

VEP MEETING

7:30 P.M. TUESDAY
February 22, 2000

GUNDERSON HIGH SCHOOL
★ THEATER ★

AGENDA

- **CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES' FORUM** ●

All three candidates for city council will be there to answer *your* questions. (See story below.)

- **Your Neighborhood Concerns** ●

EVERYONE IS WELCOME—INVITE A NEIGHBOR

Our February 22nd VEP Meeting

Our District 10 city council representation will be up for grabs on the March 7, 2000 primary ballot. Incumbent Councilwoman **Pat Dando** is being challenged by **William Garbett** and Evergreen Community College Trustee **Nancy Pyle**.

If one of these candidates wins 50% plus 1 (or more) of all votes cast, they will be our next councilperson. If none receives that number, a run-off election between the top two vote getters will be held next November.

Our February 22nd meeting will be dedicated to this important election. We want to help you to vote smart, to give you an opportunity for first-hand, side-by-side comparative exposure to all three council hopefuls. To do this, VEP is sponsoring a forum at which each candidate will make an opening statement, have the opportunity to respond to questions from the audience, and then will make a brief closing statement.

Please notice that we will meet in the Theater instead of the Faculty Lounge at Gunderson High School for this special meeting.

Several weeks ago, VEP Executive members submitted a list of six questions to the candidates, questions that we feel are representative of concerns in our area. Two of the candidates responded. Their answers are featured in a special pull-out supplement in this newsletter. We urge you to read and compare their responses.

Mark your calendars and invite your neighbors and friends to take advantage of this election forum. Come, see the candidates and have them respond to *your* questions *before* you vote.

Whatever you do, be sure to vote on March 7, 2000.

VEP endorses a “No” on Measure “O”

An airport traffic plan compromise was negotiated recently by San Jose Mayor Ron Gonzales and the *Airport Traffic Relief Alliance (ATRA)*. The traffic improvements agreed to in this settlement surpass those that would be required by passage of Measure “O” on the upcoming March 7, 2000 ballot. As a result, even the grass-roots ATRA folks are now working to defeat their own initiative.

If this sounds crazy, it’s because once an initiative is qualified for the ballot, it *cannot* be removed—even by those who wrote it and collected the signatures. It *has* to be voted upon. Otherwise, ATRA (the group that put it on the ballot) would have pulled it off the ballot themselves.

VEP has held several meetings about this, written lots of words of explanation, had pro/con expert guests, then finally took a vote of members at our January meeting. Results: Unanimous...

VEP urges you to vote **No on Measure “O.”**

If a majority of voters do, we’ll get even better streets, roads, and transit in time for the opening of a greatly expanded San Jose airport.

Neighborhood Developments

-Greg West, VEP President

Continuation School News: You may have noticed that the ground has been broken for the Continuation School co-located on the John Muir Middle School campus. The legal action taken by Community Action in Robertsville (CAIR) has not been decided, but SJUSD has accepted the risk of needing to re-locate the school should they lose the challenge.

Eden Housing: You may have noticed that the Light Rail parking lot on the west side of the Ohlone/Chynoweth Station has at least partially re-opened. The only way into and out of the lot is through the Eden Housing construction and the stop light at Pearl. The driveway to the east of Pearl is for transit buses only.

Oakridge Mall Expansion: In two consecutive weeks, both the Planning Commission and the City Council unanimously approved a 296,400 square foot expansion of Oakridge Mall. Expansion will include a 20-theater complex and a new parking garage structure. The current mall is 954,389 square feet.

The Planning Commission and City Council used a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) report completed in 1992, amended by a recently completed traffic study, as a basis for their decisions. All residents within 1000-feet of the project were specifically notified in advance of the Commission and Council meetings.

Known neighborhood groups in the vicinity of the project, such as VEP and the Almaden Valley Community Association, were not given special notification. As VEP president, I formally requested that the City Council delay their public hearings on the expansion so that the VEP Board would have time to acquire and read a copy of the CEQA report and to be an informed participant in the hearings.

My request for a delay was not accepted. Oakridge expansion was approved by the city council at its February 1st meeting.

VEP will have the manager of Oakridge Mall and a representative of Westfield Corporation, its owner, come to our March 28th meeting talk to us about this project.

