

mary election, including **Chuck Reed** and **Cindy Chavez**. This is readily available from our website, www.vepca.org. Click on "Newsletters", then "April Insert".

Mumble. Grumble. Gritch. Complain. Vote!

FYI: What does our district attorney do?

- Dave Noel

Here's a generic job description for the district attorney: Conducts prosecution in court proceedings in behalf of city, county, state, or federal government. Gathers and analyzes evidence in cases and reviews pertinent decisions, policies, regulations, and other legal matters pertaining to cases. Presents evidence against accused to grand jury for indictment or release of accused. Appears against accused in court of law and presents evidence.



The Santa Clara County District Attorney's office manages a large staff with an annual budget of \$68-million.

What does San Jose's mayor do?

The city of San Jose is governed by a mayor who is elected at large and ten city council members elected to represent geographical districts. The mayor is the eleventh member of the council and serves a term of four years.

The mayor serves as the political leader within the community by providing guidance and leadership to the council, by expressing and explaining to the community the city's policies and programs, and by assisting the council in the informed, vigorous, and effective exercise of its powers.

The mayor provides leadership in general development of the community and the general level of city services and activity programs. The city charter grants the mayor the following powers and duties:

(a) The Mayor has the power to make recommendations to the Council on matters of policy and programs which require Council decision.

(b) The Mayor must address the citizens at least annually with the "state of the city", summarizing current status of City affairs and explaining the policy plans he or she proposes for the coming year.

(c) The Mayor may, at other times during the year, inform the citizens concerning any matters of policy or program which he or she believes are for the welfare of the community.

(d) If the Mayor recommends any increases in the City budget, the Mayor must recommend the method of financing them. If the Mayor proposes the curtailment of any service, the Mayor must provide specific recommendations and the reasons for the proposal.



(e) The Mayor must preside at meetings of the Council and has a vote as a member of the Council. The Mayor does not have veto powers.

(f) The Mayor has authority to preserve order at all Council meetings, to remove or cause the removal of any person from any meeting of the Council for disorderly conduct, to enforce the rules of the Council, and to determine the order of business under the rules of the Council.

(g) The Mayor has the power to direct and supervise the Public Information Office of the City.

The Mayor generally possesses no greater authority over the City Manager and the administrative branch than any other member of the Council.

What do water district board members do?

The Santa Clara Valley Water District is the primary water resources agency for Santa Clara County. With an annual budget of \$246 million, it acts not only as the county's water wholesaler, but also as its flood protection agency and is the steward for its streams and creeks, underground aquifers, and district-built reservoirs.



As the county's water wholesaler, the water district makes sure there is enough clean, safe water for homes and businesses. As the agency responsible for local flood protection, the water district works diligently to protect Santa Clara Valley residents and businesses from the devastating effects of flooding. The water district's stream stewardship responsibilities include creek restoration, wildlife habitat projects, pollution prevention efforts and flood protection.

The Santa Clara Valley Water District board of directors is composed of seven members. Five members are elected from geographical areas, which coincide with the county supervisor districts. Two at-large members are appointed by the county Board of Supervisors. The directors serve overlapping four-year terms.

The VEP membership area is in District 1.

Santa Clara Valley Water district board members establish policy on the district's mission, goals, and operations. The board represents the general public in deciding issues related to water supply and flood protection. The board has the authority to adopt ordinances that have the force of law within the district.

The board reviews staff recommendations and decides which policies should be implemented in light of the district's mission and goals. The board also monitors the implementation of its policies.

The water district has a chief executive officer and professional staff who are responsible for project implementation. The board supervises management to see that the work is accomplished on time and efficiently.

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Upcoming Volunteer Events

Unless otherwise specified, be sure to call Maria at 226-4614 to find out specifics and volunteer for these events.

