

December, 1981

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

VEP NEWS



Season's
Greetings

NO DECEMBER MEETING

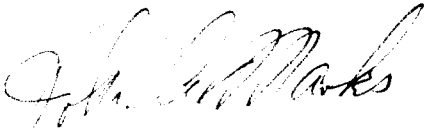
Because of busy holiday schedules, there will not be a December meeting of the VEP Homeowners' Association. The next meeting will be Monday, January 25.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

'Tis the season to be jolly, of course, but also to be thankful for our good fortune throughout the past year.

We are indebted to the few diligent and articulate members of our VEP Homeowners' Association for keeping on top of the actions of our local government. We also wish to thank the dozens of people who volunteer their time each month to distribute the VEP NEWS. Without you, there would be no VEP. On behalf of everyone in the community, I want to give a pat on the back for a job well done to each of our faithful distributors and block representatives.

A great way to express your thanks and give a vote of confidence to your Homeowners' Association for the coming year is to welcome the students who will be knocking on your door between Christmas and New Year's. They are members of the Gunderson High School Theatrical Department; to help them raise funds, VEP has authorized them to call on you for your 1982 dues. In return, they will receive half what they collect. Please show your appreciation for VEP and the efforts of these students by giving them your check for \$4.00.



John Marks, President

RECYCLING SCHEDULE AT BRANHAM HIGH

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

January 9 & 23 February 6 & 20 March 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 (transmission and motor).

DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY ISSUE OF THE VEP NEWS

All articles and ads for the January issue of the VEP NEWS must arrive no later than January 8, 1982. Mail to: Marianne Lent, 450 Stratford Park Court, San Jose, 95136.

**D. CUMMINGS
PLUMBING**
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL

CALL 259-2586

Insured PL & PD
STATE CONTRACTOR'S
LIC #292558

30 YEAR GUARANTEE

SEWER LINES INSTALLED & REPLACED
HOME REPAIRS & REMODELING

Specializing In

**WATER LINE
REPLACEMENT
METER TO HOUSE
ELECTRONIC LEAK DETECTION
AND PIPE LOCATION
MINIMUM LAWN DAMAGE
NO CONCRETE REMOVED**

STOP SIGNS ON VISTAPARK DRIVE MAY BE REMOVED

The City of San Jose's Traffic Operations Department is considering removal of the stop signs on Vistapark Drive at Bluefield Drive. This action was allegedly initiated by the written requests of two residents living outside our membership area who commute to work through that intersection.

A neighborhood meeting was held by the city at Carson School on the evening of December 2nd. Flyers announcing the meeting were distributed by our schools and VEP was officially notified by letter. Both residents who had written to ask that the stop signs be removed were there to argue their case against the fifteen or so opposing residents of our area. City engineer Roger Tam was there to record our reaction to the proposal. Our city councillor Iola Williams did not show up or send a representative.

VEP joins those others who attended in firm opposition to this proposal. We fought hard to have those controls installed in 1975 to slow traffic through our neighborhood and to provide a safe pedestrian crossing point. We resent an imposition of the will of two impatient commuters in this threat to the safety and sanity of daily life in our community. We also resent the implication by Traffic Operations Department personnel that those signs are there only for "political" reasons.

Without that pair of stop signs, Vistapark Drive will become even more a raceway, menacing the (measured) 1500 motorists who cross at Bluefield Drive each day. Those signs keep Vistapark Drive from becoming a mini-freeway dissecting our membership area and virtually prohibiting pedestrian access between our schools, our parks and playgrounds, and the popular convenience commercial facility at Capitol Expressway. Next nearest controlled crossings are six blocks to the south and four blocks to the north of Bluefield Drive. These are the reasons VEP requested stop signs on Vistapark to begin with and the former city council granted our request-- needless to say, traffic volume has increased dramatically in the intervening years.