Employment opportunities

The Willow Glen II Homeowners Association is looking for energetic people to work as attendants at their community pool, located at the corner of Bluefield and Rosenbaum Drives. Responsibilities include greeting guests, confirming that their membership is up to date, maintaining the pool area for cleanliness, ensuring that pool safety rules are being followed, and making sure that everyone is having a good time. Lifeguards are also needed.

If you are interested, please call Kevin Moore at 578-6046 or email at willowglenhoa@lakmail.com.

[Ed. note: Willow Glen II HOA is a cabana group of about 300 homes within the VEP membership area. It was named by Ed Rosenbaum when the subdivisions east of Vistapark Drive were first built 30+ years ago.]

VEP delays position on Calpine Power Plant

-Dave Fadness

The San Jose City Council won't decide until August whether to allow Calpine to build a new electric power generating plant in Coyote Valley. The environmental impact report (EIR) won't be available until late-May or early-June. In light of these facts, VEP members decided last month to take advantage of extra time, and the availability of more detailed and impartial information, before making a decision whether to support or oppose the proposed "Metcalf Energy Center" project.

In a unanimously approved motion, our members directed the VEP Executive Board to review the EIR and, if any significant unmitigated impacts are identified that threaten the health or welfare of neighboring residents, to join with Santa Teresa neighborhoods in formally opposing the Calpine project. If a review is possible before our annual recess (we can't hold general membership meetings at Gunderson during summer months), this subject will be brought before the VEP membership again for a final vote.

Rain Brings Mushrooms

-John Marks, VEP's Green Gardener

Last month I warned about a potential drought. Then it rained for three weeks! Now there's lots of rain, and the mushrooms are a-sprouting everywhere.

Not to worry. Mushrooms are the fruiting bodies of millions of stands of mycelium (roots) that grow in the soil, in tanbark and in rotting matter. Mushrooms are needed by the microorganisms that convert fertilizers into the nutrients that your lawns, trees, shrubs, vegetables and flowers use to grow. Truly, life would not exist without mycelium. When the soil temperature is just right, moisture, and length of day combine to cause the mycelium to merge and send up mushrooms. These produce spores that take flight and grow anywhere that is acceptable. There is no way to rid your yard of mushrooms (nor would you want to). Just mow 'em down and forget about it.

Now, to get a little technical: What's the difference between aluminum sulfate and sulfate of ammonia (also known as ammonium sulfate)? None, except the former doesn't have nitrogen in it. Both are used to change the pH of the soil from alkaline to acidic, but the former takes longer. And ammonium sulfate doesn't have a bad smell as some people claim. You can get hydrangeas to change color from pink to blue by adding ammonium sulfate.

Look for Roses

Most garden centers and nurseries currently are filled with plastic-wrapped bundles of bare-root roses. They cost from \$5 to \$15, take little effort to plant, and provide beautiful flowers nearly year-round. In our climate, roses never go truly dormant, so blooms in the depth of winter are common. I had a yellow rose bloom in mid-January.

Those who shop early will have a better selection, but the best buys may be in mid- to late February, when the bare-roots will begin to put out buds. Then nurseries will be eager to clear out their stock, and you will be likely to find reduced prices.

VEP position on Vistapark & Chynoweth

-Dave Fadness

VEP members present at our January 25th meeting unanimously approved a motion to support a general plan change that would end plans for an extension of Chynoweth Avenue across the Lester property. Councilwoman Pat Dando intends to submit a formal request for this change to the San Jose Planning Department this spring. If this does not happen, the motion passed by VEP directs our Executive Board to file the request.

Our primary concerns are for the detrimental effects heavy traffic on Chynoweth would have in our neighborhoods and on the regional park envisioned for his land by Mr. Lester. Moreover, if Chynoweth is extended easterly from Baron Park Drive toward Snell Avenue as planned, it would subdivide Lester's property, making park implementation difficult at best.

* * *

These same concerns apply to the planned southerly extension of Vistapark Drive to Cahalan Avenue. Vistapark would sweep a broad path through Mr. Lester's property, further subdividing its southern end into nearly unusable pieces as far as a regional park is concerned. The street is also a public utilities easement for telephone, water, and sewer lines which have already been laid.