- Daffodil Day = November 4 (see the article below).
- Improve the vacant property on the northeast corner of Branham and Narvaez. Install irrigation, plant trees, and spread mulch. Two days, tentatively in late-January, 2007. Volunteers are also needed for subsequent ongoing maintenance (tree watering and litter control).
- Volunteers are needed to plan and organize our 2007 Memorial Day Parade & Festival. Contact Dave Fadness at 578-6428 if you are willing to help.

November 4 is *Daffodil Day*

-Debra Suydam

VEP is doing its part in the beautification of San Jose. Our volunteers will be planting daffodils on Saturday morning, November 4.



If you enjoyed seeing hundreds of these beautiful flowers in a variety of public spaces around our community last spring, you can thank our volunteers for it. 2006 is the twelfth year for this city-wide event.

Your participation would be appreciated. All we need is a couple of hours. Here are the details:

When? Saturday, November 4th at 8:30 am.

Where? Meet at the Vista Park community room (Hyde Park Drive at Barron Park Drive).

Needs? Work gloves, a shovel, a pick or hoe, a sturdy bow rake.

Contact: Debra Suydam @ (408) 375-9191 or just come by.

Refreshments will be provided before work begins. Please join us.

Help wanted for November 7th election

-Marilyn Rodgers

Would you like to be an Election Officer on November 7th? Contact **Edward Morillo** at the Registrar of Voters Office, (408) 282-3074 or e-mail at ed.morillo@rov.sccgov.org.

Election Officers are paid a stipend of \$105, plus additional stipends for being an Inspector, or for acting as a bilingual election officer (Chinese, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Tagalog are languages needed).

~ High school students and teachers ~

High school students and teachers can participate in the "learning and earning" program. If you are a high school senior, you can serve as a High School Student Election Officer for the day and earn \$105. You must be at least 16 years old and have a GPA of 2.5 or better. Contact **Tanya Hanton** at (408) 282-3050 ext. 7720 for additional information.

Teachers, this is a great way to get your students to participate through a hands-on "learning and earning" experience outside of the classroom. Students will have an opportunity for a first hand learning experience about voting and the importance of the democratic process--while being paid. For details, contact **Tanya Hanton** (see above).

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Community Service Awards

- Dave Noel

Twenty years ago, VEP began rewarding graduating high school seniors with exceptional volunteer service stipends for post-secondary or vocational training.

If you know a high school senior with an outstanding volunteer record, make sure they know about our award. If they attend Gundersen or Andrew Hill, they can be nominated by their administrators. Our At-Large award is granted to a graduating senior from any school who lives in San Jose and is nominated by a VEP member.

**VEP
Community
Service
Awards**

This fall the process starts all over again. We begin with outreach to the schools, then we appropriate funds with a vote of the membership in January/February. We call for nominations in February/March. Applications are due in late April, and we grant our awards in May.

I plan to form a committee to propose some changes to our Community Service Award program. Please contact me at (408) 266-7183 or DNoel1234@aol.com if you are willing to join the committee or have suggestions on how to improve the program.

Changes or clarifications under consideration may include award categories, how to manage ties, how to distribute funds if no award is granted in a category, and whether to allow an At-Large award if there is only one candidate. Any proposed changes will be published in the VEP NEWS and brought forward for a vote of our membership at a general meeting.

Pearl Avenue Library groundbreaking

-Dave Fadness

The construction of our new Pearl Avenue Library was launched at a formal groundbreaking ceremony on Saturday, September 30. A gathering of about fifty people gathered to hear brief comments by San Jose City Library Director **Jane Light**, Mayor **Ron Gonzales**, District 9 City Councilmember **Judy Chirco**, and Library Commission Chair **Vincent Tarpey**.

Each official then wielded a gold-painted shovel to symbolically begin work on a new 14,000 square-foot library that will replace the original 7,116 square-foot facility which operated

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on the same site from 1971 until April 1, 2006. The new Pearl Avenue Branch Library is expected to open in mid-2008.

