

VEP's SUMMER VACATION

- No Regular Meetings Until September 26th •

VEP 1999-2000 Service Award Winners

Smita Das from Andrew Hill High School and **Nicole Kristal** from Henry T. Gunderson High School were chosen as this year's *VEP Community Service Award* winners. Both will receive \$1000 cash awards to be used for accredited post-secondary education or vocational programs. Ms. Das and Ms. Kristal were nominated along with several other deserving graduating seniors by the administrations of their respective schools.

Ms. Das chaired TACCLE, a teen group on Hill's campus active against alcohol and tobacco use. She was also active in school blood drives for four years and volunteered many hours of her time for graffiti clean up.

Ms. Kristal started a Youth Against Hunger club on Gunderson's campus that coordinated the collection and delivery of food to Sacred Heart Community Center, coordinated the collection and delivery of toiletries and personal products to battered women shelters, and volunteered at the Summer Bridge Program for Downtown College Prep, among her many other service activities.

We congratulate these extraordinary high school graduates. Our hopes are that they will enjoy long and happy lives in continued volunteer service to our community.

VEP workday set for July 8th

-Dave Fadness

The palm trees on Chynoweth Avenue need pruning again, so we're asking for volunteers to help with cutting fronds and generally cleaning up the median. We'll meet at the corner of Chynoweth and Gaundabert Lane (in front of Gunderson High School) at 9 a.m. on Saturday, July 8th.

Bring a pair of gloves, a sturdy rake, a pruning saw, and/or a garbage bag for litter collection. (You don't have to bring all of that equipment, just whatever you need to do whatever you want to do.) We'll show you how to prune the trees—you already know how to do the rest. Wear old clothes because pruning street trees (especially) can be a very dirty job. Consider wearing a long-sleeve shirt if you want to avoid cuts and scratches.

We'll be working in the median of a fairly busy street, so we'll have to be very careful. Please leave your young kids safely at home in the care of another adult.

For workforce planning purposes, I'd appreciate a call (578-6428 day/eve) if you plan to be there--or just show up and help us get this job done. With a small band of Very

Energetic People, we should be able to finish in time for lunch.

VEP joins the palm trees in thanking you in advance for your volunteer assistance! We look forward to seeing you on July 8th.

VEP's Welcome Committee

-Katherine Decker, Chair

If you know of someone new on your street, please contact me at DDD83055@aol.com. As VEP's representative, I would like to welcome them to our wonderful neighborhood. Thank you so very much!

Artificial Shakes--A KTVU/Examiner report

-Tom Vacar, KTVU Consumer Editor

A special KTVU/San Francisco Examiner investigation has found tens of thousands of Northern California homeowners may have a sometimes hard-to-detect problem over their houses. A new-age roofing material first thought to keep homes protected for decades from winter rains--and summer fires--may in fact deteriorate in just five years. And sometimes, the homeowners are the last to know.

Rustic but flawed

Wooden cedar shake roofs have long been popular here in California. Their natural beauty seems to fit right in with our rustic environment. But they have a potentially fatal flaw. They burn.

And year after year, in case after case, they caught on fire... and entire houses often burned down with them.

New tiles

So in the 1980s, a new kind of roofing, made to look like cedar shakes, came onto the market. These tiles were made of cement and some sort of light filler material, such as sawdust or pumice stone.

They were guaranteed to be fireproof, and were an instant--albeit expensive--hit. "At that time, in 1983, it was twice the amount of money that I would have had to pay for a regular shake roof," recalls San Ramon homeowner Larry Zaharis.

Larry Zaharis, and tens of thousands of other California homeowners gladly paid, because the roofs were also guaranteed to last 50 years.

Concord homeowner Leona Ramirez says, "And we thought, 'Well, 50 years and we'll be gone.' So we thought, 'Well, that sounds good.' "I'd rather pay the extra \$4,000 to 5,000 and I wouldn't have to worry about the roof for the rest of my life," says Danville homeowner Bill De Lima

Cracked tiles

But in tens of thousands of homes, as the roof tiles weathered, they started cracking. Rainwater seeped in, soaking the material inside the tiles. It soon broke, and leaked.

"About five to six months after that" says De Lima of his Cal-Shake roof, "I noticed that the crust of the top of the stuff started coming off... so I called the roofer and he said there was nothing he could do about it... he just guaranteed the workmanship."