The intended corridor is fenced-off; as such, it is clearly visible from (for example) the slow lane on westbound Route 85. You can also see it from ground level at the stub-end of Chynoweth, although you don't have the same advantage of elevation you have on the adjacent stretch of Route 85.

The trip along Route 85 is well worth it, if you've never taken notice before. You can also experience the concrete Vistapark/Cahalan bridge structure. Pull over momentarily (be careful!) and notice the broad sweep of future Vistapark across Lester's land. The fenced right-of-way ends below your feet, where it will tunnel through temporary dirt fill inside what will be the bridge.

As a result of our concerns for its potential impact on the Lester property, and the concerns of our neighbors if Vistapark were to be realigned closer to their back fences, the motion passed by VEP on January 25th strongly opposes any plans for the extension of Vistapark Drive without extensive involvement of neighboring property owners.

Computer Corner

-Bob Aquino, VEP's Computer Guru

Those of us who have a high-speed Internet connection at work know the agony of having only a 56Kb modem at home when we attempt to connect to the Internet. Although many of the broadband solutions to this problem are not yet available in our neighborhood, I thought it would be worthwhile to discuss the issues involved in getting connected at a more reasonable speed at home.

There are four options available to those who want to surf at higher speed at home. As you might expect, all of these communication methods will cost you more, both in terms of the hardware to install them in your system and in the monthly charges from your provider and your ISP, if applicable. I'll stay away from discussing costs, since these numbers are likely to change as demand goes up for the service and availability of equipment becomes more prevalent. The most interesting thing is that the monthly costs are very similar.

The first of the four options is ISDN. This option is available now. ISDN is sort of a super modem, approximately twice speed of the best modem available. The lines available for ISDN are also available as telephone lines in and out of your house when your modem is not being used. ISDN, as I said, is available anywhere in our area at this time. All you need to get service is to apply money to the proper corporations.

The second alternative that is immediately available to us is, believe it or not, satellite communication. You can buy a small dish similar to the ones used for TV satellite reception. This is one-way communication in that you can only download information from satellite. You still have to have a conventional 56Kb modem that communicates with a satellite base station. This is all right when you think about it, because most of the time you spend on the Internet is spent waiting to download information, not uploading. The download speeds of satellite Internet is approximately 400Kb per second, which is same rate provided by the phone company on DSL lines for home use.

DSL (digital subscriber lines) are a hot new technology in telephony. They allow communication at 384Kb per second. So you can see that your waiting time in front of monitors is diminished radically. The big problem with DSL is that it is not yet available in our area.

There is a super-premium DSL that we can get, but I think it is probably beyond the budget of most of my readers. The problem is that in order to use DSL the customer cannot be more than 17,000 cable feet from the provider's office. Most folks in VEP land are farther away than that.

Typically, the telephone company places their switching facilities 12-miles apart. Since DSL users can only be a maximum of 17000 feet (about three miles) from the switching facilities, many potential customers are not covered within their effective radius. Phone companies are correcting this situation by creating small underground substations to bring the service closer to their customers.

When I talked to Pac Bell about when DSL service would be available in our area, they said "soon." I'm not sure what soon means, but I think it probably will be within a year.

The final commonly available means of broadband Internet access is cable modem. This comes in over the television cable that is already hooked-up into your home. Again, at this moment, this service is not available within VEP's area, but AT&T says it will be available "soon." (That word keeps cropping up when it comes to broadband.)

It's possible to get extremely high transfer rates on cable modems, as much as 1MB, but there is a caution that has to be exercised here. Since all your neighbors will be on the same cable as you are, you'll be sharing the bandwidth with them. Thus, if they all want to download movies at the same time, you may not get remarkable bandwidth.

There is also another caution. Since you and your neighbors are all on the same cable, you're essentially on an intranet. If your system is not set up correctly, it is possible that your neighbors could access your files. Another security issue is that, since you are on sort of a LAN, someone could hack into your computer more easily.

This is an issue that will arise again and again as computers become more interconnected in the world. The answer is to have a firewall, which is another computer, that shields your files from outside scrutiny.

As you can see from the above, there are no perfect solutions for anything. But, when you consider going to broadband Internet connections, the foregoing are some of the things you need to bear in mind as you make Internet service decisions.

I hope we will see some of these broadband solutions coming into our neighborhood in very near future.