Pearl is the second of two library construction projects begun in San Jose this year. Construction funding comes from the *Branch Library Bond Measure* approved by voters in November 2000. That bond provides \$212-million over ten years for construction of six new and fourteen expanded branch libraries in San Jose by year 2010.



Like other new San Jose branch libraries, the new Pearl Avenue Library will have the look and feel of an upscale bookstore. Its highlights will include an Internet Cafe, a Fireside Living Room with a fireplace, a Teen Center, a Technology Center, Group and Quiet Study Areas, and a Community Room that will accommodate 48 persons, as well as significantly more space for seating, collections, and computers.

Visit www.newsanjoselibraries.com for news of further branch library development.

~ Vibrant learning centers ~

San Jose branch libraries are vibrant learning centers whose collections are contemporary as well as classic. Experienced librarians and available computers help ease your access to a vast and rapidly growing world of knowledge.

Having lifelong learning for people of any age as a goal, library services help pre-schoolers get ready for kindergarten, help students succeed at school, and help improve the basic literacy skills of children and adults.

Most of these services are provided through tax dollars, but some library services don't have dedicated funding support. That's why your help is needed.

~ Your support is needed ~

In 2000, city residents approved a bond measure to revitalize and expand 14 existing libraries and construct six new branches. When construction financed by the *Branch Library Bond Project* is completed in 2010, we will have one of the most impressive public library systems in our nation.

Library buildings themselves are funded by the bond measure. Most of the existing collections are updated and maintained through voter-approved taxes. However, **much of what you see inside those new libraries--the fixtures, furnishings, equipment, technology, and part of their exten-**

sive collections—is paid for by private donations from citizens like us.

Your generosity will be an important part of this historic process of making your own San Jose branch library the best it can be.

~ Branching Out: From Dream to Reality ~

The non-profit *San Jose Public Library Foundation* wants you to participate in our "Branching Out: From Dream to Reality" campaign that reaches across San Jose and into your neighborhood. Please make an investment in your library's future.

~ Take action **today!** ~

Make an investment—small or large—in your library's future and make the dream a reality. Here is how to make your tax-deductible contribution...

- Donate online at www.sanjoselibraryfoundation.org.
- Print a donation form from that same website, then...
- Write a check payable to "San Jose Public Library Foundation." Mail it to 150 E. San Fernando Street, San Jose, CA 95112-3580.
- Call or email me and I'll get the form and mailing envelope to you right away (578-6428 or drfadness@sbcglobal.net).

Be sure to specify that your gift is for the Pearl Avenue Branch—or for the branch of your choosing.

~ Your gift today will benefit generations to come ~

Gifts of \$100 to \$999 will be recognized on the library's *Community Donor Wall*. Gifts of \$1000 or more will be recognized on the library's *Legacy Donor Wall*. (Call to discuss special recognition for donations of \$5000 or more.)



To help with or learn more about this library funding campaign, call Dave Fadness at (408) 578-6428 (drfadness@sbcglobal.net), Mary McLane at (408) 808-2174, or visit our website at www.sanjoselibraryfoundation.org.

Please help make Pearl Avenue Library one we'll all be proud and feel a part of. Do it **today!**

Blossom Valley Christmas Tree Fund

As many of you have witnessed for yourselves, **Kathy and Dann Decker** love to share their Christmas spirit with Blossom Valley and the City of San Jose by elaborately decorating the 75-foot Cedar tree in their front yard on Devon Park Court.

Last year, the Deckers held an official lighting ceremony for their Christmas tree on Thanksgiving weekend. Santa Claus was there greeting on lookers and posing for pictures, and the neighborhood children sang Christmas carols as those in attendance enjoyed Kathy's homemade cookies and hot apple cider.



The tree lighting was a wonderful way to kick off the holidays and provided the community with a chance to share in the joy of the season.