Zaharis says, "The roof kept deteriorating, and I noticed that I could hear a funny noise in the morning. I noticed that the birds were actually eating the roof in the back side of the building and the moss was growing on it."

Class action suit

Many owners of two of the most popular brands of fake shake roofs recently learned that a proposed class-action lawsuit settlement against the manufacturer may soon result in replacements or partial refunds.

On behalf of as many as 35,000 homeowners, San Ramon attorney David Birka-White brought that lawsuit against the maker of the brands known as Cemwood and Permatek. If they market a product that says it's going to last for 50 years, then it should last for 50 years. If they don't know if it lasts for 50 years, they shouldn't represent to the consumer that it last for 50 years," says Birka-White.

The parent company of the maker of Cemwood and Permatek denied the charges, but settled the suit and agreed to pay \$105 million.

Other brands

But what about other popular brands, including Fire-Free, which was installed on as many as 15,000 California homes? Or the most famous of all: Cal-Shakes, which can be found on as many as 40,000 homes?

According to attorney Birka-White, "It also fails in a very short period of time. It has a 50 year warranty but it's failing within 5 to 10 years."

Attorney Birka-White recently filed similar class-action lawsuits against the maker of Cal-Shakes and Re-Con, the manufacturer of Fire-Free.

Bill De Lima's Cal-Shake roof is so waterlogged that the shales are disintegrating and the roof is bowing down--only eight years into his 50-year warranty. "I'll tell you," he says, "I learned one lesson: the warranty is as good as the person who gives it to you. I don't care what it is. That I've learned."

Cal-Shake's attorney says it's too early to comment on the merits of the case. But he's investigating it.

Contractor Bud Means' home in Oakland has a four-year old Fire-Free" shake roof. He says, "Visually, it looks fine. But it's such a fragile roof that you can't get up on the roof

even to get rid of leaves without breaking the tiles. There are probably 100 or so tiles up there that are broken right now."

Fire-Free resolution

Re-Con, which makes Fire-Free told KTVU and the *San Francisco Examiner* it recognizes problems with some of its older roofs, but says it's trying to work out resolutions with homeowners who've complained.

But the homeowners' attorney says unless the homeowners can win a fair settlement or verdict, they'll have to pay thousands of dollars to replace their roofs. At the very least, they'll have a very tough time selling their houses. "I think under California law, it's a serious disclosure issue," says Birka-White. "The homeowner will have to disclose it to their successor owner."

Our investigation reveals that as many as 100,000 homes have such roofs. Total repairs could run as much as \$500,000,000.

* * *

Cemwood Shake Class Action Litigation

Tousley Brain serves as co-lead counsel in a nationwide class action against American Cemwood Corporation and its parent corporation, MacMillan Bloedel Limited. The plaintiffs allege that the organic fiber reinforced cement roofing products manufactured and sold by Cemwood, the "shakes," are defective and prematurely fail. Specifically, plaintiffs allege that the shakes suffer moisture invasion, crack, curl and otherwise do not perform as expressly warranted and represented by Cemwood.

The shakes are composed primarily of two materials: wood fiber and Portland cement. Wood is a naturally soft and porous material, so when it is exposed to water, it absorbs some of the liquid and expands in size. Portland cement, on the other hand, is extremely rigid and has almost no ability to expand. Thus, when the product is exposed to normal moisture, the fiber absorbs water and begins to expand, exerting pressure on the surrounding cement. The result is cracks in the shake, as well as microbial invasion resulting in continuous and progressive damage to the roof and underlying structure. These product failures occur regardless of installation or maintenance practices.

Cemwood marketed these roofing products under various brand names, including Cemwood Shakes, Permatek Shakes, Permatek II Shakes, Royal Shakes, Cascade Shakes, Trieste Tile and Pacific Slate. In their sales brochures, Cemwood claims that their product is "the roof of a lifetime," "walkable," "permanent," and "impact resistant." Nevertheless, the products consistently fail long before the 50-year warranty. On April 8, 1998, Cemwood pulled the product from the market.

