

VEP'S ANNUAL MEETING

7:30 P.M. TUESDAY

May 25, 2004

GUNDERSON HIGH SCHOOL

→ Faculty Lounge ←

AGENDA

★ Vista Park Ballfield Relocation ★

Presentation of plans and a VOTE on relocating the west ball field at Vista Park.

Vice Mayor Dando's **Josh Howard** & Parks' **Art Rosales**.

(7:30 to 7:50 pm)

★ Vista Park Community Room ★

Presentation of final plans and a VOTE on location of the community room at Vista Park.

Josh Howard & SummerHill's **Bob Hencken**.

(7:55 to 8:25 pm)

★ Local Transportation Projects ★

An overview of City transportation plans in our area.

San Jose DOT Director **Jim Helmer**.

(8:30 to 8:55 pm)

★ Your Community Concerns ★

A chance for you to tell us about your concerns.

(8:55 to 9 pm)

Everyone is welcome. Please invite your neighbors!

Our May Meeting

-Dave Fadness

Two sense-votes will be taken by VEP members on proposed work at Vista Park. The first of these involves a proposed relocation of the west ball field. Because of its orientation and close proximity to New Compton Drive, neighbors' homes/yards and passing pedestrians/motorists have been threatened by hard-hit, flying balls.

VEP formed a committee of neighbors last autumn to work with sports groups and the city to find a solution. They are now recommending that the field be relocated to have home plate at the north end of the park, and be rotated so that its first-base line is roughly parallel to New Compton (see article elsewhere in this issue).

Joshua Howard and **Art Rosales** will present the relocation plan. VEP members will be asked to express their support/opposition. If a majority of us endorse it, work could begin early this August.

* * *

The second vote will be on our support for the location of our new Community Room at Vista Park. Final plans for the building will be presented by **Bob Hencken** and **Josh Howard**. After a quick review of options considered, we'll be asked to vote on a VEP committee's recommendation for where to locate it.

* * *

Jim Helmer, Director of the City of San Jose's Department of Transportation will share information on transportation projects coming up in our area. We've asked him to in-

clude a discussion of plans for the widening of Branham Lane (Snell to Vistapark Drive) and associated sound walls, sidewalks, and landscaping. We also want to get Mr. Helmer's suggestions re how to slow traffic on Chynoweth Avenue (New World/Gaundabert to Pearl).

Jim Helmer has been a very good friend to VEP. He is a remarkable, long-time city employee who responds quickly and responsibly to every request we send to his department. I know you will be impressed and enjoy meeting him.

* * *

We always allow time for YOUR issues, so be sure to bring them along and share them with us. We develop our Goals & Objectives during the summer months, so input from you now will be especially timely.

* * *

We look forward to seeing you at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, May 25th. This is our last regular meeting until September 28th—let's have a great turn-out.

[Note: Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren will not be able to attend our May 25th meeting.]

Please help this person...

If you witnessed an accident at the intersection of Chynoweth and Pearl on Friday, April 23, 2004 at approximately 2:19 p.m. involving a white 1989 Toyota Corolla and a 1977 Pontiac sedan, please contact Kay at 226-5505.

Thank you!

Call for VEP Officers

- Dave Noel

It might seem funny to have a call for VEP officers after we've had elections. But it's not funny at all. **We do not have a vice president and we need YOU to volunteer.** Please contact any executive on the mailing page of this newsletter if you can help.

Vista Park ball field relocation

-Dave Fadness

VEP's *Ball Field Relocation Committee* met on May 12 and decided to recommend to park neighbors and VEP members that relocation of the west ball field be started the first week in August this year. This project will take an estimated seven weeks, including two weeks to allow new turf to get established before opening for use.

Youth softball sports groups were present at our meeting. They said their schedules would not be affected if the work took place after June 15th.

What's being proposed is to move the west ball field from its existing location to the north end of the park, along New Compton Drive, approximately where the practice field used to be years ago.

This change is sought as a remedy to balls now being hit frequently into the street and neighbors yards—primarily by older players. Neighbors cannot use their back yards as a result, and the city is rightfully concerned over potential liability should a pedestrian or motorist be struck as they pass along New Compton. Near-misses have occurred.

We focused on selecting and orienting the proposed new site so that foul balls won't be a problem for a new set of neighbors. Special attention was drawn to the neighbor's house on Hornblower Court which juts farthest into the park near the new site; Parks officials propose adding height to the existing chain-link fence there as added assurance against future problems.

The city will do essentially ALL of the required work. Some volunteer work MAY be necessary if budgeted dollars don't stretch far enough.

VEP will notify all neighbors that could potentially be impacted (no pun intended) by this relocation. Parks & Recreation officials and a representative of Vice Mayor Pat Dando's office will attend our May 25 VEP meeting to present the relocation plan. We will vote that night to indicate whether they have our support.

Membership Drive

- Dave Noel

Although we completed our annual membership drive in April, new memberships continue to roll in as a result of our extensive outreach in the community.

Since this time last month, we've gained another 18 memberships, putting the grand total at 440 in our existing neighborhoods, plus 78 from the new **Las Brisas** community (whose first year memberships were generously paid by **SummerHill Homes**).

This puts us at 98% of our goal, and I'm sure we'll hit or surpass 100% in the coming months.

Thanks to our volunteers!

-Josie Supencheck

We offer a BIG thank you to the following volunteers who took time to assist in distributing flyers for VEP last month. Our special thanks to **Nancy Hardy** for putting the maps and flyers together.

Kristine & Todd Alexander

Jeri & Walt Arstingstall

Jane & Bob Burns

Nancy & Ken Harty

Jim & Ernestine Hicks

Betty & Frank Kistler

Barb & Chuck Lucchesi

Donna & John Marks

Penny & James Martinez

Laura & Marc Mc Geever

Kathy & Chean Pang

Marynett & Bill Sim

Diane & Marsh Syverson

Pat Souza

Cathy & Eric Weirshauser

Again, thank you all.

[Ed. Note: A BIG thank you to Josie Supencheck, too. She's ALWAYS volunteering her time to improve our community.]

Community Service Awards

- Dave Noel

At our February general meeting, our membership approved funding up to \$4,500 for VEP's 2004 *Community Service Awards*. Our community service awards are grants towards higher education or vocational training for graduating high school seniors who have demonstrated exceptional records of volunteerism and community service during their high school careers.

We will award \$1,500 to graduating seniors at Andrew Hill and Gunderson High Schools on May 27th and June 3rd at their respective awards ceremonies.

This year we did not receive any nominations for our "At-Large" category, which includes any graduating senior residing in San Jose, nominated by a VEP member. Therefore, we will not spend the \$1500 authorized for this award. This is the third year we have offered the At-Large award. The first year we did not receive any nominations, the second year we received four, and none this year.

We will announce our Andrew Hill and Gunderson High School winners in the September VEP News. If you can't wait till then, you can contact me after the award ceremony has been held for the school you are interested in (see the *VEP Community Calendar* in this newsletter for dates).