As if spreading Christmas joy wasn't enough, the Deckers have another motive for decorating their tree each Christmas: to help those in our community who are less fortunate. The Deckers accomplish this by collecting donations of food for the *Second Harvest Food Bank* and toys for *City Team Ministries* in collection barrels around the tree.

Sat, Nov 4 @ 8:30 am = VEP's Daffodil Day planting. Meet at the Vista Park community room (Hyde Park Drive at Barron Park Drive).

Mon, Nov 6 @ 7:15 pm = VEP Exec Board meeting at the Vista Park Community Room. (Call for agenda.)

Tue, Nov 7 = Election Day – Get out and **VOTE**.

Wed, Nov 8 @ 2pm, Thurs, Nov 9 @ 7:30pm, Sat, Nov 11 @ 11am = Long Term Care Workshop. Call 800-972-2880.

Sat, Nov 11 = Veteran's Day – Give thanks to/for those who have served our country.

Thu, Nov 23 = Happy Thanksgiving!

Tue, Nov 28 @ 7:30 pm = VEP meeting at the Vista Park Community Room. (Topics include SJPD's Neighborhood Watch Program and possible further discussion of Chynoweth traffic calming.)

President's message

-Marilyn Rodgers

Fall is in the air and Halloween is just around the corner!

VEP's Executive Board has been very busy with planning for two major activities this month. By the time this newsletter arrives in your mailbox, the first activity--a Candidates Forum for the Santa Clara Water District directors and the San Jose's mayor--will have already taken place.



The second major activity is of course our VEP General Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 24th.

Members will have an opportunity to endorse two fundraising efforts which directly effect VEP residents. The first is for the *Blossom Valley Christmas Tree Fund*. Our neighbors, the Deckers decorate and light their 75-foot Cedar tree at the corner of Devon Park Court and Chynoweth Avenue--and keep the tree lighted throughout the holiday season. At the tree lighting ceremony, goodies are provided which include hot apple cider and homemade cookies. Entertainment is provided which includes singing carols and a visit from Santa Claus. Donations are also collected for the Second Harvest Food Bank and CitiTeam Ministries.

This has become a very enjoyable neighborhood activity and a nice way to start the holiday season. The non-profit *Blossom Valley Christmas Tree Fund* has been established to help defer costs so that this activity can continue for the enjoyment of all. (See the article in this newsletter for more details).

The second fundraising effort is for the Pearl Avenue Library. As most of you know, construction has started and the Pearl Avenue Library will soon be housed in a brand new beautiful building! Funds for the new San Jose City library branches come from a voter-approved bond measure. However, this bond was for buildings only. Much of the interior furnishings and equipment must be paid for through private funding. **Aiko** and **Dave Fadness** will be assisting with fundraising efforts (see attached article).

Our two main presentations will be on Child Protection from Online Predators, and the Candidates Debate for Santa Clara County District Attorney.

Chynoweth Traffic Calming Efforts - we had two good presentations and a very lively discussion on traffic calming efforts for Chynoweth at our September meeting. **Linda Crabill** from

the city's *Street Smart* program encouraged all of us to think about our driving, to be courteous drivers, and most importantly to "focus" on our driving rather than on the many distractions we face everyday.

Laura Wells of Neighborhood Traffic for San Jose's Department of Transportation (DOT) presented information from their Chynoweth Avenue traffic study, which indicates that a single lane would not cause problematic congestion or back-up of traffic.



Many traffic calming improvements have been in place for only a short time on Chynoweth, between Pearl and Gaundabert/New World. We will continue to monitor those improvements to determine their more long term effectiveness on traffic calming (or their lack thereof).

We asked DOT to provide us with visual displays of the single-lane option, as there was some confusion as to the length and actual location of a single lane. A decision as to whether to go forward with a single lane is being deferred until the above information is obtained.