President's Corner

-Greg West, VEP President

First of all, I would like to thank our membership for a better-than-average turn out at our January meeting. I was a bit worried after the very poor turn out at our previous meeting in November (Thanksgiving week), although, deep down, I knew that my worries were unfounded.

Secondly, I would like to thank our membership for renewing promptly! This year's renewals are well ahead of this same time last year! We will do a promotional mailing to the non-members in the VEP area this month with the goal of achieving the same or better membership growth than we had last year. Last year our membership grew by about 10%!

Finally, I would like to apologize for the fact that some of our members were upset by the article written by Dave Fadness in the January issue of the VEP News stating the VEP Board's position on Measure O, the Airport Traffic Relief Act. Dave wrote the article at my direction to report the Board's position on Measure O. I asked Dave to write the article because of his unique knowledge and insight into the measure due to his involvement in reaching an agreement with the mayor's office that makes this measure unnecessary in the eyes of the measure's authors.

Dave has been very vocal and up-front at both Membership meetings and Board meetings about his involvement with the Airport Traffic Relief Alliance (ATRA), the folks who wrote Measure O and got it on the ballot.

VEP had devoted two full meetings to this specific issue. The first one was last spring at which Chip Evans talked to us about the issue: he's the co-chair of ATRA, and the person that delivered the required signatures to City Hall to put Measure O on the ballot. The second was our November meeting at which Chip and Steve Tedesco, President of the Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce and primary opponent of the measure, came to present their views.

Since our November meeting, City Hall has taken action to meet the requirements of Measure O to the satisfaction of ATRA, the folks who wrote the measure in the first place. In fact, Chip is a signatory on the argument against Measure O in your sample ballot for the upcoming March election, as is Dave. (It should be noted that a group called Citizens Against Airport Pollution, CAAP, still supports the measure despite ATRA's change in position. A representative of CAAP made a presentation to the VEP membership about 2 years ago.)

Based on the information presented from both sides in our meetings, on ATRA's change in position, and on the clear benefits of the plan adopted by the City, the VEP Board voted to urge the VEP membership to oppose Measure O. Our membership unanimously passed a resolution to oppose the measure at our January meeting.

♥♥♥ VEP needs YOU ♥♥♥

-Dave Fadness

It's February, the month when VEP Execs fill their quivers with Valentine arrows in preparation for the annual hunt for new officers. Our hearts would belong to you if you stepped forward as a volunteer. You would love the experience, too.

We have the following leadership opportunities for you: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Newsletter Editor. No experience needed, just heartfelt dedication, a romantic sense of community, and an endearing love of your neighborhood. Won't you be our special Valentine?

Terms run from May 1st thru the end of April. This means that you can start the new millennium as a VEP officer!

Questions? Call any of the current officers listed on our mailing page for answers. We're happy to take your name as a volunteer, too. Do it today. You'll be happy you did.

Candidate Responses to VEP Questionnaire

District 10 City Council elections are on Tuesday, March 7th. VEP is taking an active part in the process along with the Almaden Valley Community Association (AVCA). Although VEP cannot endorse any candidate, we can facilitate the ability of our members to cast informed votes. To that end, the VEP Board has compiled a list of six questions; four relating to recent VEP goals and two to more general City issues. The questions were given to the candidates, Bill Garbett, Nancy Pyle, and Pat Dando, at a meeting on January 18. We requested responses in writing to our email address or PO Box by January 29.

In addition, as we have historically done, VEP is holding a **Candidates' Forum** at our regular meeting **on Tuesday, February 22, beginning at 7:30 PM in the Gunderson High School Theater**. This will be an opportunity for VEP members and neighbors to meet the candidates and to discuss what's on our minds. All three candidates have accepted our invitation to participate.

AVCA asked the candidates to respond to questions as well. These may be viewed at: <http://www.avca-sj.org>. Finally, AVCA and the League of Women Voters are jointly holding a Candidate's Forum at the Water District Building off Almaden Expressway on Wednesday, February 23.

None of the candidates met the January 29th response date. We reset the response date to February 2nd. VEP received email responses from Nancy Pyle and Pat Dando on February 4th. In addition, VEP received a written response post marked February 3rd from Pat Dando in our PO Box. VEP has received no response from Bill Garbett to date.