I'd like to thank our Community Service Awards Committee members for helping me improve our outreach and nomination forms for this year's awards: **Dave Fadness, Greg West, and Steve Kinsey.**

I'd also like to thank our Community Service Award Selection Committee for selecting our winners: **Jeri Arstingstall, Debra Suydam, Dave Fadness, Aiko Fadness, Greg West, Robin West, Stephen Kinsey, and Joe Tainai.**

Thanks also to **Laura Probert**, our Gunderson liaison, for promoting our award within Gunderson, and past-president **John Marks** for promoting our award within Andrew Hill.

Finally, I'd like to thank **Jeri Arstingstall** for presenting both the Andrew Hill and Gunderson awards at their upcoming ceremonies.

A note on email addresses

-Bob Aquino

VEP's April general meeting featured San Jose's Chief of Police, **Rob Davis**. He was a highly informative and entertaining speaker. We didn't know that he could make it to our meeting until after the newsletter had been sent.

Those who are on our email list received a letter telling them of this addition to the April agenda. This is exactly the reason we have an email list.

If you are not on VEP's list, but have email, contact any one of the board members, and we'll see that you are added. An easy way to do this is to simply send us an email—your address will automatically be appended. Don't worry, we will NOT share your email address with any third party.

Keep up to date with VEP.

Neighborhood Cleanup "Dumpster Day"

-Jeri Arstingstall & Dave Noel

VEP thanks the City of San Jose for their Spring Clean Up in our neighborhoods on April 17th. **Gwen Lum-Duffy** and her staff were organized and professional, providing seven dumpster sites south of Branham Lane.

We also thank these VEP volunteers who were on hand that day, meeting and greeting neighbors as they waited in line for the dumpsters, handing out flyers to advertise our upcoming community events, and inviting them to become members:

Maria Arid

Walt Arstingstall

Leslie and Michael Bejar

Melvin and Kathy Blanton

Joanna and Doug Davis

Marie and Bill Johnson

Chuck and Barbara Lucchesi

Donna Marks

The VEP area is so large that we encompass three neighborhood cleanup zones. Since spring of 2002, every home in VEP has had a "dumpster day". This most recent cleanup covered the area bounded by Branham, Vistapark, Hwy 85, and Hwy 87.

Josie Supencheck, Debra Suydam and Jeri Arstingstall did a great job producing the flyers, recruiting volunteers, and coordinating their efforts to make this event a complete success.

Gunderson PTSA thanks VEP!

-Laura Probert ()*

Gunderson High School PTSA would like to thank the following VEP members who generously donated scholarship funds which will be awarded to graduating seniors at the PTSA Academic Honors night on May 27th:

- **Carolyn Adams**
- **Bob & Jane Burns**
- **Aiko Fadness**
- **David & Maureen Noel**
- **Laura Probert**
- **Mary Walker**

Each year the Gunderson PTSA normally sets aside \$1000 to fund \$200 scholarships for five students based on their essays on what Gunderson High School has done for them and their success in academics. This year, due to strained membership and the loss of several fund-raising programs, we were afraid we would only be able to provide these scholarships to three students.

We appealed to the community via the February and March issues of the **VEP News**, and your response was tremendous! VEP members donated a total of \$750.

Thanks VEP, you've made a huge difference!

[() Ed. Note: Laura Probert is President of the Gunderson High School PTSA.]*

VEP Community Calendar

Tue, May 25 @ 7:30 - 9 pm: VEP General Meeting – Presentations and votes on Vista Park Community Room and west ballfield relocation; City Department of Transportation presentation (including Branham Lane widening and Chynoweth Ave speeding).

Thu, May 27 @ 7 pm: Awards Night at Andrew Hill; VEP Community Service Awards presentation.

Thu, May 27 @ 6 - 8 pm: VTA Public Hearing on Capitol Expressway Light Rail Draft Environmental Impact Report (see article in this newsletter).

Wed, Jun 2 @ 7:15 pm: VEP Exec Meeting (call for details).

Thu, June 3 @ 7 pm: Awards night at Gunderson – VEP Community Service Award Presentation.

Sun, Jul 4: **The Fourth of July: Independence Day!**

Wed, Jul 7 @ 7:15 pm: VEP Exec Meeting (call for details).

City budget hearings

-Vice Mayor Pat Dando

The San Jose City Council is currently holding hearings on the proposed budget for next year. These hearings are open to the public and are also being televised on Channel 26A; they are scheduled as follows:

May 13, 8am - 5pm: Discussion on Recreation & Cultural Services, Aviation, Environmental Services, & Transportation.

May 14, 8am - noon: Police & Fire Departments will be presenting their budget plan.

May 19, 8am-5pm: City Capitol Budget Discussion. The Council will be reviewing the Capital Budget for the Airport, Police & Fire Departments, & Economic Development.

May 20, 8am – noon: Capitol Budget discussion for Parks, Libraries, Community Centers, and Transportation projects.

Live coverage of regularly scheduled San José City Council Meetings is also available on cable channel 26A. Web users can listen to the meetings from their desktops via streaming audio from the City's webpage

www.sanjoseca.gov

The Council meets every Tuesday at 1:30 and at 7 pm on the first and third Tuesday of every month. Additionally, meetings will be rebroadcast at 7 pm on Thursdays and again at 10 am on Saturdays.

As always, please feel free to contact me at 277-5251 if I can ever be of assistance.

Computer school for senior citizens

-Dave Noel

A non-profit organization called *SeniorNet* holds computer classes for senior citizens (age 50+) at 237 learning centers nationwide, including three in San Jose:

- Vineland Branch Library, 1450 Blossom Hill Road, (408) 268-1133
- Cypress Senior Center, 403 South Cypress Ave, (408) 244-1353
- Willows Senior Center, 2175 Lincoln Ave, (408) 448-6400

Classes are held multiple times each year. For current information, contact the learning centers above or visit SeniorNet's website at www.SNLCSJ.ORG.

Classes include *Introduction to Computers* and instruction in Word, Digital Images, AOL, E-mail, Cards 'N More, Internet, Windows XP, Web Security, Web Searching Genealogy, and File Management. The cost is \$20 per class. Most classes are 2 hours/week for 8 weeks. There is a \$40 annual fee to join.

VEP Garage Sale a success

-Ginger Cardona

Another successful VEP Garage Sale! We had large turn-outs of residents selling in some areas of the VEP community. Traffic seemed to be constant through most of the morning.

Based on the feedback, next year we will add signage throughout the entrances to the community area. Doing so will eliminate the need for individuals to put up and take down signs. Of course this will mean that volunteers will be needed to create signs, put them up and take them down.

Thank you all for making this successful. I hope you had the opportunity to meet some of your neighbors.

Parks and trails

- Dave Noel

Cilker Park: William H. Cilker Park on Winfield Boulevard between Chynoweth and the light rail tracks is complete and will open to the public in mid-June. The city requires the contractor to maintain it for 45 days prior to opening to ensure everything is working properly and the landscaping is in good shape.

Vice Mayor **Pat Dando** and city council member **Judy Chirco** will host a grand opening ceremony in late-June. We'll announce the date and time by email to VEP members. *(If we don't have your email address, please let us know so you can stay informed over the summer.)*

Vista Park: See page 1 of this newsletter for news about Vista Park that will be discussed at our May meeting. We

will be asking for your vote on where to relocate the west ball field and the community room.

