

VEP NEWS

April 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, April 16, 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
- Installation of new VEP Officers
- Presentation on Energy Sources

A P R I L M E E T I N G

In view of the dramatic crisis we are having with energy conservation and creation in the United States, I think all responsible VEP homeowners would benefit from the general meeting. Mr. Bob Axberg from Pacific Gas and Electric will be our guest speaker. He will show a movie titled "Energy 2000" which will last about 25 minutes. This movie will describe the sources of various energy types and energy conservation. Bob will then be available to answer your questions on energy and how the average homeowner can be energy conscious. So bring your energy questions to this month's meeting and have them answered by Pacific Gas and Electric's representative.

Also, the 79-80 VEP Executive Board will be officially installed at this meeting. Come meet the people who will be running your association.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This month I would like to introduce you to your new VEP Executive Board.

The President will be Al Bender. Al has been a VEP resident and member since 1970. He is employed as a Deputy District Attorney for Santa Clara County. His goal as president will be to solicit and coordinate the efforts of all VEP residents to help make our neighborhoods an even better place to live.

The 1st Vice President will be Norma Majundar. She is part of our husband and wife team this term. Her husband, Hiren has volunteered to be our editor. The Majundars moved to their new Encore home from Sunnyvale. Norma is busy in the local Girl Scouts and school activities; a full-time, licensed, day-care mother; and the 78-79 president of Xi Nu Chi Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi, an international philanthropic organization. Her goal will be to help run an efficient VEP Newsletter distribution system.

The 2nd Vice President will be Marianne Lent. Marianne has been a VEP resident for 1½ years. She is currently a semi-retired computer consultant. Her goal is to revive community activities such as the Halloween Happening and other events.

The 3rd Vice President will be George Cain. George has been a VEP resident for 5 years. He is a Real Estate Broker with Chateau Realty. His goal during his term is to increase the membership of VEP.

The Treasurer will be Bill Johnson. Bill is "old faithful" for VEP. He has been the VEP Treasurer for the last two years and is returning for a third year. He has been a member of VEP for seven years. He pledges to do his best to keep the financial records of VEP accurate for the next year.

The Secretary will be Cathy Melton. She has been a VEP resident and member two years. Her goal is to assist the new Executive Board members by keeping accurate records and minutes of all meetings. She also has a desire to help spark some interest into some of the VEP homeowners who are not helping their community.

The editor will be Hiren Majundar. As stated above, his wife is our 1st Vice President. Hiren is the president of the West Valley

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Orators Toastmasters Club 107. He is employed as an engineer at Santa Clara Valley Water District. The Majundar's daughter, Dawn, attends Parkview Elementary School. Both Norma and Hiren are into writing and look forward to serving the community through the VEP newsletter.

I want to wish all of the above officers the best of luck in their endeavors for the residents of VEP. I hope all of the VEP residents will give you their full support.

Thank all of you for volunteering to serve your community.

J. E. Cates
 J. E. Cates
 President

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SAVE OUR LIBRARIES!

San Jose Libraries have already experienced severe budget cuts which have affected library services and materials. For example:

	1977-78	1978-79	% Change
Total hours open:	906 hrs/wk	663 hrs/wk	-27%
New Books Processed:	121,330	84,696 est.*	-30%

*Estimate based on the 6 month total July-December 1978 of 42,348

More cuts may be proposed for San Jose Libraries in the coming months during the preparation of the 1979-80 budget. Any further reductions will have a drastic impact on library service to the community. For example:

Proposed budget cut of \$200,000. would mean that 12 out of 16 branch libraries would reduce their public service hours to only 2 or 3 days open per week. Four (4) branches and the main library would be open 5 days per week.

YOU ARE THE DECIDING FACTOR! Whether or not the San Jose Library experiences further budget reductions depends on you. The following is a list of ways by which you can show your support for the San Jose libraries and make your wishes known to the San Jose City Council:

1. Write a letter to City Council members. Address the letter in care of City Clerk Room 116,801 N. First Street, San Jose, Calif. 95110
2. Call the Mayor's Hotline: 297-CITY.
3. Call members of the City Council for appointments: 277-4241
4. Contact the San Jose Library Commission for information about the citizen support group: 277-4822.
5. Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper.
6. Attend budget hearings at City Hall.

This information was made available by the Concerned Library Activist Workers (CLAW) and Friends of the San Jose Library.

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IT'S YOUR MONEY

The City of San Jose's fiscal year (FY) runs from July 1 of one year to June 30 of the next. Annual cash flow and appropriations are governed by a budget prepared by the city manager and approved after customary alterations by the city council. In simplistic terms, the only real constraint on appropriations is that expenditures not exceed projected income for the year; in terms of political reality, appropriations must relate to community needs.

In past years, budget sessions featured individuals, special interest groups, and departments of the city administration embroiled in a frenzied last-minute struggle to convince the council that THEIRS was the program deserving retained or increased funding. The weary council hears them all, then picks and chooses in a bleary-eyed race against time to fulfill their legal requirement to have an approved budget before the beginning of the new FY. This process has been criticized as one in which "the squeaky wheel gets the grease", or "he who hollers the loudest gets the most".

Things will be different this year. Prop 13 cut-backs have forced a more planned approach that promises to replace pressured, arbitrary decision-making with more careful scrutiny and weighing of priorities. In fact, the council has begun this more deliberate approach with a recent precedent-setting mid-year budget review.

They're now scheduling further budget deliberations in public hearings (City Hall, Room 114) on April 19 (9 A.M. to Noon) and April 20 (9 A.M. to 4 P.M.). Decisions made in these sessions may affect your favorite city service. It's up to us to let them know what our priorities are by being there, calling (277-4000) or writing the San Jose City Council (c/o City Clerk, 801 North First Street, 95110), or both. DO IT.