Long Term Care Information Sessions for VEP members - There will be a second opportunity to attend information sessions on Long Term Care during the month of November. Sessions will be held at the Vista Park Community Room. Please call Steve Gregerson at (800) 972-2880 for details (workshop dates are listed in his ad on page 15).

If you are interested in obtaining information on long term care, please contact Steve to let him know of your interest. This is a special discount program for VEP members and their families. However, there are minimum requirements which must be met to allow us to continue to offer the program. If these are not met, the program opportunity will stop at the end of November.

There have been several break-ins in VEP neighborhoods. The majority of these appear to be in and around Holycon Circle/Branham Lane, and Bluefield/Rosenbaum areas. These include several car break-ins, and break-ins to both garages and homes. Please be aware of suspicious activity, and report it! We will be sponsoring a presentation by the San Jose Police Department's Neighborhood Watch Program at our VEP General Meeting in November.

Scheduling/Renting Vista Park Community Room - All arrangements for scheduling and rental, including fee information, of the Vista Park Community Room are managed

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through the City of San Jose Parks and Recreation Department (the office located at the Almaden/Camden Community Center/Library). Call Brandon Kwock at (408) 268-1133 or brandon.kwock@sanjoseca.gov.

Neighborhood scuttlebutt

-Dave Fadness

Martial Cottle Park: The County Parks Planner who is managing this project, Jane Mark reports that the RFP (request for proposal) for soliciting master planning consultants for the Martial Cottle Park property was released on September 11. The deadline for RFP proposals is October 20. It is anticipated that prospective consultant firms will be interviewed and a successful team selected by the end of November. Given that County Parks has limited planning staff and an increasing workload, this schedule has become flexible to address staff schedule changes.



Ms. Mark will be on maternity leave until March 30, 2007. Until then, call Mark Frederick, Manager of Planning and Real Estate Services, at (408) 355-2210 or send him an email at mark.frederick@prk.sccgov.org if you have any questions regarding the status of Martial Cottle Park property or want to be added to the county's master plan committee email list

Branham Lane widening project: City staff thanks VEP for patience on this project, assuring us that although it seems quiet, they are actively working out complications on various issues related to a right-of-way land transfer agreement with the County. (Nothing that would jeopardize the deal, though.)

Once finalized, the agreement will be considered for approval separately by the city council and the board of supervisors. After the city and county approve the agreement, environmental and preliminary design processes can begin. City staff assures us that VEP's input will be sought.

If you are interested in joining our Branham Widening Committee, call me at 578-6428. Meetings with city staff will resume soon after the land transfer agreement is approved.

Chynoweth Avenue traffic calming: Per our request, San Jose's Department of Transportation is now preparing a drawing that will show us what changes might be made if Chynoweth Avenue is reduced to one lane in both directions between Gaundabert/New World and Pearl Avenue. Bike lanes will also be included.

This drawing will be done early in November and be discussed as part of our next scheduled VEP meeting on Chynoweth traffic calming solutions (to be announced).

Neighborhood break-ins: There have been increasing reports of home break-ins and vandalism in our southern San Jose neighborhoods. VEP will continue to monitor this situation and plans to feature a police department presentation at its November 28 meeting.

Please keep your doors locked and *always* be on the look-out for and report suspicious activities in your neighborhood. The

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Unclaimed property may be yours

- Dave Noel

The California State Controller's office maintains a list of unclaimed property. Check to see whether any of it is yours by visiting <http://scoweb.sco.ca.gov/UCP/>.

Oak Grove School District

-Manny Barbara, Superintendent

One of our priorities in the Oak Grove School District is to provide as much parental choice as possible. Last year we started a new alternative parent participation discussion "hands on" program called INDIGO. The program was developed at the request of parents.

In its first year, the INDIGO Program served students in grades K-3. For the 2006-07 school year, this program has been expanded to grades K-4, with plans to add yet another grade for each of the next two years. The INDIGO program is housed at Frost Elementary School.