Water softener rebate program

-Rick Randazzo

The Santa Clare Valley Water District (SCVWD) is offering a rebate program that gives Santa Clara County homeowners a \$150 rebate for replacing a currently-owned, existing timer-based water softener that was purchased before October 31, 1999.

Your old water softener must be replaced with a new demand-initiated regeneration (DIR) model that meets the California efficiency rating of 4,000 grains of total hardness removal per pound of salt utilized. The new DIR water softener must be installed by July 31, 2004. The funds available for this rebate are limited and could run out before that date. A pre-inspection may be required.

New DIR water softeners use up to 50% less water than some timer-based models. When you save water, it saves energy because it takes energy to treat the water and deliver it to your home.

A new DIR water softener can also use up to 50% less salt than some timer-based models. Many older water softeners are not salt efficient and cycle more often than needed. The DIR water softeners meter your water usage and regenerate only as required.

Randazzo's Water has been using efficient DIR water softeners for more than ten years.

Most professional quality water softeners have a long life and very good warranties. *Randazzo's Water* recommends a two tank "side-by-side" model. They are much easier for adding salt or potassium and seem to have far fewer problems than a single "tank-in-tank" model.

Randazzo's Water is a family owned and operated company that provides sales and service at sensible prices (usually the best prices!) for water softeners and filtration systems.

For more information about the SCVWD rebate program, contact Rick Randazzo at (408) 978-5355.

[Ed. Note: Randazzo's has advertised in our newsletter for many years. We have never received one complaint about their services.]

Week-long summer day-camps for kids

Hey Kids! Put on your safari hats for this great summer experience....

If you are a parent searching for a full week of unique fun and educational experiences for your child this summer, check out the Friends of Guadalupe River Park & Gardens' *San Jose Safari Day Camp*. Your child will "trek" through San Jose on an adventure of discovery at several of our city's premier cultural institutions.

The Friends of Guadalupe River Park & Gardens are collaborating with *History San Jose*, *Mexican Heritage Plaza*, *San Jose Museum of Art*, the *San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory*, and Don Edward's *San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge* to present a full week of unique educational experiences right here in our own city!

Campers will meet every day at 8:30 am (Wednesdays at 8 am) at the Guadalupe Garden Center. On Monday, all activities will be presented on-site by the Friends and will include a discovery hike of the Guadalupe River, water experiments, a wriggly moment with composting worms, archeology digs and more!

On Tuesday morning, campers will board a bus for a day at the Mexican Heritage Plaza to experience Mexican art and culture (children who sign up for the first week of camp will meet the internationally renowned *Mariachi de America* from Mexico City and watch them in action!).

Wednesday's destination will be a visit to a bird banding station on Coyote Creek and a chance to explore wildlife and marshes at Don Edward's Environmental Education Center in Alviso. On Thursday, the bus will take campers to the Museum of Art for an eyes, brains, and hands-on artistic experience. On Friday, campers will visit History San Jose, where they will discover how a child's life in old San Jose might have differed from their own!

Campers will return to the Guadalupe Garden Center each day and will be ready for a ride home at 5 pm.

This new day camp will be held three times this summer for children between the ages of 7 to 10, during the weeks of July 12, July 26, and August 9. Each camp will feature the same activities.

The cost to attend is \$225 per child, which includes all activities, snacks and bus transportation to each participating site. Campers will need to provide their own bag lunch each day of the camp. Some partial scholarships may be available to qualified families. A 5% discount is also available for those who register by June 15.

Special thanks to the Air Systems Foundation for a generous grant to underwrite the cost of transportation.

Space is limited, so please contact Education Coordinator **Kary Wilson** at education@grpg.org or 408-298-7657 for more information--or to sign up--for a San Jose Safari Summer Camp.

Capitol Expressway light rail transit plan

- Dave Noel

The draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the *Downtown East Valley Capitol Expressway Corridor Project* is now complete and being circulated for public comment. While the report discusses three options, it is clear that VTA strives to run light rail down the median of Capitol Expressway from the Alum Rock station all the way to Route 87.

Naturally, VEP executives and members are concerned that this would exacerbate traffic gridlock on Capitol Ex-

pressway from Vistapark to Route 87. We have a number of other concerns as well.

A public hearing will be held on Thursday May 27, 2004 from 6 to 8 pm at the Hank Lopez Community Center, 1694 Adrian Way, San Jose. At least two VEP executives plan to attend that meeting. Please join us.

VTA's deadline for receiving public comments is June 21, 2004. VEP executives are reviewing the EIR and plan to send a formal letter to VTA with our comments.

Here is some history on this plan:

At our February 25, 2003 meeting, VTA presented its plan for a Capitol corridor extension to the light rail transit system, connecting the Eastridge Mall in East San Jose to the Capitol LRT station at Hwy 87 (see related articles in the February, 2003 VEP News). Although plans for construction may be 10- to 20-years out, VTA had already finalized options for this extension and was in the process of preparing the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for their project.

VEP responded to the plan in an April 17, 2003 letter to the VTA Board, commenting on and questioning several aspects of the plan. Some of these include traffic impacts on Capitol Expressway and its intersections, motorist and pedestrian safety on the reconfigured expressway, impacts on the surrounding neighborhoods and businesses, landscaping issues, ridership projections used to justify the expense, and alternatives that might fit better with the concept of light rail transit for San Jose and the Santa Clara Valley. Our letter to VTA is posted on our website (www.vepca.org).

For more information, contact Thomas Fitzwater in the VTA Environmental Planning Department at (408) 321-5787 or email

Capitol_Expressway.DEIS-DEIRcomments@vta.org
Or, contact Dave Noel or Dave Fadness.

3rd Annual VEP Community Picnic

-Yvonne Reddy

At press time, plans are almost complete for our third annual picnic. This year's event promises to be even more fun than last year, with **Peek-a-Boo the Clown** scheduled to run our children's activities, the **America Taekwondo Center** demonstration team once again wowing the crowd with their martial arts demonstration, and lots of great prizes and giveaways.

This event would not be possible without the generous contributions of local businesses and VEP residents. Be sure to thank and support the following businesses and individuals:

- **Wesley Terrell** – Century 21 Champion Real Estate, area specialist @ 408-978-8000; sponsor for Peek-a-boo the Clown (945-7779).
- **Rosa Aquirre** – Home Mortgage Consultant, Wells Fargo Bank; merchant gift cards and picnic supplies.

- **Precious Moments in Time Photography** – Jeri Arstingstall, VEP member @ 408-281-3393; gift certificates for free sitting and portrait.
- **USA Cellular** – 408-694-0399; gift certificates for cell phone accessories.
- **America Taekwondo Center** – 408-229-8532 demonstration and gift certificates for free lessons.
- **Condimentz** – a promotions company owned by Laura Probert, VEP member @ 408-452-7431 – conference bag and wine accessories set.
- **Jodi Carr** – artist and VEP resident @ 408-363-8408; hand painted silk scarf.
- **Pat Smith** – Coldwell Residential Realty, VEP member @ 408-448-4488 - Popsicles, water bottles, and picnic supplies.
- **Brian's Fish World** – 408-578-3474; prize coupons for goldfish.
- **Safeway** – merchant gift card.
- **Fun Stuff Cards and Collectibles** @ 408-972-8883; Capital & Vista Park; baseball cards.
- **Postal Annex** - Branham & Snell @ 408-972-9768; event photocopying.

