

February, 1981

V.E.P. HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
REPRESENTING OVER 2000 HOMEOWNERS IN VISTAPARK,
ENCORE, ECHO VALLEY, PARKVIEW VALLEY, AND BLOSSOM HEIGHTS

VEP NEWS

The next meeting of the VEP Homeowners Association will be at 7:30 pm, Monday, February 23, 1981, in the Parkview School Cafeteria (330 Bluefield Drive). EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

GARDENING



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1981

7:30 P.M.

PARKVIEW SCHOOL

This month, the VEP will present a lecture on gardening. We will bring in an expert from one of our local nurseries to tell us how to properly prepare for spring gardening, what to do for roses, how to get the most out of your plantings, etc. Which is better, seeds or sets (in flats)? Does it do any good to set out tomatoes in April when it's warm? Or should you wait until June, no matter what? Which plants get along with each other best? Which don't?

If ever there was an art filled with shibboleths and old wives tales, it's gardening. Who knows how to take care of last Christmas's poinsettias? Come to the meeting on Monday and find out!

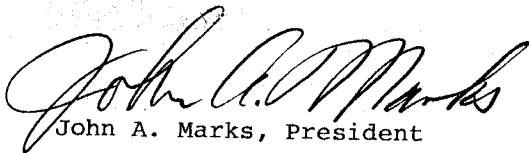
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Elections coming up!

It's that time of year when we have to think of new blood to revitalize our organization. If you're interested in serving a worthwhile need in our community without putting yourself out, contact me at 225-8195. The hours are minimal, and the reward of getting to know more of your neighbors and the concerns of the VEP community more than make up for two or three hours of your time monthly.

Nominations for all six offices will be entertained at the February and March general meetings, or by mail or telephone. If you have any questions about what's involved, simply call one of the officers listed on the back of this newsletter. To paraphrase JFK, "Ask not what you can get from your community, by what you can give to it".

As mentioned on the front page, the topic of the meeting this month is spring gardening. What with the unseasonable warm weather, we'll all be out there looking for places to try our luck once again on a flower or a vegetable. You know, it's not the crop or the long-stemmed rose that counts; it's the moral victory of getting the timing of the watering and the fertilizing and the sunshine and the pesticides and trampling feet of children to cooperate so plants at least look the way they're supposed to. I know I planted some cabbage sets last November, which I read was a winter crop! Half died, and the other half just barely survived. Only later did a friend's chance remark reveal that I should have gotten them started in September. Needless to say, I'm looking forward to our February 23rd meeting!



John A. Marks, President

SUPPORT V.E.P. BECOME A MEMBER

Clip this ad!

226-8766

1/2 OFF ANY LARGE
OR MEDIUM
eaten on premises **PIZZA**

TOOT-N-TOTEM II
Family Restaurant

Open 4:00 pm daily
Closed Mondays

Corner of Capitol & Vistapark

one pizza per coupon

expires 3/22/81

VEP ADVERTISING POLICY

The free Neighborhood Want Ads are for things like lost dogs, kids' lawn mowing services, and used goods for sale. They are not for commercial businesses.

If you have a business and want to advertise, you can buy a quarter-page ad like the ones you see in this paper. These are the rules for the paid ads:

- * The VEP NEWS carries a maximum of eight quarter-page ads each month.
- * Each ad costs \$27.50 per month.
- * There is a three-month minimum.
- * All ads are payable in advance. After the initial three months, billing is quarterly.

The paid advertising is what pays for the cost of printing the VEP NEWS (currently over \$200 each month). The VEP appreciates the support of its advertisers.

- Marianne Lent -

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS: A REPORT ON THE JANUARY MEETING

Janeann Douglas, manager of Master Protection Enterprises, gave an interesting fire prevention presentation at the last VEP general meeting. Her presentation centered around fire extinguishers, and she explained how to select and care for them and how to use them safely.

Modern fire extinguishers are more effective and use safer chemicals than the old ones. However, they need to be serviced annually to ensure that they will work when you need them.

Ms. Douglas will provide discounts on fire extinguishers if 10 or more VEP members want to purchase them. If you would like to purchase one, please call Jim Hicks, 226-7124, for more information about the discount.