Last year we also surveyed parent interest for a K-8 program as an alternative to the traditional intermediate grades 7-8 program. Several parents had approached us about the possibility. We fell short of the required minimum 60 students to get the program underway, but we will once again begin the process of surveying parents. If there is enough interest, we hope to offer a K-8 alternative for the 2007-08 school year. This program would also be housed at Frost Elementary School.

Thanks to the community's support of a bond measure passed in 1995, we have been able to modernize our school facilities. During the summer, several of our schools (Anderson, Baldwin, Bernal, Frost, Herman, Ledesma, Oak Ridge, Sakamoto, Taylor) received a variety of improvements such as roof repair, exterior and interior painting, seismic retrofitting, new carpeting, new heating and air conditioning units, and classroom network and electrical improvements. Over the years, we have appreciated the community's support which has provided for a safe and improved school environment.

We have added new material to our Oak Grove web site. This year you will be able to access approved minutes from all

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meetings of our Board of Trustees, as well as all of our Board policies. We encourage you to visit www.ogsd.k12.ca.us.

Rachel Carson Elementary School news

-Irene Schoberg (*)

Carson students returned to school on August 23rd to welcome a new principal, **Betsy Doss**. Betsy was the principal at San Jose High last year, but she has also had experience being a principal at an elementary school.



There also are a number of new teachers on the staff this year replacing those who retired last. Betsy and these new teachers were greeted warmly by the community and also greeted with great test score results.

Last year, Carson joined the API "800" club with a test score of 802. The results from Spring 2006 showed Carson's API score at 818, a 16-point gain!

Our Back-to-School Night was held on September 12th and was attended by many Carson parents. We have had two School Site Council Meetings and our first GATE meeting is scheduled for October 26th.

Carson is holding a "Reading is Fun and Rewarding" contest from October 2nd until December 8th. This contest is sponsored by a former Carson parent. Four bikes may be won. Entry forms are deposited weekly by classroom teachers based upon who is the "Most Improved Reader" in their classroom that week. Blue forms are also available in Carson's front office for parents to fill out whenever their student reads a book at home.

Two names will be drawn from these forms and those students will each get awarded a \$50 gift certificate for Toys-R-Us.

We are looking forward to a successful year.

[[(*)Ed. Note: Long-time VEP member Irene Shoberg is the Categorical Program and Library Assistant at Rachel Carson Elementary School.]

Gunderson happenings

- Cary Catching, Principal

I am pleased to share with our community some of the exciting events that are happening at Gunderson High School

over the next few weeks.

Keep your eyes open for information regarding Gunderson's Homecoming Game against Evergreen Valley High School. Gunderson will be hosting this event in our stadium on October 27, beginning with the Junior Varsity game at 3:30 p.m., rally at 6 p.m., and Varsity game at 7:30 p.m. Football players will be walking the neighborhood with informational flyers and answering any questions neighbors may have regarding these events.



VEP members will also be able to receive a complimentary ticket to the game. To receive your ticket, please contact me at 535-6340 or cary_catching@sjusd.org.

Gunderson drama students have been invited to attend three productions this year at San Jose's premier theatre company, San Jose Repertory Theater. This pilot program will introduce students to various forms of theater, from acting to technical production. Students will also participate in after-show discussions with actors and directors.

Gunderson has re-instituted quarterly newsletters. These newsletters are chock-full of information about our school, including activities, curricular information, outreach services information, etc. If you would like to be put on the mailing list, please contact me. In addition, you may come by the school and pick up the current issue on the front counter.

Finally, Gunderson has instituted monthly Principal's Coffees. These are an opportunity for parents and community members to meet with me and discuss school activities, upcoming events, concerns, etc. My next "Coffee" is slated for Friday, November 3 at 7:30 a.m. in the Conference Room. You are invited to attend.