I would also like to thank all those who contributed time and supplies to the picnic, including **Phil Bejar**; the VEP executives; **Josie Supencheck** and her outstanding team of volunteers; **Phil Hophan**, Gunderson High School student community service coordinator, and the Gunderson High School student volunteers; **Sherry** from the San Jose Fire Department; and Sgt. **Larry McGrady**, San Jose Police Department Mounted Division. Last, but by far not least, I thank **Ian, Erin, Megan, and Derek Reddy** for their assistance, support and patience.

If I have missed mentioning anyone please let me know and I'll be sure to recognize them in the next issue of the VEP News.

We hope all those who attended had a wonderful time and those who didn't will be able to join us next year.

Cable system replacement

- Edward Garcia, Comcast

Here is a brief description of our construction process:

1. Our construction crews first cut a 4" wide trench in the street near the curb to install fiber-optic cable. After the cable is installed, the trench is filled with cement. The top of the trench is deliberately left low to allow the cement to cure and to prepare the street for restoration.

Once the cement is cured, our crews grind the existing asphalt wider than the actual trench in preparation for new asphalt. The reason for this wide grind is to give a stronger and wider area for the asphalt to bond. This results in a longer lasting and stronger asphalt finish. Weather permitting, this "grinding" and asphalt replacement usually takes place within two- to three-weeks after the initial work.

2. In areas where the cables enter a box on a public utility easement (near the curb), the sidewalk is removed to facilitate the work. After our crews install the cables, they place a temporary black asphalt patch on the sidewalk.

This patch is placed to give pedestrians a smooth walkway immediately. Within two- to three-weeks, our work crews will replace with new concrete the entire section of sidewalk that was removed. The sidewalk will be restored to meet city standards.

City of San Jose inspectors inspect each phase of our construction to ensure that our crews meet all requirements for the construction project and city specifications. Furthermore, we will repair any damage to private property caused by the construction.

If your neighbors have any questions or concerns, they can call Can-Am Construction at (408) 590-0421.

[Ed. Note: "Pedestals" cannot be placed in your yard without your permission. The park strip is NOT your property.]

Local good-guy

-Dave Fadness

Hats off to **Frank Kistler**, a man who is always there when we need help with community projects! Most recently, Frank spent five strenuous hours helping trim trees along the Route 87 pedestrian path south of Chynoweth.

Thank you, Frank!

Capitol Expressway name change

In case you missed it, here's an excerpt from a story the San Jose Mercury News ran on 4/21/04 regarding the outcome of a proposal to rename of Capitol Expressway:

*Street naming effort refused
HONOR SOUGHT FOR REV. KING
By Katherine Corcoran, San Jose Mercury News*

A group of current and former San Jose residents trying to rename a local street in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. encountered another roadblock, this time at the county.

Responding to the group's request to rename Capitol Expressway in honor of the slain civil rights leader, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors decided in a split vote to ban the renaming of the county's expressways for any reason.

Supervisor Liz Kniss, who voted for the ban, said she was concerned about the cost in tight financial times. A county study showed that changing the street signs on Capitol Expressway would cost between \$500,000 and \$700,000.

The report also noted that the county has a similar ban on renaming parks.

Street lights

-Bob Aquino

While on my walk around the neighborhood recently, one of our members observed to me that two of the lights in Vista Park were on 24/7.

I went to the poles and recorded their number. Then, went home and called 277-5517, the city street light maintenance number. It's a voice-activated system that is available round the clock. After that, my conscience bothered me because I am aware of a light on my daughter's street that didn't come on. I went over there, got the number and called it in, too.

If you know of a street light that does not come on or go off properly, get the pole number and call it in. It could even save a life sometime.

President's message

-Jeri Arstingstall, VEP's President

I am looking forward to serving you as president of our community association. I have lived in the San Jose area for 34 years. I remember growing up in San Jose and being told not to go into certain areas as they were "a dump". I have seen our city and our community clean up and I am proud of the living conditions in our city.

There isn't as much graffiti or trash as there once was. It is safe to go downtown. Our parks are in great condition.

That said, I am very concerned about the upcoming city budget debate. It seems to me that we make an investment in our city with our property taxes and sales taxes and then the city wants to cut back on maintenance. If we did this to our homes it is called "blight."

VEP takes this very serious and we have voiced our concerns with Vice Mayor Dando's office. (Please see her article in this newsletter.) VEP will be proactive in resisting cut to needed city services. We want our parks maintained, their restrooms left open, and our libraries kept open and available.

During the summer, the VEP board will be working on our Goal's & Objectives. If you have any suggestions please feel free to email them to me. We did very well with our G&O last year under the guidance of Dave Noel.

I am happy to see the number of VEP volunteers increasing every year—and grateful to every one of them. Volunteers are the backbone of our community. They help by adopting our parks and trails, in neighborhood clean-ups, with our annual garage sale and annual picnic, with planting on Daffodil Days, maintaining the trees we've planted in the Chynoweth Avenue and Branham/Narvaez medians, and by keeping their eyes and ears open to anything going on in our neighborhood.

Have a safe and happy summer.

Pat Dando's stand on city parks

-Joshua Howard ()*

Vice Mayor Pat Dando strongly believes that parks bring communities together and are a great source of neighborhood pride. Saturdays at the park, watching the kids play forms friendships among families that usually last for years. To that end, the city needs to continually provide for these basic municipal services.

At the May 13 budget study session, Vice Mayor Dando discussed the need for a comprehensive review of how the city maintains its parks. Through a management audit, she is confident that the city will find new ways to deliver these services more efficiently and at a lower cost. She has forwarded a request to the City Manager asking that he begin this review immediately.

In November 2000, San Jose voters supported a parcel tax to fund the development of new parks and rehabilitation of existing parks in their communities. Vice Mayor Dando strongly believes that the city has a responsibility to keep these facilities clean, safe, and open for our neighborhoods.

[() Ed. Note: Joshua Howard is Assistant to San Jose's Vice Mayor Pat Dando.]*

“VEP” Community Association

What does “VEP” stand for? How did we get that odd name?

Well, “VEP” represents the first three letters of our original subdivision names here in 1969:

V = Vistapark;

E = Encore (and Echo Valley); and

P = Parkview Valley.

That's all there is to it! Of course, we've grown over the years to include the Blossom Heights subdivision and many others. But the original name VEP stuck, and we've been known by it for 35 years. (Some like to think of us as **V**ery **E**nergetic **P**eople.)

[Ed. Note: See the mailing page of this newsletter for a map of our core membership area. We also welcome members from outside these boundaries who share common interests.]

Computer Corner

-Bob Aquino, VEP's Computer Guru

As the poet said, “Summer is icumin in” and our minds turn to thoughts of vacations.

One of the most interesting things that it is now possible to do over the web is to plan a vacation. There are lots of sites out there that are waiting to help you, but it does require work on your part.