The December 2nd meeting ended with a promise that VEP would be notified of any further action and would be mailed a copy of the engineering report. It was clear that city staff favors removal of the signs, otherwise as few as two letters probably wouldn't have precipitated this action. Your reaction (action or inaction) will be a critical determinant in what the city council will ultimately decide to do. Write or call them at your earliest convenience. We will keep you posted regarding upcoming meetings.

NORMANDIN CHRYSLER-PLYMOUTH

266-9500
CAPITOL AT PEARL

**SALES
&
LEASES**



SALES & SERVICE LEADERSHIP FOR 106 YEARS

DEATH OF GUNDERSON STUDENT SPURS ACTION ON PEARL AVENUE

The recent tragic death of a Gunderson High School student has drawn attention to a serious traffic hazard on Pearl Avenue between Thornwood and Severance Drives. That traffic fatality is the fourth in as many years along this twisting stretch of heavily traveled roadway linking our homes to the Oakridge Mall commercial area. Many other injury and property damage accidents have also occurred there.

A group of our neighbors, representing VEP and area parent/teacher/student organizations, met with Joe Bass, head of the San Jose Traffic Operations Department, to discuss possible ways to reduce the risk of future accidents there. Ideas offered by citizen participants included flashing warning lights and signs; "rumble strips" on the pavement; banked turns to accomodate traffic speeds; moving telephone and power poles farther from the edge of the pavement; adding physical barriers at the edges and in the median along the turns; more police patrols; etc. Mr. Bass commented on the potential effectiveness of the various suggestions and promised to give the overall problem more thorough study in search for a final solution.

Also to be considered in the solution to this problem is the possibility that construction will begin on a long-awaited pedestrian and bicycle path along the east side of Pearl Avenue. Hearings on the funding of this proposed facility are scheduled to begin on March 10, 1982, before a subcommittee of the Santa Clara County Transportation Commission. Assuming approval (usually fairly routine) of this project, a contract for construction could be placed as early as June, 1982. Those attending our meeting expressed concerns for the safety of this facility, hoping a solution could be found for Pearl Avenue accidents that would simultaneously protect its users.

Although we were pleased with Mr. Bass' cooperation that night, we decided to write to the city council asking for a more official commitment to action. An aide to Councilman Estruth was present at the meeting; Iola Williams was not represented.

If you are interested in participating in our effort to resolve the Pearl Avenue safety problem, please do one or all of the following: Write and/or call your city council representative (Estruth @ 277-4282 or Williams @ 277-5226); 801 North First Street, San Jose 95110. Call the president of the parent/teacher group at your child's school and ask to be put on call for future meetings in our community or at city hall. Call Dave Fadness @ 578-6428 (evenings). Your help is needed.

Clip this ad!

\$3.00 OFF ANY LARGE PIZZA

OR

\$2.00 OFF ANY MEDIUM PIZZA

Eaten on premises

One coupon per customer per visit

Not good with other discounts or coupons

Limit one pizza

TOOT N-TOTEM II

Family Restaurant

Corner of Capitol & Vistapark

226-8766

Open 4:00 pm daily
Closed Mondays



LEGISLATURE CREATES NEW WAY TO TAX PEOPLE OUT OF THEIR HOMES

The California State Legislature has recently passed AB-934, a law that permits "direct-benefit assessment districts" for fire protection. Under this new law, fire districts can levy "benefit assessments" on all property within their boundaries to pay for fire protection. Because this is not a "tax", it is not subject to any of the limits of Proposition 13. The fire district can make the assessment as high as it wants to without any vote of the people.

Property owners who want to protest an assessment must get signatures of at least 5% of the affected owners within 14 days of being notified of the assessment. That will put the issue on the ballot, where a simple majority (instead of 2/3) will be enough to pass the assessment.

"Direct-benefit assessments" for other services, such as police or sewers, may not be far behind. We may soon be back to taxing the poor and elderly out of their homes (or rather, assessing them out of their homes).