It's your money.



THE VEP NEWS

Published monthly by the VEP Homeowners' Association,
P. O. Box 18111, San Jose, California 95158

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UPDATE ON AREA STREET IMPROVEMENTS

Last fall the San Jose City Council set aside \$24.2 million for much needed city-wide street improvements. Our part of town, the Edenvale Planning Area, got a significant percentage of that total allocation; appropriate because Edenvale has become synonymous with traffic congestion to anyone familiar with travel on our one-time country roads.

V.E.P. resides in the midst of this notorious daily traffic snarl. Over the past ten years of our organized existence our active members have devoted countless hours to lobbying for transportation improvements that keep pace with rapid urban growth. We have a proud record of minor successes until now-- kind of like shovelling sand against the tide. The Council's decision last fall was a major victory for groups like ours because it places emphasis on fulfilling EXISTING needs.

The following list of improvement projects in and around our membership area is the result of V.E.P.'s recent work in conjunction with other homeowner groups to place stringent conditions on the expansion of Oakridge Mall, to reinstate a higher level of transportation service in our city's General Plan, and to elevate traffic congestion cures to an inescapable campaign issue in city elections last November. Above all, we stressed the importance to public safety of projects that meet today's needs rather than those designed to enable continued urban development in newer areas. The Council responded favorably in reaffirming city policy that has new growth pay or at least share the costs for new pavement.

Branham Lane/Pearl Ave. Intersection. Work is scheduled to begin in July with signalized completion slated for November, 1979.

Branham Lane, Pearl to Narvaez. Final arrangements with CALTRANS are now complete where Branham crosses the future Guadalupe (Rt. 87) Corridor; expect a June or July start-up on widening Branham to four lanes (two new lanes on the south side) by Sept., 1979.

Branham Lane, Vistapark to Rt. 101. This major project, offering another alternative to Blossom Hill Road, will be fully designed by May of this year and put out for construction bid with final award targeted for June 30. The link between Vistapark and Snell has a 50/50 chance of being completed to four lanes by October or November, 1979. Sound walls are planned for simultaneous construction from Sunpark to the Vistapark intersection, then easterly along the north side of Branham to Mia Circle.

The section from Snell to Monterey Road is complicated by a requirement for interjurisdictional cooperation between our city, CALTRANS (they own Monterey Road), and the SP Railroad. If all goes well, we'll be able to drive through to Monterey Road by Spring, 1980. Construction to Rt. 101 will proceed concurrently.

Snell Avenue, Branham to Blossom Hill Road ("BHR"). Negotiations for the acquisition of land needed to widen this dangerous bottleneck are now underway. (This purchase is being sought concurrent with that needed to widen Branham between Vistapark and

Snell.) Design is nearly complete and the final construction contract award is scheduled for June 30. City engineers are now giving even odds on completion to four lanes by October or November of this year.

BHR, Snell to Pearl. An October, 1979, target has been established for widening remaining four-lane sections of this legendary traffic-grinding accordion to six lanes (!).

BHR/Guadalupe Creek Bridge. (Immediately west of Oakridge Mall.) Despite a tumultuous beginning under restrictive federal Public Works Act funding guidelines, this bridge is complete except for a median island and road striping. A final decision as to what will be done with the SP Lick Branch crossing there is the final hurdle separating us from an opening to traffic. Once that issue is resolved, we'll have six lanes from Pearl to Almaden Expy.

Coleman Road, Almaden Expy to Santa Teresa. (Behind K-Mart.) This new road is seen as a key to moving traffic from the Almaden Valley to points east without adding to BHR congestion west of Pearl. The roadway has been paved up to either side of the Los Alamitos Creek, where a major bridge project is now under construction. Expected opening to through traffic is set for October, 1979.

Pearl Avenue, Ogan to Severance Drive. As a part of their expansion plan, the developers of Oakridge Mall agreed to widen Pearl to four lanes from their site to Severance Drive. Promised widening is now finished to a point just north of Ogan (that precious reminder of our farming heritage that leads to Gunderson High). Although the developer is ready to make good on his promise, the completion of those remaining few hundred yards hinges on another agreement with Southern Pacific RR.

In order to accomodate four lanes of traffic at speeds greater than 15 or 20 mph, city engineers plan to "bank" the turn where Pearl hooks across the Lick Branch rail line. This will require raising the tracks-- and SP would have to foot the bill in order to keep their spur line in serviceable condition. SP is understandably less than eager to make that investment at this time, however.

With fingers crossed, our anxious street planners estimate that work will begin in approximately six weeks. A temporary rail crossing will be constructed first, allowing the final four-lane graded link to proceed toward completion sometime mid-June.

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BLOCK REPS NEEDED

The following streets need block reps: Rosenbaum (between Capitol and Arpeggio), Dulcey Drive, and Coty Way. If you live on or near one of these streets and are willing to spend approximately 20 minutes delivering newsletters door to door, please contact Norma Majundar at 629-0570. If no one volunteers, the VEP NEWS will not be delivered on these streets.

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

EASTER FESTIVAL

You and your family are invited to attend a special Easter Festival sponsored by Gunderson and Steinbeck Community Centers. This spring event will be held on April 14, from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon at Gunderson High School. Featured activities include Easter Egg Hunts for pre-schoolers through age 12, crafts, games, races, and prizes. Come and join in this family day of fun. The Easter Bunny will be looking for you!

LAMAZE: ASPO PARENTS GROUP

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

CHILD CARE

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



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