If your preferred mode of planning is to go to a travel agent and let him or her make all the arrangements, it can be done on the web, but you may not get the best prices or do all the things that you might like at a particular place. The Web doesn't take the place of perusing travel books to learn about the sights and accommodations of a place.

Here are a few tips:

Get in touch with the tourist bureau of the cities and countries you will visit. You can find them on your search en-

gine. Especially when planning a foreign trip, pay particular attention to maps and public transportation facilities. Most countries have better public transportation facilities than the US and it might be inadvisable to drive.

Passes on rail transit in Europe are cheaper when bought in this country, but you need to figure out how many days you expect to be traveling to get the right ticket. If you are just looking for all-in-one tours, there are a lot of agencies out there for that. If one size fits all doesn't work for you, and you want to plan your own itinerary, then you might want to go to specialized agencies.

For instance, last year I planned a three-week trip in Italy. I plotted out the path that we would take. I got an Italian 5-day RealPass that had a couple of days of auto rental included (that was a good deal) and made all my hotel reservations over the web. I made some of the reservations directly with the hotel, but made most of them through Hotels.com. There were no glitches. The hotel charges were reasonable, the cars were available, and the trains all ran on time.

For flights, you can try sites like Expedia, Travelocity, and Bestfares. Don't forget to try the airlines sites, especially lines like Southwest and Jet Blue. Sometimes you get the best deal directly from the airlines.

Cruises are another avenue to explore. There are lots of sites specializing in cruises. However, after trying a bunch of them you will find the same cruises and costs. Just ping a few to get a feel for what's available.

If you can react at a moments' notice, you might put yourself on the mail list of sites that specialize in last minute sales. Try Travelzoo, Cheaptickets or Bestfares.

A lot of what you can do depends on your flexibility, sense of adventure and passion for travel. Try looking around. It won't cost you a thing to look.

Great American Clean-Up

- Dave Noel

VEP members **Josie Supencheck, Dave Noel, Bryan Noel** and **Justin Noel** were among many other San Jose residents who participated in this year's Great American Clean-Up, held on Saturday April 24th at various locations in San Jose. A pizza lunch was served for all volunteers after the event. Mayor Ron Gonzales participated in the event and spoke to all the volunteers at the lunch.

This annual event is held on a Saturday before or after Earth Day, which is on April 22nd.

Gardening tips

-John Marks

Pruning Citrus Trees

You may get delicious fruits from your orange, tangerine, and grapefruit trees, but eventually, those trees get out of control and need pruning. To keep them in good health, you should remove dead or weak branches and thin twiggy growth.

It is also possible to rejuvenate older, established citrus trees, which usually respond well to hard pruning. Start with by cutting away dead, injured, diseased, and crossing branches, suckers, and/or branches growing downward. At the next pruning, remove weak branches and over-crowded growth.

Never remove more than one-fourth of the tree at one time. Keep in mind that most citrus trees have a limited supply of carbohydrates in their stem tissues. Excessive pruning at one time may set back growth and fruiting.

After the tree is back in good shape (it may take a couple of years), continue to thin as needed. You can also cut back long branches at their tips to promote shoots nearer the center of the tree. If more than one shoot arises around a cut, choose the one or two best-placed shoots to develop as the main branches.

As far as flavor and sweetness is concerned, many grapefruit trees prefer warmer climates to develop the sweetness you desire. However, we are very fortunate to have some relatively new grapefruit-pummelo crosses that develop very good flavor and sweetness in Santa Clara Valley. These include the Oro Blanco and Melogold varieties.

You can top an old citrus (or most trees for that matter) by severely cutting back the tree and grafting on the preferred variety.

[Note: The foregoing article was adapted from the 4/16/04 issue of the Mercury-News.]

Checking for Termites

If your garden seems to be invaded by many flying insects with four wings (3/8- to 1/2-inch long) with 3/16-inch ant-like bodies, you may have subterranean termites. Hundreds from a colony will develop wings, fly, mate, shed their wings, then seek new sites to build nests.

Subterranean termites usually leave their nests in October. They look for pieces of wood or roots next to or on the soil and dig tunnels into the wood. If needed, they construct tubes made from soil to get to the wood, protecting them from desiccation and predators. Termite inspectors look for these distinctive tubes of dried mud leading from the soil to the foundation and into wood frames of homes where they feed.

You might consider doing your own inspection. Use a strong flashlight and look at each footing of the foundation for those tubes.

Stop Invading Roots

Barriers to our neighbor's vine and/or tree roots may seem needed this time of year, particularly now since everything is growing so well with our recent rains.

Plastic root barriers, impregnated with chemicals, are available in the garden department at Orchard Supply.

The usual practice for installing root barriers is to dig a two-foot deep trench alongside your fence. If possible, rent a trenching machine to do the digging. These are available from rental yards, and almost anyone can operate them.

Place the barrier on the fence side of the trench, then backfill. These barriers are supposed to stop all roots from going past them, but some aggressive tree roots will go down and under the barrier in a few years.

You can plant shrubs near the barrier, but be aware that the barrier will also prevent the extension of their roots and thus limit their ability to get the nutrients and moisture needed to grow properly.

Barriers are not always a permanent solution, but you may be lucky and stop those roots from coming into your yard.

When to call 311 vs 911

- *Dave Noel*

A VEP member wrote to me just before our April meeting apologizing that she could not attend. She had a question of general interest that she hoped I could ask of SJPD Chief **Rob Davis** at the meeting.

Here's the question: You see a group of teenagers periodically in a park, and their behavior suggests they may be doing drugs. Do you call 311 or 911?

Here's the answer: If the activity is in progress, call 911. If it's not in progress, call 311 and provide any information that may help the police such as time of day you notice the activity, etc. If you aren't satisfied with the response from 311, you may ask to speak with a supervisor.

If possible, get license plate numbers. If the police don't catch the individuals, they can look for their car. More importantly, they can visit the home of the registered owner. Parents are normally very responsive when they hear their car has been spotted near possible drug dealing.

Finally, you can talk to Lt. Commander **Jack Farmer** at 408-277-5530. He is in charge of our area, and well in tune with our issues. He has been very responsive to our traffic concerns near Gunderson, for example.

* * *

By the way, did you know that cell phone calls to 911 are handled by a call center *outside* of San Jose? That can delay a response to a local emergency. The City of San Jose has made the following phone numbers available for cell phone users to access its emergency call center:

- 911 calls (emergency) = (408) 277-8911
- 311 calls (non-emergency) = (408) 277-8900

West Nile virus

West Nile virus is a mosquito-borne virus, carried in the female mosquito. Although new to the U.S., West Nile virus has been found for several years in parts of Asia, Eastern Europe, Africa and the Middle East. First detected in the United States in 1999 in New York City, West Nile virus was reported in 28 states by the end of 2001 and continued its move westward in 2002. California reported its first human case in September 2002, although it is unclear how or where the patient acquired West Nile virus

since no infected birds or mosquitoes were detected prior to or following the detection of that case.

Who is affected?

Humans and animals, including birds, may all be affected by West Nile virus. The majority of people and animals infected with the virus have mild or no symptoms.

Those most at risk are the elderly and those who have compromised or weakened immune systems.