The candidates' responses are published here in their entirety. Pat Dando's response is printed first as VEP received hers first, beating Nancy Pyle's to our email address by a few hours. The questions and responses and other election information are also posted at our Web site: <http://sites.netscape.net/vephoa>

VEP's questions and responses from the candidates follow:

Pat Dando's Responses

1. As our city council representative, what will you do to help preserve and implement the owner's plans for a park on the 300+ acre Lester-Cottle Ranch?

I am working very closely with Walter Lester and surrounding neighborhoods to preserve the Lester-Cottle Ranch and to move towards building the park that Mr. Lester envisions. One of the first actions I took as your council member in 1995 was to change the City's General Plan designation for the Lester Property from high-density housing to Public Park and Open Space. This is the first time that the City of San Jose officially acknowledged Mr. Lester's desire to establish a park on his land. Previously, the City had planned for 2,000 condominiums and apartments on the property.

Currently, I am working with Mr. Lester, Congress members Tom Campbell and Zoe Lofgren, and the Land Trust of Santa Clara County to resolve an inheritance tax issue that threatens the Lester-Cottle Ranch. I have strongly encouraged Mr. Lester to protect his property with an open space easement to help prevent any future development.

This year I will initiate another General Plan Amendment that will prevent Chynoweth and Vista Park roadways from slicing through the Lester Property. I will oppose proposals to develop this open space. Additionally, I will continue to work with Mr. Lester to raise the funds necessary to build a park for the community.

2. As a city council candidate, what specific plans do have to fund and expedite the completion of Vista Park and expansion of the Pearl Avenue Branch Library, both of which have been waiting decades for completion and improvement?

As your council member, I've worked hard to build new parks projects and tot lots during my first term. In the Blossom Valley area, we finished phase I of Vista Park, built a new tot lot at Park View III, added sidewalks at Thousand Oaks Park, and installed new benches at Cahalan Park. I also secured \$2 million from the State to extend the Guadalupe River Recreation Trail from Blossom Hill to Capitol Expressway. Because I have successfully worked to build 5 new parks and tot lots, District 10 has more neighborhood parks than any other city council district.

My Neighborhoods FIRST! Program gave grants to Parkview, Carson, and Randol Schools to make schoolyard improvements. Neighborhoods FIRST! also helped coordinate volunteers to complete neighborhood beautification projects like the palm trees in the median of Chynoweth Avenue.

Completion of Vista Park and Meadows Park in the Blossom Valley is a top priority for me. I have placed sufficient funds in my District 10 parks budget to complete both Vista Park and Meadows Park this year.

Our families deserve to have new libraries and community centers. As your council member, I pushed to get the expansion of the Pearl Avenue Library and the addition of a new library on Blossom Hill Rd. as top priorities in the Library Master Plan. I strongly believe that the City should let voters decide this year whether or not we should raise the funds to build these needed neighborhood facilities throughout San Jose.

In the meantime, we have added new books, remodeled the interior, and doubled the number of parking spaces at the Pearl Avenue Library.

3. As a city council member, how will you address the infrastructure, urban services, and primary/secondary educational needs of our neighborhoods in our growing city? What would your priorities be?

It's essential that we have adequate libraries, community centers, parks, fire stations, police services, roadways, schools and child care to serve the needs of growing neighborhoods. I do not think it's acceptable to build more and more housing without an effective plan to provide these basic neighborhood serves.

During this strong economy, I have pushed for more city funds to be invested in our neighborhoods. We are paving more streets, fixing more sidewalks, installing more streetlights, and building more parks than any time in the past decade. Because I have successfully worked to build 5 new parks and tot lots, District 10 has more neighborhood parks than any other city council district.

I am the only City Council member to question San Jose's development process and the lack of planning for neighborhood services. I voted against a housing development because nobody was willing to address the lack of elementary school space in the neighborhood.

In this case, the neighborhood school was built for 250 students, but now housed 420 students. Since this development, the City's Planning Department and the school districts have a better working relationship to plan for future school capacity.

As your council member, I successfully worked to establish a partnership between the City and San Jose Unified School District to provide childcare centers at 18 school sites, including Terrell and Randol Schools.

I will work to implement a new planning process for Neighborhood Public Facility Plans in areas where large numbers of new housing units are built.

4. As a city council member, would you support the expenditure of city funds to build a bridge over the Chynoweth Ponds and the Guadalupe River to connect Chynoweth and Cherry Avenues?

