City Hall is an imaginative slide program designed to give citizens a working knowledge of their local government. It will provide basic information on how the process works, what powers are given by the charter, where the decisions are made and how a citizen can affect the process.

This is your chance to find out how city hall works and how you can influence it. We'll see you there!

SAN JOSE FAMILY CAMP

The City of San Jose owns and operates San Jose Family Camp, located on the middle fork of the Tuolumme River near Yosemite National Park in the Sierras (about 150 miles from San Jose).

This year's camping season opens Monday, June 18, and runs through Monday, September 3. Families may "check-in" at any time during the season, and are welcome to stay as long as they like. A well-trained staff is on duty and programs are offered for all ages and interests. Meals are served family style in the dining hall, so there is no food to prepare or dishes to wash. Tent-cabins are provided and can be furnished to accommodate from two to six persons.

For more information, call the Parks and Recreation office at 277-4661.

MY ARTICLE

By Marion Ward

The phone rang last night. I knew it was for me. Where is your article the phone asks. Article, what article I asked the phone back. Well, you always write an article for the paper. So where is it? What should I write about? Good grief! So, I talked it over with my partner and decided to write about apathy.

The dictionary defines apathy as absence or suppression of passion, emotion or excitement; lack of interest in or concern for things which others find moving or exciting; coolness and indifference. That pretty well defines the people of VEP. Unless their wallet is directly concerned, no one cares about what goes on, whether its in the neighborhood, downtown or in Washington, D. C. Everybody laughs about Billy Carter or comments about David Runyon, or snickers about Tom McEnery and his Vendome Hotel. Neighbors might even get together, have a beer and complain about other neighbors, traffic, schools and the price of gasoline, PG&E, ad nauseam.

Now interestingly enough, where a voice will make a difference, where people will make a difference . . . nobody is there. Where were you when the Planning Commission talked about the 1800 apartments going up on Capitol Expressway? Where were you when City Council was listening to public input about the trolley cars which are going to run through our neighborhood? Watching T. V.? Sleeping? Or worse yet, you probably didn't even know all this stuff was going on.

You know, that's what the public officials thrive on. They figure enough of you do not want to make the effort to come down and be heard, that they will slip through anything they want. You elected some of the people downtown. You elected them by not voting. Think about it, you can do that with your can of beer.

Recently a survey was conducted as to which was most dangerous; ignorance or apathy. One answer was "I don't know and I don't care." Is anybody out there? Show me you are out there and come to our meetings. Come to City Hall and be heard.

PLUMBING NEEDS?

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The developer has deferred the EIR hearing again. It is currently scheduled to be heard before the city Planning Commission on Wednesday, April 11, 1979 in the City Council Chambers. You should call the city clerk to verify the hearing in the week it is scheduled before you plan to attend.

NEIGHBORHOOD WANT ADS

CHILD CARE

LICENSED DAY CARE - Love, attention and care in my home near Belden, Weekly, daily, or hourly, call Margaret at 578-9133.

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.

BABYSITTING

ADELE - Age 14, \$1/hr	225-1791
ANITA - Age , \$.90/hr	225-8195
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

CHILD CARE

My home, Pearl, Branham and Blossom Hill area. Call Judy 578-5523.

LAMAZE: ASPO PARENTS GROUP

Mothers, are you interested in a playgroup for your infant, toddler, or pre-schooler? Call Sharon Sanders, 226-1416.

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Pools my specialty, experienced. Call George at 225-8195.

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