One other possibility comes to mind. If we have direct-benefit assessments for all basic services -- police, fire, schools, sewers, parks, libraries -- we could simply abolish all other local taxes. That would leave the city staff begging each year for funds from the police chief and head librarian, instead of the other way around.

CITIZENS FOR A RESPONSIVE CITY COUNCIL OPPOSES DISTRICTED COUNCIL ELECTIONS

A newly formed group called Citizens for a Responsive City Council is planning to place on the November 1982 ballot an initiative to repeal districted City Council elections. Their goal is to return to a smaller, seven-member Council elected city-wide.

This effort is in response to the recent redistricting, which divided long-established neighborhood associations and communities. An eleven-member Council is also more expensive to maintain than a seven-member Council.

For more information, call Sharon Wood (266-6525), Josephine Shuster (264-3732), or Bonnie Vander Tuig (266-3896).

FOR THE CONTROL OF

ANTS - EARWIGS - SPIDERS
CRICKETS - LAWN MOTH
LARVAE - FLEAS - MOTHS
BEES - ROACHES - CARPET
BEETLES - SILVERFISH
RATS - MICE ETC.

Sure-Kill EXTERMINATORS, Inc.

SINCE 1946



20% DISCOUNT ON YOUR FIRST SERVICE

INCLUDES COMPLETE SPRAY OF
HOUSE-LAWNS-FENCES-SHRUBS & SUB AREA

288-6099



● ON A QUARTERLY BASIS

IF BUGS COME BACK SO DO WE



STATE LICENSED
INSURED PL & PD

VISTA PARK TO BE DEVELOPED AT NEW COMPTON DRIVE

The vacant lot along New Compton Drive is now in the planning stages for development into a park. The City Parks and Recreation Department held a public meeting on November 19 to get community input. These are some of the recommendations that were made:

- * Security lighting is needed.
- * A Y-shaped walkway from Hornblower Court to New Compton Drive and Belden School is needed.
- * Pillar poles should be installed at the entrance to the park to prevent entrance by vehicles.
- * Mounds and hills should be at a minimum to aid in surveillance; however, the park should not be flat like the school turf area.
- * The sidewalk on New Compton should extend to the curb.
- * Turf should be extension of the school turf and not take up a large portion of the park.
- * Trees should be planted to serve as a buffer between the park and adjacent homes.
- * Trees should be planted along the park edge at New Compton to help prevent entrance of vehicles.
- * There is interest in a citizens' "buy and plant a tree" program if City funds are not enough.
- * Picnic tables, benches, and drinking fountains are NOT desired.
- * Mud currently being tracked from the park to the sidewalk should be considered in the design.
- * Explore the possibility of an exercise/jogging course extending on to the school property (stations should not be located near homes).

Chris Wang will prepare a park design. A meeting to present this plan will be scheduled in the middle of January. If you have any comments to make, call Bob Fitzsimons at the Gunderson Community Center, 224-9404.

VEP TRAFFIC WATCH

A green compact Chevrolet, license number 077 GLS, roared recklessly into the parking lot of the Blossom Hill Burger King at 1:07 pm on Nov 24. It narrowly missed a car with two small children.

A blue Capri, license number 776 DYB, drove recklessly into Stratford Park Court at 12:30 pm on Nov 12.

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

FREE HOME WARRANTY TO VISTAPARK HOMEOWNERS
NO CHARGE FOR MARKET APPRAISAL
MOST ADVANCED IN REAL ESTATE SERVICES
FAMILIAR WITH THE VEP AREA