What are the symptoms?

Most people who are infected with the West Nile virus will not experience any type of illness. Mild symptoms include fever, headache and body aches, occasionally with a skin rash on the trunk of the body and swollen lymph glands. Symptoms of mild illness will generally last a few days. Severe symptoms of West Nile encephalitis or meningitis include headache, high fever, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, and paralysis. Symptoms of severe illness may last several weeks, although neurological effects may be permanent. It is estimated that 1 in 150 persons infected with the West Nile virus will develop a more severe form of the illness.

How does it spread?

West Nile virus is normally spread to humans, animals, and birds through the bite of an infected mosquito. A mosquito first acquires the infection by feeding on a bird already infected with the virus. The virus lives in the mosquito and is then transmitted through the mosquito's saliva when it bites a person or an animal.

Birds are "reservoir hosts," meaning the virus can survive in the bird's blood system and, through the bite of a mosquito, be spread to humans and animals, including other birds. Humans and other mammals are considered "incidental" or "dead-end" hosts, meaning that mosquitoes biting infected humans cannot spread the infection to other humans or animals.

Although rare, West Nile virus has been transmitted through blood transfusions, organ donations and breast milk.

What can I do to protect myself and my family from being bitten by mosquitoes?

- When possible, wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants whenever you are outdoors.
- Place mosquito netting over infant carriers when you are outdoors with babies.
- Consider staying indoors at dawn, dusk and in the early evening, which are peak mosquito-biting times.
- Install or repair tight-fitting window and door screens so that mosquitoes cannot get indoors.
- Apply insect repellent in moderation to exposed skin. Choose a repellent that contains DEET (N, Ndiethyl-m-toluamide or N, N-diethyl-3-methylbenzamide) in a concentration that provides protection for the amount of time that you will be outdoors. **Whenever you use an insecticide or insect repellent, be sure to read and follow the manufacturer's DIRECTIONS FOR USE, as printed on the product.** Avoid applying repellent to the hands of children.
- Spray clothing with repellents containing permethrin since mosquitoes may bite through thin clothing. Do not

apply repellents containing permethrin directly to exposed skin.

NOTE: Vitamin B-1 and "ultrasonic" devices are NOT effective in preventing mosquito bites.

What can I do to fight West Nile virus?

- Routinely check and eliminate any standing water in your yard. Remember, water an inch deep can produce hundreds of mosquitoes. Use the list and picture in this brochure to check your yard.
- Report neglected or abandoned swimming pools, hot tubs or fish ponds to the Santa Clara County Vector Control District.
- If you find a bird that has recently died, particularly a crow or other corvid (i.e., jay, magpie, raven) please call 408-792-5010. SCCVCD will arrange for pickup and testing when appropriate.
- Contact the SCCVCD if you are experiencing problems with mosquitoes.
- Contact the SCCVCD for a speaker on West Nile virus for your homeowners or neighborhood association, or civic group.

What is our County doing to prevent West Nile virus?

West Nile virus cannot be prevented from entering Santa Clara County. Controlling the mosquito population in our county will reduce the chance of people being bit by mosquitoes that could be carrying West Nile virus. The Santa Clara County Vector Control District (SCCVCD) routinely surveys for mosquito-borne diseases such as West Nile virus. Santa Clara County has maintained a mosquito abatement program since 1918. This includes routinely checking the hundreds of miles of creeks and waterways and more than 30,000 storm drains for developing mosquitoes, treating when necessary.

In addition to efforts to keep down mosquito populations, SCCVCD also has surveillance for the presence of viruses which cause human disease. Adult female mosquitoes are trapped and tested for these viruses. Also, since the primary carrier of West Nile virus and other strains of encephalitis virus is a mosquito which prefers to feed on birds, sentinel chicken flocks are placed throughout the county and tested for infection every two weeks during times of high mosquito activity, usually spring through early fall. The SCCVCD also collects and submits dead birds to the California Department of Health Services to be tested for West Nile virus.

SCCVCD also provides free home and yard inspections for mosquito sources as well as free mosquito-eating fish to interested residents.

The Santa Clara County Public Health Department has educated the physician community in the county about the signs and symptoms of West Nile virus. This educational campaign provides physicians with information they need to identify early cases of West Nile virus infection, if needed.

As a steward of many of the creeks, reservoirs, wetlands and ponds in the county, the Santa Clara Valley Water District works collaboratively with SCCVCD and the public health department to identify and report mosquito problems and educate the public about the virus.

For more information, contact Santa Clara County Vector Control District:

(800) 314-2427 or (408) 792-5010

www.sccvector.org

westnile.ca.gov

www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile

www.sccphd.org

Chynoweth palm trees

-Jeri Arstingstall

VEP has lost some very valuable, maturing palm trees this year along Chynoweth Avenue. Those trees are taken care of on an ongoing basis by **Dave Fadness, Frank Kistler, and Doug Douglass.**

It is unnerving when a car accident affects those beautiful palms. Fortunately, they have probably prevented some cross-over head-on collisions. Unfortunately, most accidents are caused by excessive speeding. VEP is working with the city police and transportation departments to help slow down Chynoweth traffic.

If you see a tree getting hit, please note the license plate number and a description of the responsible vehicle(s), along with the time and date. Call 911 to let them know that an accident has occurred. Then call or email me. I will call the police department to get a police report number, then make sure Vice Mayor **Pat Dando's** office hears about it.

We've taken an aggressive stance on getting damaged trees replaced. When the palms were smaller, we used to reach into our own pocket to pay (\$50 to \$60) for replacements. VEP now insists that the person responsible for the accident gets a bill for installation of a replacement tree that's closer to full-size. Dando has always assisted us in making this happen.

It takes a while to get a replacement tree, but is worth the wait. You may have noticed that our volunteers are out there several times each week, watering them until they're established. Reckless speeders may pay for replacement damages, but our volunteers have to pay too—with time and effort—to keep this gateway into our community looking well-groomed.

Our April meeting

- Kristine Alexander

Thank you to everyone that attended our April Meeting! We had a nice turnout and a lot of great information.

The meeting began with **Joshua Howard** from Vice Mayor **Pat Dando's** office giving us an update on the Vistapark ball field relocation issue. To help solve the problem of balls being hit over fences and into backyards, Joshua gave us two solutions. First, signs will be posted that state that the ball field is limited to youth softball only. If this ordinance is not followed we have been instructed to report the violators.

Second, funds have been found to have the ball field closest to New Compton relocated to the north end of the park (where the practice field used to be years ago). The parks department will do a presentation at VEP's May 25th meeting to show all of our members the new layout. We will ask for a vote that night to measure neighbors' acceptance.

Parkview Park #2 is slated to open next weekend. The new Cilker Park (on Winfield at Chynoweth) will have a grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony in late June. (The date will be announced to VEP members via email.)

Next, **Pat Dando's** aide **Denelle Fedore** introduced **Sharon Yamzon** with the *Neighborhood Action Program*. Sharon gave a presentation on how we can take action against problem neighbors. (See your April VEP News for more information on this program.)

San Jose Police Department's new Chief **Rob Davis** was our next guest speaker. Mr. Davis was promoted to Chief of Police last January.