San Jose Unified Board update

-Veronica Lewis, Area #4 Trustee

In August, San Jose Unified's Board of Education identified these five key goals to support our work for the 2006-07 school year:



1. Carefully define the SJUSD culture and improve communications to internal and external stakeholders. Our goal is to respond to your needs with courtesy and respect. If you feel that you have not been treated in this manner, please call our public relations hotline (5353-6444). Your concern will be handled immediately.
2. Maintain a balanced budget.
3. Improve student achievement.
4. Develop, promote and implement a comprehensive career ladder program to ensure the District maintains a highly qualified staff.
5. Continue the Board's commitment to its operating agreement, working collaboratively as a team and to its individual and collective learning.

The Board will continue to assess these goals throughout the year and adjust them as necessary.

Thirty Gunderson High School students along with students from other high school teams in San Jose Unified will research community concerns as they focus their energies and interests on social change as part of their involvement in *Youth Re:Action Corps* (YRC).

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San Jose Unified has created a partnership with YRC, believing in the power of young people to save the world. They provide programs to youth around the world to educate them about global issues, empower them to create change, and invest financially in their visions of a better world.

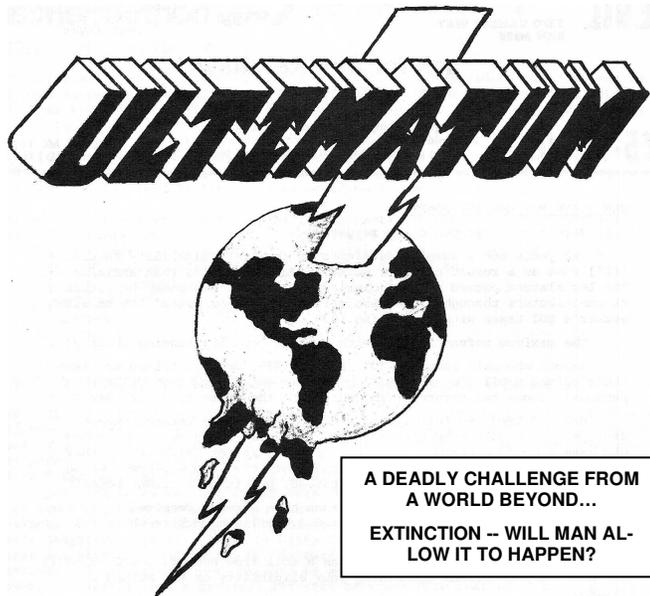
Each of SJUSD's high schools will have a team of 15 to 40 students who, after researching community issues, will decide on a community service project. Onsite advisors, outside mentors from the local universities and business community, will support each project.

A district-wide conference kick-off was held on September 29th. Created by his family and friends to carry on his legacy after his death in 2004, the *Pat Tillman Foundation* is underwriting SJUSD's program and will support each site's project with \$1,000. Pat Tillman was a graduate of San Jose Unified School District.

Local kid makes very good!

-Dave & Aiko Fadness

The Tech Museum's IMAX digital audio system churning out 13,000 watts of stereo sound, combined with a spectacular light show of crystal clear images eight stories high grabbed our full attention as the opening credits to *Superman Returns* rolled. There was his name: **John Ottman**—the man who edited and scored this popular film.



In 1981, John was a senior at Gunderson High School. He and classmate **Bud Robertson** approached VEP for help in attracting talent and help in support of their first collaborative film effort, *ULTIMATUM*. Complete with their dramatic graphic above, we ran the following article in our July newsletter:

"ULTIMATUM is a realistically fashioned science-fiction film currently being produced by Bud Robertson and John Ottman in San Jose. Both Bud and John are seniors at Gunderson High School. John has made two earlier films, but this is the first collaboration of the two filmmakers.

The film is set in the near future and involves an alien race who comes to earth. Within that alien race are both good and evil, and the film will really get involved in the classic struggle of good against evil.

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Their movie has a tentative run time of 40 minutes, and involves more than 35 people. The film is being shot in Super-8 millimeter silent film, and will have sync sound added later on the cassette.