The Superior Court for the State of California in and for the County of San Joaquin has granted preliminary approval of a class action settlement with MacMillan Bloedel (U.S.A.), Inc., and Weyerhaeuser Company Limited (f/k/a MacMillan

Bloedel Limited), parent companies of American Cemwood. The court also granted certification of a litigation class, by which Plaintiffs will pursue their claims against American Cemwood and its insurance companies.

The claims administrator can be reached toll free at 1 (800)708-3266 or you may contact Dennis M. Tessier directly at 1(206)682-5600 or by e-mail to:

dtessier@tousley.com

*[Ed. note: The foregoing is a compilation of internet articles on this subject. We are indebted to VEP member **Ray Avakian** for calling our attention to this issue of potential importance to other VEP area families. For more information, contact the number shown above and log on to www.cemwoodclaims.com. Do it as soon as possible. Please pass this information on to others you know who have an artificial shake roof.]*

Pet Owners... Please!

Neighbors who regularly use Vista Park have reported that owners walk their pets there and leave animal droppings behind, a very unpleasant surprise for others who use our park for intended recreation purposes. We share their concern for this inconsiderate practice and ask that if you do walk your animals outside your own yard, PLEASE pick up after them!

Be a good neighbor. Pick up after your pets whenever you take them to a public place (parks, sidewalks, park strips, etc.) or allow them to stray onto someone else's property. Always keep them on a leash and bring the necessary container and clean-up equipment with you. Also, be mindful of the fact that lawns can be damaged by animal urine.

President's message

-Greg West, VEP's President

Although we won't have a regular meeting again until September, we have a number of exciting things going on in the neighborhood that the Board and members will stay involved in.

First of all, we are working with the city to move ahead with the Phase II development of Vista Park. I would like to particularly thank long-time VEP members **Neil Bray** and **Lisa Miller** for attending a meeting on Vista Park earlier this month and for sharing their ideas and historical perspectives. Both were involved in the original planning of the park.

Secondly, we have some outstanding news from our City Council member, **Pat Dando**. She is recommending the removal of the Vista Park Drive extension across the Lester Property from the General Plan. General Plan amendments are considered by the city in late fall, so we

will need to take a position on this and gear up to support that position in September.

Thirdly, VEP's Executive Board recently met with the *Almaden Valley Community Association* (AVCA) Board in what we hope will be an ongoing series of quarterly meetings. **Dave Fadness, David Noel** and I met with AVCA President **George Bettisworth** and Board Members **John Redding, Bob Boydston, and Dennis Mulvihill**. Although we don't see eye-to-eye on everything with our neighbors to the south, we did agree that we have some common interests, including city land use and budget. When we do agree on issues with AVCA, we will make every effort to leverage our common positions. In addition, we agreed to sponsor some joint events. We are working toward a joint candidate's forum in the fall and will have more information on this as we confirm details.

Finally, we will begin the long overdue process of reviewing our Constitution and By-laws this summer. Our membership has directed us to review some specific elements. We will recommend changes for membership approval, likely at our October and November meetings.

We were also asked by the membership to watch for new information about the environmental impacts of the Metcalf Energy Center (also known as the Calpine Power Plant). Mayor Gonzales has recently taken a stand against the construction of the Center off Hwy 101 south of the Santa Teresa neighborhood. We will continue to watch for any new information and will bring that information to our membership in the fall.

Tomato Summer Care

-John Marks, VEP's Green Gardener

Although summer is when you are doing other things, like going to ball games, beer parties, swimming, watching stock car races, going to weddings, and traveling, don't abandon your vegetable garden. Remember, woolly worm and creepy crawler are waiting for the radishes and tomatoes to ripen.

Tomatoes are America's most popular home garden crop. (Corn is second.) If you are bathing your garden from time to time, you shouldn't have to buy anything to ward off bugs. But if the Tomato Horned Borer--that big, fat, ugly green worm--shows up, use a broad-spectrum insecticide. It will handle the borer and any other insect bumming around your garden.

When planting tomatoes, be sure to plant them deep, with the bottom row of leaves flush with the ground, assuring a longer rooting source. Tomatoes, cucumbers, squash and the vine crops can't compete with weeds. So apply any of the chemical garden weeders that are available. Another method is to plant through holes in sheets of black plastic or plastic cleaning bags or garbage bags. You can also use shredded newspapers, grass clippings, or wood chips as a mulch.