He informed us of two of the many programs he is trying to put in place. First, a priority for Chief Davis is a new program called the "Impact Program". This program is designed to have all officers familiar with the issues in all districts as opposed to only their own beat. They need a mechanism that shows measurable goals and initiatives in all districts.

Second, Chief Davis wants to update the SJPD website. He would like it to be more professional and useful to the public. For example, the ability to post wanted pictures, post a top-10 wanted list, list major problems in specific neighborhoods, and "What's going on in my neighborhood?" information.

We thank Chief Davis for taking time out of his busy schedule to attend our meeting!

Dave Noel notified us that VEP's annual report card comparing this year's accomplishments to the Goals and Objectives adopted at our September meeting was published in the April VEP News.

VEP officer elections were held next. Here is the list of our new officers who were unanimously elected for the 2005-2006 year:

President: **Jeri Arstingstall**
Vice President: OPEN (VEP needs YOU!)
Co-Secretaries: **Ginger Cardona** and **Kristine Alexander**
Treasurer: **Joe Tajnai**
Editors: **Bob Aquino** and **Dave Fadness**

Our Hospitality Committee co-Chairs this year will be **Katherine Decker** and **Debra Sudyam**.

Lastly, **Jeri Arstingstall** presented **Dave Noel** with a plaque for a job well done! Thank you Dave for all of the time and energy you have put in to make our community a great place to live!

* * *

District 10 city council candidate **Rich De La Rosa** attended our meeting and briefly touched on a few topics. Candidate **Nancy Pyle** sent her regrets that she was unable to attend.

Recycle Plus

Did you know...The average family accumulates as much as 100 pounds of household hazardous waste in their home.

Did you know...Glass never wears out and it can be recycled forever. We save over a ton of resources for every ton of glass recycled. The Recycle Plus program collects over 8,000 tons of glass from residents every year.

At Your Service

San Jose contracts with several service providers to collect garbage, recycling, and yard trimmings and to sweep streets in City neighborhoods. Norcal, GreenTeam, and GreenWaste Recovery each have their own customer service representatives to handle your service needs.

Read the information below to find out which companies serve your neighborhood. Call the numbers listed next to their logos for service-related issues, like cart replacements and missed pick-ups.

Who is my garbage and recycling hauler?

Check the first two letters of the serial number on your recycling cart.

Who does my yard trimmings & street sweeping service?

If GreenTeam collects your garbage and recycling, then GreenWaste Recovery sweeps your street and collects your yard trimmings. If Norcal collects your garbage and recycling, then check the hauler map on our website at www.sjrecycles.org to see whether GreenWaste Recovery or Norcal collects your yard trimmings and sweeps your street.

Call the city's *Recycle Plus* Customer Service at (408) 277-2700 for billing and account-related inquiries. Please note our new hours: 8 am to 1 pm and 2 pm – 5 pm, Monday through Friday.

Recycle Your House

We all know that much of the waste we generate in our homes is recyclable, but did you know that much of your home is recyclable too?

San Jose's award-winning construction and demolition (C&D) recycling program makes it easier for homeowners and contractors to recycle the debris from their remodeling and construction projects. By adding C&D recycling to its programs, San Jose has reduced the amount of materials disposed of in local landfills and maintains the highest recycling rate of any large city in the country.

If you plan to work on your home, visit our website at www.sjrecycles.org/business/cddd.htm. It explains how to get rid of materials like clean wood, tree stumps, concrete, asphalt, and dirt, and how to get your construction permit deposit returned.

Spotlight on Yard Trimmings

What happens to yard trimmings after they leave the curb? Every week Norcal Waste Systems and GreenWaste Recovery collect about 500 tons of yard trimmings from approximately 200,000 San Jose homes. The yard trimmings are then taken to composting facilities for processing. After being ground into smaller pieces, the material is formed into long outdoor rows, called windrows, for composting. Each windrow is equivalent to the height of a basketball hoop and the length of three football fields.

The windrows are continuously turned and watered for over twelve weeks to complete the decomposition process. Temperatures are monitored closely as the windrows reach target temperatures of approximately 131° F for 15 straight days. The high temperature helps kill all bacteria and accelerates the decomposition process.

The finished compost is used in the city's parks and community gardens and sold to the local soil amendment markets. To buy bulk compost at competitive prices, please call BFI at (408) 945-2844, or Zanker RRM at (408) 263-2385.

Reduce & Reuse

Help endangered animals and dispose of your old cell phone at the same time. With every cell phone donated, Happy Hollow Park and Zoo will receive funds from the Wireless Foundation to help preserve one of the most endangered species on earth, the Orangutan, and its habitat.

The phones are sent to ReCellular where they are refurbished and sold at low rates as an alternative to buying new phones. The money that is made from selling the phones is distributed by the Wireless Foundation to the Balikpapan Orangutan Society and to help several domestic safety, school and community watch programs.

You can drop off your old cell phone and get a tax receipt at the Happy Hollow front castle entrance Monday through Sunday, 10 am to 5 pm, or mail it to:

Happy Hollow Cell Phone Recycling
1300 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95112

For more information, please call (408) 277-3065 or visit www.happyhollowparkandzoo.org

Can old CDs and videos be recycled?

No, there is no market for them at this time. But they can be reused. If your old CDs, videos and tape cassettes are in good condition, consider donating them to your favorite charity before discarding them in your garbage cart. If you live in an apartment or multi family complex with a community room, your association may want them to use in an exchange library.

Gardening tip: Like wind chimes, old CDs may be hung from fruit trees or vines. They will catch the light as they sway in the breeze and discourage birds and squirrels from enjoying your harvest before you do.

Can I put my old garden hose in my recycling cart?

No, unfortunately. Hoses will jam processing equipment at the recycling center, so they must go in the garbage.

Gardening tip: Cut your old hose into pieces and use them to protect tree branches from wire plant hangers. Simply thread the wire hanger through the hose when suspending a hanging plant from a branch. Your trees will thank you!

AMZANIG!

Aoccdrnig to rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deos-n't mttær in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are. The olny iprmoetnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be at the rghit pclae, The rset can be a total msees and you can sitll raed it wouthit porbelm, Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mind deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe.

Awzanig, huh?

[Ed. Note: This piece was stolen without permission from the 11/6/03 edition of Machine Design Magazine. Amazing, huh?]

Bulletin Board Ads

FOR SALE: Nordic Track Pro with fitness workout computer, excellent condition; \$50 (OBO). Salton automatic food warmer, like new; \$8. Call Sil @ 224-1920.

GOING ON VACATION? Responsible, experienced 13-year old is available for pet, house, and yard care. Call Matt @ 225-5878.

U.S. MILITARY ITEMS WANTED: Top \$\$ paid. Call Doug at 978-3093 or 629-7436.

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.