- Jim Hicks -



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HAYES COMMITTEE PROPOSAL STIRS VARIED RESPONSE

City Hall, Room 204 is the setting for a March 18, 7:30 p.m. public hearing on a proposed restructuring of the San Jose City Council's subcommittee system. Set in motion last fall in hopes to streamline the Council's agenda, four subcommittees evolved: Community Services; Administrative Services; Community Development; and the Rules Committee. To date this organization has not been particularly effective in its original purpose, perhaps because the committees are not taken very seriously-- by councillors or by the public.

Mayor Janet Gray Hayes proposes a restructuring. She argues that the committee system could speed-up the full council agenda, leaving more time for in-depth discussion of city-wide issues. Greater expertise could be developed in related matters by committee members, she postulates, allowing an opportunity for a more informed council. Hayes feels that citizen input, too, could be more in-depth if presented before a less formal committee rather than to the full council (although that possibility remains open). Lastly, she believes that the council's response to the important issues would be accelerated by skipping one step in the present process; her proposal would send issues to committees first rather than having the full council hear them and then decide to refer to committee before final resolution.

The specifics of the Hayes proposal contain the ingredients of a major controversy. First of all, it will be the mayor's power to make all one-year appointments to committees as well as to name their chairs and co-chairs. Second, the restructured committees would have six council members each-- a districted council voting majority-- except the Rules Committee, which would be comprised of the mayor and the chairs of the other three committees. Third, the mayor would decide which items will be heard by committee, which will be referred to the city administration, and which will go before the full council (present procedure has the city clerk post all relevant items on the full council agenda). Under the terms of her proposal, the committees would meet twice monthly on Tuesday evenings with alternate Tuesday evenings reserved for customary full council sessions as required for public hearings.

Lastly, those items referred to committee that receive a 4:2 vote or better will be placed on the full council's "consent calendar", a place on the agenda reserved for routine matters voted on in a block. A six vote council majority would be required to pull a consent calendar item for discussion; evidently, present rules allowing any citizen to ask for consideration of such items would be suspended.

Some critics view this restructuring as a thinly veiled attempt by Hayes to strengthen the mayor's role in San Jose government. Others are concerned that "streamlining" means sidestepping public input in the process. Proponents of the plan point to after-midnight council sessions as evidence that a new approach is necessary; some go so far as to say that we've outgrown our city manager form of government and it's time for a strong mayor format. What do you think?

- Dave Fadness -

We Urge You To Attend



Crime Prevention Unit 277-4133

In emergencies,
phone 297-3565.

SAN JOSE'S SEWAGE TREATMENT: HOW WILL WE PAY?

On February 4, I attended a meeting at City Hall on the subject of the San Jose sewage treatment plant. As you know, this facility needs to be expanded if San Jose continues to expand. The problem is - where will the money come from? San Jose needs about \$40 million over and above the \$20 million promised by the EPA to carry the plant through 1990.

The only way to raise \$40 million is to issue revenue bonds. These do not need to be put to a vote. San Jose, under a joint powers agreement with Santa Clara, can sell them without approval of the voters. It takes about \$4.6 million per year to pay off \$40 million in bonds. To come up with \$4.6 million per year, the city could:

- * raise sewer connection fees to \$300 per new home, for about \$1 million per year.
- * lease unused land around the treatment plant (200 acres along Highway 237) for about \$1 million per year.
- * increase sewer service and use charges (this would hit industry the hardest) for an unknown amount of money per year.

None of these plans are definite, but most likely something like this will happen. The city staff has to think of more ways to raise revenue, because the three steps listed above are not enough.

The interesting question is - what happens in 1990? If San Jose has to scrape the bottom of the barrel to finance bonds that won't be completely paid off for 40 years or so, how will we finance new expansions in 1990? That's only nine years away. The city staff is aware of this problem, but doesn't want to think about it.

- Marianne Lent -

RECYCLING INFORMATION

The Branham High School Recycling Center will be open from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm on these days:

March 7 & 21	May 9 & 23
April 4 & 25	June 6 & 20

The center accepts glass (remove metal, paper labels OK), aluminum and tin cans (flatten, no bi-metal cans), newspaper (no magazines or cardboard), and oil (motor and transmission).

Parents Who Care

You've heard of Everybody Else's Parents. They're the ones who run a fast food restaurant in the kitchen, have a gin mill in the garage, and gave their kids a set of keys to the family Porsche. Have you ever wanted to meet these legendary people?