Fertilizer your tomatoes a "little bit, lots of times," as opposed to "lots of food, one time." The same goes for the rest of your vegetable garden. Keep your eyes peeled for sick plants. Blossom-end rot will most likely be the big problem. This is when the blossom end of the forming tomatoes turns gray, then black. This is caused by poor distribution of moisture in hot, dry weather. It can be controlled by spraying with a solution of tablespoon of calcium chloride to a gallon of water.

Also, avoid sick tomatoes by washing your hands before you work in the garden, particularly if you are a smoker because tomatoes are susceptible to diseases transported through tobacco smoke. (Maybe a better solution would be to stop smoking!) You can also get more tomatoes per plant by spraying with a tomato-set spray available from the nursery. Don't water vegetables from the top; water from below and water deep.

Now let's talk about pruning and suckering. Tomato plants can be pruned by pinching the tops out in the summer. This keeps them short and bushy after they have formed most of their fruit. The suckers are those free-loading rascals around the base of the stem that eat a lot but don't produce any fruit. Pinch them off where you can, and don't be afraid to take them off quite high on the plant, leaving just a few strong ladder branches to bear fruit.

Tips on how to keep cool in summer heat

Scott Blakey, PG&E

Northern California is baking under the first heat wave of the summer, and Pacific Gas and Electric Company is offering tips to help customers keep cool and to help save money on energy bills:

- Close drapes and blinds during the day to keep the heat out of your home.
- Set your air conditioner thermostat at 78 or higher when at home. Turn it to 85 degrees or off when you leave. Air conditioners account for as much as 40 to 60 percent of summer energy bills. (Note: Seniors and people with special medical needs should check with their doctors before changing home temperatures.)
- Use a clock thermostat or timer to set temperatures automatically for the hours you are home.
- Clean or replace air conditioner filters as recommended by the manufacturer.
- Check air conditioning ductwork to make sure it has not become disconnected or crushed. Seal and insulate leaky ducts. About 25 cents of each dollar spent on cooling can be lost through leaky ducts.
- Use a fan instead of an air conditioner if the weather is mild.
- Use heat-producing appliances such as ovens, dishwashers, clothes dryers and irons early in the morning when possible.

- Turn off lights when they are not needed. Seventy-five percent of the electricity used by an incandescent bulb becomes waste heat, not light.
- Switch to fluorescent lights that are more energy efficient and generate less waste heat.
- Cook in your toaster oven, microwave or broiler oven. They use half the energy of a regular oven and keep your kitchen cooler.
- Dry laundry on a line to avoid using clothes dryers. You can put laundry in the dryer when it's almost dry with a sheet of fabric softener to soften it.
- If you have a swimming pool, cover it with an approved solar pool cover or thermal blanket when the pool is not in use.
- Check swimming pool pump timers and set the time for early morning or overnight use.

As a result of increasing temperatures, the demand for electricity is expected to rise as Californians turn to air conditioners and other devices to beat the heat. The California Independent System Operator, in Folsom, is now responsible for overseeing operations of most of the long-distance, high-voltage transmission lines that deliver electricity from power plants in California, neighboring states and Mexico to utility distribution systems throughout California. PG&E still owns and maintains the transmission lines in its service area.

Recent upgrades to PG&E's distribution system mean that the utility's facilities are better prepared to handle the higher temperatures and increased demand for electricity. Still, just as strong winds and falling trees can affect power lines and poles in the winter storm season, high temperatures can take a toll on heat-sensitive facilities such as transformers and substations.

For more information on how to save energy in your home, please contact the PG&E *Smarter Energy Line* at 1-800-933-9555. For more information about PG&E, please visit our web site, <http://www.pge.com>.

Computer Corner

-Bob Aquino

There have been a lot of advances in Net technology that enables all sorts of interesting stuff to be found on the web. That's the good news. The bad news is that, as these new technologies are added to the web, they place more and more demands on our creaky old 56K modems.

You'll find lots of articles on broadband technology. So, what exactly is broadband technology? It's something that is radically faster than our existing modems. Four technologies are currently available. I won't get into costs, because they are all pretty much competitively priced for installation and monthly rates.