* * *

Bulletin Board advertising rules:

1. Bulletin Board ads are limited to four (4) lines of text. One line contains 50 characters, including spaces.
2. VEP will print **free** Bulletin Board ads for its members for one-time transactions involving less than \$400, for lost and found, and for services offered by kids under 18 or retirees over 60 years of age. Free ads may be published in a maximum of three successive issues of the VEP News per submission. After three issues, non-renewed ads will be dropped without notice.
3. VEP will print commercial Bulletin Board ads for its members for \$6 per issue of the VEP News. (A commercial ad is one that offers goods and/or services for a fee. The VEP President and/or Editor has final say in determining whether an ad is commercial.) Ads must be prepaid before publication and be of four (4) lines or less in length (see 1, above). Commercial bulletin board ads may be published indefinitely so long as payment is received in advance of publication. Non-renewed ads will be dropped without notice. No graphics allowed.
4. Bulletin board ads and payment must be received at least 12 days prior to the fourth Tuesday of the month for inclusion in that month's newsletter. Mail to VEP, P.O. Box 18111, San Jose, 95158.

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.

VEP history in a nutshell: 1983 – 1986

–Greg West

The following is another in a series of summaries of VEP history taken from our newsletter archives. This summary covers 1983 to 1986. VEP is scanning archived newsletters and posting them on-line at the VEP web site (www.vepca.org).

1983 VEP News is *mailed* to members for the first time. VEP members ratify by-laws changes to call for approval of annual goals and objectives and to allow the executive committee to take action in alignment with the goals and objectives on behalf of the organization between meetings. CalTrans begins 32-month "Alternative Analysis" study of West Valley Corridor (now Hwy 85) at a cost of \$975,000. Branham Lane opens to Monterey Road.

VEP Treasurer **Jim Hicks** is appointed to City's *Horizon 2000* Task Force by Councilmember **Iola Williams** to draft a General Plan for 1984-2000. 84 of 110 property owners adjacent to the Lick Spur respond to an Southern-Pacific survey that they would be interested in purchasing Lick Spur parcels; city requirements for drainage of the land is an issue. SPRR offers sale of land to adjacent property owners.

Dave Fadness serves another term as VEP President. **Aiko Fadness** elected President of Gunderson PTSA. Federal Urban Mass Transportation Administration head, **Arthur Teele**, questions the capital efficiency of the \$215M Guadalupe Corridor light rail over bus and car pool solutions in a letter to State Assemblymen **Ernie Konnyu**. The Building Industry Association asks San Jose City Council to allow development in advance of planned transportation improvements for the Guadalupe Corridor.

Jerry Estruth visits VEP to discuss closing of Belden School. City proposes postponing \$125,000 development of 2-acre Vista Park to '84-'85 pending SJUSD's decision on the Belden property. VEP successfully lobbies city for a controlled crosswalk across Branham for Belden students going to Carson School.

1984 Congressman **Norm Mineta** discusses foreign policy, including US policies in Lebanon and El Salvador, at townhall meeting held at Gunderson.

San Jose rolls out 5-year capital improvement plan including \$67.5M for roads and highways in and near VEP (including building of Hwy 85 and 87 and completion of Vista Park Drive from Blossom Hill to Branham through the Lester Property), \$500K for parks improvements including Meadows Park and acquisition of the Belden School site, and \$115K for Santa Teresa Library.

VEP members ratify by-laws changes to protect members from misuse of VEP membership lists and to institute the VEP *Community Service Awards*. May meeting features City Council District 2 candidates' night with **Gene Amato**, **Kieth Lowry**, **Judy Stabile**, and **Richard Vincent**, at a trash-strewn Gunderson High School--in the middle of Project MAYNARD (May All Your Nasty Awful Rubbish Disappear).

350 VEP members lead by **Ray Call** and **Brian Bonnifield** attend city budget hearing to lobby for purchase of 9+ acre Belden site from SJUSD under the Naylor Act. City buys 4-acres for \$560K, with first right of refusal on remaining acreage. City also buys 1.66-acres of the Lick Spur adjacent to Meadows Park from SPRR for \$125K.

Robin Pugh (Gunderson) and **Christine Herran** (Hill) won inaugural \$250 VEP Community Service Awards (CSA).

Horizon 2000 General Plan released, planning for city population growth to 836,000 (an increase of 145,000) and to 315,000 housing units (an increase of 75,000) by the year 2000. Plan also establishes Coyote Valley and South Almaden Urban Reserves with building triggers tied to job, housing, and transportation growth. County launches *Transportation 2000* effort.

1985 City Council approves purchase of remaining Belden School site land. VEP dissolution agenda item at April meeting for lack of a volunteer for president. **Dian Burdine** steps up to volunteer for president and is elected at our May meeting. (Vitality + Energy + Persistence = VEP.)

VEP surveys Arcadia homeowners about cracked walls and foundation settling. VEP retains an attorney to pursue a cracked wall class action suit against Arcadia.

720 Gunderson students recognized at 2nd Academic Honors Night. **Kimberly Basehore** and **Michele Kato**, both of Gunderson, win VEP's 2nd CSA. No nominees were submitted by Hill.

City Planning Department proposes rezoning 4.8-acres of Belden School site to medium density residential (8 units/acre). CalTrans completes "Alternative Analysis" study of the West Valley Corridor and presents nine alternatives for public input. City proposes relaxing traffic level of service requirements for new development.

1986 VEP successfully lobbies against a General Plan change to make Narvaez a through street across the Lick Spur. **Arch Walters** from the Santa Clara County Transportation Agency and **Jim Leitner** from the city attend our March meeting to present the 85/87 Corridor plans to VEP members.

Christopher Henriques (Hill) and **Kenin Nichols** (Gunderson) win CSA. Lick Spur property ownership still not transferred. VEP keeps up pressure on SPRR and the City to resolve issue surrounding the land sales. **Dave Fadness** re-appointed to County Transportation Commission.

City plants shrubs and trees to improve the Branham Lane median between Narvaez and Vista Park Drive. VEP begins expressing concern over 85/87 interchange and 87 crossings at Capitol, Branham, and Chynoweth. VEP members approve neighborhood-proposed changes to the 85/87 interchange and requests action on our proposal by the City. The City Council unanimously supports VEP's recommendations and VEP gains the support of the Joint Powers Board.

Council member **Judy Stabile** suggests that the new park at the Belden School site be named Josiah Belden Park after the first mayor of San Jose. VEP successfully lobbies for the name **Vista Park**.

FLASHBACK

(This article is reprinted from the June, 1984 VEP News. Its author was not identified.)

VEP member **Al Snyder** happened across a copy of Arcadia's 1971 Vistapark sales brochure the other day. We neighbors got a few belly-laughs from the following passage printed on its cover. Read and enjoy (hindsight is 20:20!)...

"In San Jose, just off the Capitol Expressway, between the Monterey Highway and the Almaden Expressway. A commuters delight with easy access to the freeways of San Jose and the peninsula... to IBM, GM, GE, FMC, Lockheed, and to downtown San Jose.

"Close-in and west of Bayshore. The great Almaden Fashion Plaza (50-store regional shopping center with the Emporium Department Store at its hub) is only minutes away. The wonderful recreational opportunities of the Santa Teresa Hills and Vasona Lake are nearby, and fine schools abound in the area. It's less than 10-minutes to seven area golf courses!

"With this excellent location and all the conveniences it offers, your quality Vistapark home will be even a greater value in years to come as San Jose continues its progress toward newer and finer thoroughfares, larger and more diversified shopping, and recreational centers."