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



1091 Foxworthy, Near Capitol & Almanden Expwy

NEIGHBORHOOD WANT ADS

WOVEN WOODS FOR SALE. 70" wide - yellow, white, orange. \$25.00. 225-6317
H-O SCALE TRAIN TRACK FOR SALE. Lots of used track in good condition. Also switches & trestles. Expand your Christmas railroad. Make offer. 629-7949
FOR SALE: Girl's Huffy bike in good condition. \$35.00. 578-1781
REWARD!! Small Huskey/Shepherd mix lost 10/31 in Bluefield Dr. area. Had choke chain with license. Curly tail, floppy ears. Child's pet, missed very much. 629-2553
NEED A BABYSITTER? Call 226-8121, ask for Jackie Homyak. I'm 14 years old and have 3 years experience. I charge \$1.00 an hour.
FOR SALE: custom drapes, lined, brown & beige pattern, fits Olympic L/D room. 224-9125
FAMILY ROOM SALE: large, comfortable couch, end table, carpet pad (fits Olympic). Make offer. 225-6317
FOR SALE: ¼-size violin \$75. Rental at store for just 1 school year would be almost \$120 including deposit, insurance, & tax. Own your own & save on the first year & pay nothing in future years. 226-3291
LICENSED DAY CARE. 2 to 6 years of age. Play area, meals, arts & crafts. \$45 per child per week, full time only. 226-5541
LOVING CHILD CARE with 5 years experience. All ages. Hot meals with snack. 629-8568
YARDWORK DONE. Hedges, lawns, weeds, leaves, etc. Price depends on size and amount of work. 225-0654
FOR GREAT BABYSITTING call Sandie. I'm 15 with 5 years experience and I love kids. I charge \$1.00 an hour. 629-9356
FOR SALE: pair GIRL'S RINK SKATES. White. Sold on best offer. Size 4. Call 227-5043, ask for Nancy L.
LICENSED CHILD CARE. 3 years & up. Nearest school is Parkview. 227-6231
BABYSITTING CO-OP: Day or night sits. Please call 226-3285 or 265-6474.
DAY CARE. School-aged children. Near Belden. 225-7352
DAY CARE. 3 blocks from Belden, 3½ and up. 226-2698
EXPERIENCED CHILD CARE in my home, ½ block from Belden. 225-4207
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.

FORM FOR PLACING WANT AD IN VEP NEWS

MAIL TO: Marianne Lent
Editor, VEP NEWS
450 Stratford Park Ct.
San Jose, CA 95136

Your name _____

Phone number _____

Text of ad _____

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

Neighborhood Want Ads are for VEP members only. (Have you mailed in your \$4?) To place an ad, mail in this form. Ads must arrive no later than January 8 to appear in the January issue. These ads are free. No commercial accounts.

THE VEP NEWS
PUBLISHED AND DISTRIBUTED MONTHLY BY

V.E.P. Homeowners Association

P.O. BOX 18111 SAN JOSE, CA 95158

President.....John Marks 225-8195
1st VP (News Distribution).....Bill Rogers 225-8377
2nd VP (Committees).....Dave Fadness 578-6428
3rd VP (Membership).....Audrey Henderson 226-1499
Secretary.....Jean Robertson 281-4158
Treasurer.....Jim Hicks 226-7124
Editor.....Marianne Lent 629-7949

HAIR by ROSE & Company



**Professional Hair Styling for Men and Women*
**Convenient VEP location at Capitol Expwy & Vistapark Drive*
**Hours: Mon, Thu 9 to 9; Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat 9 to 5:30*
**Call for an appointment today at 629-5545*
**Rose Gutierrez, Proprietor (VEP member)*

DISCOUNT WITH THIS AD (Mon-Tue-Wed only): Haircut and blow dry for only \$10*
(regularly \$14.50), OR \$10 off on any Perm or Frosting. (*Long hair extra.)

VISTA PARK AUTO PARTS

Capitol Expwy & Vista Park

FOREIGN
DOMESTIC

281-3500

neighborhood
owners

NEVIL STORAGE CO.
1370 VANDER WAY
SAN JOSE

 **northAmerican**
VAN LINES / AGENT

ask for Jim Kershaw

VEP resident

275-1500

Expert packing free estimates local and
worldwide moving storage complete door-to-door
service special equipment experienced people

ICC NO. MC 107012
PUC CAL T75798