We need to find better ways to reduce traffic congestion and prevent cars from speeding through neighborhoods. I oppose the expenditure of city funds to build a bridge linking Chynoweth over the Guadalupe River. Furthermore, this year I will initiate a General Plan Amendment that will prevent Chynoweth and Vista Park roadways from slicing through the Lester Property. This means that Chynoweth will remain a dead end street, preventing traffic from cutting through the neighborhood.

To improve traffic circulation in the Oakridge, Blossom Hill, and Almaden Expressway area, I would support linking Thornwood across the Guadalupe River to Sanchez Dr. and then connecting Sanchez to Chynoweth and Cherry.

I have worked for months to formulate a plan to address traffic congestion and speeding on residential streets. On January 31st, a final community meeting was held in District 10, and in February I will propose specific recommendations to the City Council.

I believe we need additional traffic enforcement in the City, both photo radar and traffic enforcement officers. I also believe we must change city policies to direct staff to be proactive and allow neighbors to participate in determining the traffic controls in their neighborhoods, such as stop signs, crosswalks, traffic circles, and speed bumps.

5. What would you propose to do to keep our streets and highways free of graffiti and trash? Do you think this is an important issue?

Graffiti and litter drive me crazy! During my first term on the City Council, the City has almost doubled its resources to clean up and prevent graffiti in our neighborhoods. As President of the Santa Clara County Cities Association, I worked in con-

junction with the District Attorney's Office, the Juvenile Courts and the Juvenile Probation Department to initiate an aggressive enforcement and public relations campaign dubbed, "Do Graffiti – Lose Your License."

This collaboration emphasized the suspension of a driver's license as punishment for the conviction of a graffiti offense. This campaign will remind kids that this community will not tolerate graffiti and will hold them accountable for their actions. In addition, there will also be a focus on the "T.A.G.-Your-It" Program. In this program, taggers are assigned as part of their punishment a specific area to keep clean of graffiti for up to one year. The goal of both programs is to make young people think twice about committing a crime in the first place.

I have worked with Assemblyman Jim Cunneen and met with the Director of Caltrans to get the State to commit more resources to clean graffiti and trash from our highways. I will continue to work hard to get more clean ups on our local free-ways.

6. What is your position on lowering our city's adopted traffic level of service (LOS) standard from "D" to "E"? Will you hold firm on the requirement that developers either reduce their project scope or pay for corrective mitigation when traffic studies show that their projects will cause LOS standards to be violated?

We must work harder to reduce traffic congestion in our community. I do not support lowering the traffic level of service standard. As your council member, I've held firm on the requirement that developers pay their fair share to adequately address the additional traffic that their projects generate.

Developers must be held responsible. Existing neighborhoods should not have to suffer from increased traffic congestion when new development occurs. And, local taxpayers should not get stuck with the bill for necessary traffic improvements when new development occurs.

Local government must also do more to reduce traffic congestion. I will continue to push to get the Highway 85/87 interchange under construction. We, the voters, approved Measure A&B funding in 1996 and should expect local transportation agencies to make progress soon. I will support other regional efforts to improve our transportation network and promote better planning.

I will continue to pursue state grants that will fund the linking of additional signals in District 10 to the City's Signal Control Center to improve signal timing and reduce delays.

More special city funds, such as Redevelopment and the Airport, should be used for transportation infrastructure improvements.

Nancy Pyle's Responses

1. As our city council representative, what will you do to help preserve and implement the owner's plans for a park on the 300+ acre Lester-Cottle Ranch?

Mr. Lester desires to keep his property in county hands for perpetuity. He wants it to be used as a County Park. His plans are to leave a farm-like atmosphere named Cottle Farm. This will be the greatest gift given to the people of this County. Mr. Lester has created a legacy that is unsurpassed. He has apparently used an estate planner to ensure that his wishes are followed and is not at all interested in suggestions for even slight deviations from his position. Given that he has had competent legal advice, we can assume that the land will become a park in the true open sense of the word. This land would be a great asset to the city of San Jose for just the purpose Mr. Lester envisions. I will do anything and everything possible to make sure his wishes are carried out.

2. As a city council candidate, what specific plans do have to fund and expedite the completion of Vista Park and expansion of the Pearl Avenue Branch Library, both of which have been waiting decades for completion and improvement?