Parents Who Care, an organization of concerned parents, developed a set of guidelines last year to help each other get through the sometimes bewildering job of being the parent of a teen-ager. The idea behind the guidelines is to give parents some idea of what others are doing, so that when they set their own rules they aren't working in the dark. The guidelines are reprinted here; they will be too strict for some families and too loose for others, but they can give us all something to think about and discuss.

PARENT-YOUTH GUIDELINES

Family Cooperation and Communication are Vital

- * Know where your child is at all times.
- * Know where to reach each other by phone.
- * Be awake when young people come home at night.
- * Assure your children that they can telephone you to be picked up whenever needed. Establish an alternate plan in case they cannot reach you.
- * Get to know your children's friends and their parents.
- * Support all school regulations as a family.
- * Be aware that appropriate and consistent discipline indicates concern and love.
- * Those with continuing problems should consult counselors or seek professional help.

Reasonable Hours are Necessary for Safety and a Sense of Security

School Nights: Home evenings except for school or community events. Home one half hour after these events.

Weekends: Home, or in the company of an adult, evenings after dark. Home from school activities and parties by:

7th grade 9:30 - 10:00 pm
8th grade 10:00 - 10:30 pm

ARE YOU MOVING? - THINKING OF BUYING A HOME? -JUST NEED SOME REAL ESTATE INFORMATION? PLEASE CALL ME FOR EFFICIENT, HONEST SERVICE.

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CALL JERRY HOUSTON, 265-9900 (OFFICE)
OR 224-8769 (HOME)



1091 Foxworthy, Near Capitol & Almanden Expwy

9th grade 11:00 - 11:30 pm
10th grade 11:30 - 12:00 pm
11th grade 12:00 - 12:30 am
12th grade 12:30 - 1:00 am

Vacations: Families should agree on time limits.

Social Life

Parents are legally responsible for their minor children and their children's actions.

- * Be alert to the signs of drug or alcohol use.
- * Be sure children are under adult supervision during after-school hours.
- * Be sure there is adult supervision of groups of children in homes after school.

As a parent of a party-goer, feel free to contact the host parent to:

- * Verify the occasion.
- * Verify the presence of adults who agree to enforce the no-drug, no alcohol rule.
- * Check on adult supervision.
- * Confirm no alcohol or drugs.
- * Express concern if party did not meet above standards.

As a host parent:

- * Encourage small parties.
- * Ask anyone with drugs or alcohol to leave and call the parents advising them of your action.
- * Allow no one who leaves to return.
- * Be a visible host/hostess.

- Marianne Lent -

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&
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DOYLE CUMMINGS IS AWARE OF THE WATER PIPE PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE METER AND YOUR HOME AND HAS DEVELOPED A FAST, INEXPENSIVE REPAIR TECHNIQUE WITH MINIMUM LAWN DAMAGE. FOR A FREE ESTIMATE ON THE WORK, AND A 10-YEAR UNCONDITIONAL WARRANTY

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NEIGHBORHOOD WANT ADS

FOUND: Men's ten-speed bike. Identify and it's yours! 281-9624.

VISTAPARK/ENCORE BABYSITTING CO-OP - exchange day sits with other parents, take time out to shop, have lunch or go to the doctor without the kids. Call Mrs. Strauss at 578-1645.

EXCELLENT CONDITION - '66 Corvette, \$10,000. 227-6946.

PIANO LESSONS. If you're interested in having your child learn how to play piano, contact a 9 years experienced teacher at 629-8502, Fri., Sat., & Sun.

FOR SALE: Car trailer, 2" ball, 64" X 120" inside, new tires 1979, used to tow Fiat 850, \$200.00. 629-4043.

LOVING CHILD CARE - my home. 629-1724.

DINING ROOM SET: French Provincial Basset table, four chairs, matching hutch & base. Walnut finish. Like new! \$700. 629-0257, after 7 pm.

ICE SKATES. Boy's hockey. Like new, size 5C. \$15.00. 629-7949.

FREE FORM FOR PLACING WANT AD IN VEP NEWS

MAIL TO: Marianne Lent

Editor, VEP NEWS

450 Stratford Park Court
San Jose, CA 95136

Phone number _____

Your name _____

Text of ad _____

How many months do you want this ad to run? _____

Neighborhood Want Ads are for VEP members only. To place an ad, mail in this form. Ads must ARRIVE no later than March 7 to appear in the March issue. See page 3 for more information on advertising.

THE VEP NEWS

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V.E.P. Homeowners Association

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