Two of them are telephone based: ISDN (Integrated Signal Digital Network) and DSL (Digital Subscriber Line). ISDN

requires the installation of a special phone line from the street to your house. Data rates are 128 Kb both uploading (sending) and downloading (receiving). DSL goes over regular phone lines and has a maximum uploading data rate of 128 Kb and a downloading of a maximum of 384 Kb for home use. I'll explain later why the speed is qualified as a maximum.

The next choice is cable modem. In this method, the signal comes in and leaves via the TV cable in your house. Speeds are comparable to DSL.

The final choice is satellite modem. In this method, the downloading signal comes from a satellite. This technology is comparable to DSL for home use, but the uploading communication is by conventional modem.

If you think about it, unless you are uploading large files, most of your time on the net is spent receiving. That being the case, the disparity in up and down rates is not really a large deal.

Now for the advantages and disadvantages. ISDN's advantage is that it's available everywhere if you want it. Its disadvantage is obvious: it's slower than the other methods.

Cable modem is fast, but... The *but* here is that if everyone in the neighborhood has one, and they all are online at the same time, they can slow down the transfer rate because they are all using the same piece of copper. For us here in VEP-land, the argument is moot. We don't have a cable system that's capable, and TCI can't tell us when we will.

The advantage with satellite is that it is generally available. Disadvantages? You need a southern exposure to point your antenna, and you need to mount the antenna and run cable.

All other things being equal, in our area DSL would be the preferred alternative. But DSL has a limitation with distance. You have to be within a maximum of 18,000 cable feet from the node (which is, generally speaking, the telephone office). Also, the farther you are from the office, the lower your data rate.

Guess what folks? VEP is generally outside the distance limit! But do not despair. There are companies who have nodes that are closer than the telephone office. They generally work through ISP's to provide service. If you're interested, you should check with your ISP. Almost all of the biggies provide connections in our area. Shop around because many have rebate plans to offset the cost of installation.

One other issue with regard to DSL, cable modem, and ISDN is that many people leave their computers online all the time. If you do, you'll need to take some special precautions because you'll be open to outside hacking. My

advice would be that you should install firewall software on your computer.

Review of VEP Constitution and By-laws

It has been more than 16 years since VEP has made any changes to our Constitution and By-laws. Last fall, the members adopted a goal calling for a review of these documents.

Several issues have been raised over the last couple of years including dues and VEP's Annual Service Awards. The VEP Board has begun its review of these documents and will have recommendations for changes this fall.

Amendments to the Constitution must be passed by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Board and then by a majority vote of the membership present at a regular meeting. Amendments to the By-laws require a two-thirds vote of the membership present at a regular meeting. Members must be notified in writing of any proposed changes to the Constitution and By-laws at least 2 days before the meeting in which they are considered. Proposed changes will, of course, be agendized and published in the VEP News.

If you are interested in helping us with this review, or just want a copy of our charter documents for your information, simply call Greg West (629-1938) or Dave Fadness (578-6428).

City's Ped-Bike advisory needs members

Thanks to the mayor, San Jose recently converted its Bicycle Advisory Committee into a *Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)*. The BPAC now needs four new members. This group should be at the forefront of pushing for improved pedestrian conditions--better crosswalks, for example.

If you're interested, contact Jo-Ann Collins, at 277-5345. Committee meetings are held once a month, and there are occasional community meetings. Alternates are allowed, so a team of two people may apply.

*[Ed. Note: The original of this announcement was found in the June 2000 edition of **Walk San Jose Reporter**.]*

Neighborhood Developments

-Greg West, VEP President

Lester Property - Council member Dando issued a memorandum to the Mayor and City Council recommending that the 2000 Annual General Plan Review consider elimination of the extensions of Chynoweth Avenue and Vista Park Drive across the Lester Property. Last fall, VEP members adopted as a goal for the year the elimination of the Chynoweth extension from the General Plan. We also discussed a plan to realign the Vista Park Drive extension

to minimize impact on the Lester Property, but were unable to come to a final decision. A resolution to support the elimination of the Vista Park extension across the Lester Property will be on the agenda for our September meeting.

Vista Park - Roughly five years after the completion of Phase I of Vista Park and its dedication, the City is ready to move ahead with Phase II development. Phase II includes grading and drainage of the fields and installation of site furnishings and playground equipment. A group of interested VEP members met on June 13th and agreed that the City should move ahead with Phase II as planned. In addition, the members agreed to investigate ways to leverage community resources against city dollars to complete Phase II and more. Another meeting is being scheduled with the Parks & Recreation Department and Council member Dando's office on June 29th to investigate options.