The Library at Pearl is exactly the same as when I was teaching at Carson School 20 plus years ago. Several libraries, throughout the city need upgrading. I chaired the Measure "I" bond campaign, which brought \$135M to SJEVC College District and I would support a bond measure for this purpose. It is my understanding that the libraries and parks will be folded together into one bond measure. I caution the city to conduct a feasibility study regarding the appropriateness of this combination. A feasibility study will provide the guidance that is needed to ensure success.

3. As a city council member, how will you address the infrastructure, urban services, and primary/secondary educational needs of our neighborhoods in our growing city? What would your priorities be?

I would request a definition of the problems including how much deferred maintenance has occurred, what flood control measures need to be addressed and how much money is involved to correct the various problems. Then I would ask for a long term plan to correct the problems.

I am concerned about the method for removal of grass and tree clippings, which leaves a mess everywhere every week and causes safety hazards. I greatly dislike the new street re-paving method, which leaves tiny stones for months after the work is completed.

I back the Mayor's campaign to help our schools. We need to continue the program for housing support for new teachers, we need to add additional crossing guards, and we need to implement City--School District cooperative programs.

4. As a city council member, would you support the expenditure of city funds to build a bridge over the Chynoweth Ponds and the Guadalupe River to connect Chynoweth and Cherry Avenues?

I do not know. I would have to study the problem. My instincts say it would be good to be able to allow east-west traffic between Branham and Blossom Hill, but it might have a serious effect on certain neighborhoods. Looking at the mess at Blossom Hill and Blossom caused by the 85 ramp design, teaches me that we should be careful of the "doctrine of unintended results".

5. What would you propose to do to keep our streets and highways free of graffiti and trash? Do you think this is an important issue?

I support the Mayor's anti-graffiti program. We must fight this activity with whatever effort is required to keep our city beautiful. I support fines for taggers and their parents. Harsher penalties need to be levied against repeat offenders. Trash removal on streets is a perfect activity for juvenile offenders who have broken the law. We also need better enforcement of existing litter laws.

6. What is your position on lowering our city's adopted traffic level of service (LOS) standard from "D" to "E"? Will you hold firm on the requirement that developers either reduce their project scope or pay for corrective mitigation when traffic studies show that their projects will cause LOS standards to be violated?

To go from "D" to "E" and not do anything about it is unconscionable. We are approaching full time gridlock in many areas. It is distressing that the city has to admit traffic is worse, give up and institutionalize the lower standard. We have to look at ways to get people out of cars and into mass transit. Incentives to encourage people to use mass transit are the best method to coax commuters out of their cars. That will only happen when mass transit is user friendly.

Bulletin Board Ads

BABY-SITTING WORK WANTED: 15-year old, Red Cross trained babysitter. Call Denise @ 227-5221.

MR. FIX-IT will repair leaks, sticking doors, locks, latches, lights, and life's little ills. No job is too small. Call John @ 629-6433.

PET-SITTING WORK NEEDED: 15-year old will pet-sit, dog-walk. Is flexible and reliable. References available. Call Alex @ 224-0853.

BABY-SITTING WORK WANTED: 17-year old, experienced baby-sitter. References available. Call Becky @ 225-5878.

GARAGE SALE SIGNS: I have "A-frame" garage sale signs that I will loan you for your garage sales. Call me in advance to reserve them. Brian @ 226-6004 or at RE/MAX Valley Properties, @ 978-9000, ext. 228.

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VEP will print free ads for its members for transactions involving less than \$250, for lost-and-found, for announcements of general interest to our community, and for kids under 18 or retirees who are looking for work. Free ads must be submitted monthly for publication.

Commercial ads cost \$1.00 per line per month, 10 lines maximum, must be prepaid before publication, and may only be run once per calendar quarter. Commercial ads must be submitted quarterly. No graphics allowed. For information on full-sized ads with graphics (camera ready), contact VEP'S Treasurer listed on the mailing page of this newsletter.

One line contains 50 characters, including spaces. Mail to VEP, P.O. Box 18111, San Jose, 95158. Ads must be received no later than the 10th of the month for inclusion in that month's newsletter. Use the following form as a guide for submitting an ad:

NAME: _____

PHONE # _____

AD WORDING: _____

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