Oakridge Mall Expansion - We have no new updates since our last issue of the VEP News.

Chynoweth Ponds - The plans to build a bridge to connect Chynoweth across the Guadalupe River have apparently been shelved for the time being. VEP will continue to watch this situation diligently and will act on any changes.

Broadway Continuation School Relocation - The relocation of the Broadway Continuation School to the John Muir Middle School Campus and renaming of the school to the Continuation School at Branham and Speak is complete. The school has been open for business during this last semester. A little more than a year ago, the VEP membership resolved that the Continuation School belongs on its own campus and should not be co-located with any other high or middle school. Although the school board ultimately co-located the continuation school on the Muir campus, outstanding efforts by *Community Action in Robertsville* and continued efforts by VEP resulted in the reduction of the size of the school from 350 students to 200 students.



"Smart" homes call for smarter homeowners

-*Broderick Perkins(*)*

Creating a home with brains not only makes your home more efficient now, but also more valuable when it's time to sell--provided you have the technological aptitude to do the work or are smart enough to know when to call in a pro.

As many as 10 million homeowners will attempt digital remodeling by 2003, according to the Yankee Group, a Boston-based technology research firm. Digital remodeling includes technology-based home improvements designed to transform a house into a "smart home".

"Smart" homes contain electronic devices and appliances preprogrammed to automatically perform tasks once trig-

gered by a range of actions including motion, sound, time, touch or temperature.

The dishwasher calls for maintenance and the refrigerator orders more eggs and ham at preset intervals, for instance. Lights switch on when a sensor registers your presence, much as a security system sounds an alarm or calls the police when it detects an intruder. The home theater screen dims or brightens to compensate for changes in lighting, much as the thermostat turns up the heat when the room chills.

Finding good help

Unless you are a cross between an electronics technician and an architectural designer, consider hiring what's called an electronic architect or someone otherwise certified. He or she should be able to analyze your digital needs, determine your home's ability to cope with a digital remodeling job, draw up the blueprints for your work and then install it.

Technocopia.com offers a series of questions you can ask contractors to determine their level of expertise. You'll also want to see work-in-progress, examine completed work and talk with recent customers.

"This industry is one of the fastest growing. There are a lot of trunk slammers. It's kind of like the aluminum siding salesmen of the 1950s trying to take advantage," said Steve Hayes, president of the Custom Electronic Design & Installation Association (CEDIA) and owner of Custom Electronics, in Falmouth, ME.

Wiring or not

A common mistake among do-it-yourselfers who insist on giving their home brains is running phone, cable or electrical extensions instead of building a structured wired system. The recommended Category 5 class of wiring will transmit digitized data at maximum broadband speeds only when it's installed as part of a structured wired system. Outlets, ports, or jacks each receive a dedicated line back to a service box. Spliced, extended, and otherwise shared lines siphon speed.

X-10 digital remodeling technology, popular among do-it-yourselfers, allows you to use existing power lines in your home to convey automated commands, but set up can be tricky and the systems can require filters and amplifiers for peak performance.

Wireless systems also tempt do-it-yourselfers with "fast and cheap" promises, but existing interference in your home can create chaos instead of automation.

Used more and more often in new construction, steel framing can block radio frequencies. Refrigerators and baby monitors emit the same frequency as high-end cordless phones and, along with fluorescent lighting, the interference overload can disrupt even the "smartest" wireless

systems. Likewise, sunlight can blanket infrared frequencies and disrupt infrared-powered devices.

"Yes, it may cost more to retrofit a wired system, but do it because it works," said Hayes.

[() Ed. Note: This article was excerpted from Brian Bonnifield's monthly on-line real estate newsletter.]*

Bulletin Board Ads

FOR SALE: Two off-white, 46 ¾" x 58" vertical blinds for front bedroom windows of the Olympic model home. Good condition. Call Josie @ (408) 629-8126.

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

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

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: _____

The VEP Executive Board reserves exclusive right to refuse any ad for any reason. VEP does not certify nor is it responsible in any way for the claims, goods, or services of any advertisers.