The film is still in pre-production and there are many roles and production jobs to be filled. Experience and/or adults wanted. Any equipment or supplies that could be donated or borrowed would be greatly appreciated.

If you have a flair for acting, experience in filmmaking, or equipment to lend, please call."

The movie took two years to complete. It was filmed with a borrowed Super-8 movie camera. John and Bud built models and 17 different sets in the Robertson's garage. Friends, neighbors, and teachers were recruited to fill the movie's 76 roles. The two filmmakers worked on some aspect of the movie every day. They financed it through part-time jobs. It cost them over \$3,000 to make the movie and one additional print.



John and Bud were sophomores studying film production at DeAnza College when their film was completed. Gunderson's PTSA sponsored an evening showing for our community. VEP ran an appeal for attendance in its November 1983 newsletter. A one dollar per person donation was requested. That humble beginning launched their now deservedly successful professional careers.

John grew up in the Thousand Oaks neighborhood near Terrell School. He attended Terrell Elementary and John Muir Middle Schools. While at Gunderson, he was a member of their marching band under the direction of **Glen Ishiwata** (now Superintendent of the Moreland School District).

John graduated Gunderson, DeAnza, and USC, working his way through a formal education in his art. He now lives and works in the Hollywood area. You can read his biography at www.johnottman.com. Bud is also involved in film-making.

John Ottman has composed, edited, scored, and directed an impressive number of Hollywood films. *Superman Returns* is his second work with Kevin Spacey—his first was *The Usual Suspects*. He has also done composing for numerous television commercials.

We're proud to watch an energetic and creative product of our community become an acclaimed success. VEP con-

gratulates John Ottman and his family!

[Ed. Note: John Ottman will be our featured speaker at VEP's 7:30 pm January 23, 2007 meeting in the Gunderson High School theater. Please plan to attend—and help get the word out to those interested in performing arts.]

VEP's September 26 meeting

- Jeri Arstingstall

Linda Crabill, program manager of San Jose's *Street Smarts*, gave an excellent presentation about auto and pedestrian street safety. Her presentation made us aware of how critical it is to understand that when we drive we must be carefully attentive, as are really operating a piece of heavy equipment.

An important reminder is to always make eye contact with approaching drivers before you cross a street.

We are all in a rush. The way you operate your vehicle is a sign of your personality.

The city's *Street Smarts* program is working with the elementary and middle schools to educate our children. One of the questions raised was about the speed limit around schools. Without question, if you see a child, SLOW DOWN. The speed limit is 25 miles per hour when children are present and it doesn't matter what time of the day it is.



If you drive your child to school, help reduce neighborhood congestion by not insisting on parking in front of the school. Instead, park a block or more away and walk your child to the school.

Cindy Bosworth volunteered to be VEP's community coordinator for the *Street Smarts* education program. To keep us aware of child safety and related programs, Cindy will distribute videos, pamphlets, flyers, etc. to our schools and interested neighbors.

San Jose's Manager of Neighborhood Traffic, **Laura Wells** updated us on the status of Chynoweth traffic calming efforts. She helped us all understand the current traffic situation, what has been done to date, and outlined a range of other possible measures which include a "single lane" option.

In response to a host of questions, DOT will prepare a drawing that shows what a single lane would look like and help our

community decide whether to request this option. Ms. Wells stated that her department could not guarantee reduced speed or improved safety with a single lane.

She also stated that bike lanes can be added whether there are one or two traffic lanes in each direction.



Gunderson High School's Principal Cary Catching shared her comments about the positive assessment of current traffic controls.

After much audience discussion, it was decided to hold off on any decision regarding lane reduction until further information is available for our members. We will agendaize that discussion at an upcoming VEP meeting.

VEP members unanimously approved our 2006-2007 Goals & Objectives. They also unanimously approved a \$2000 budget for our 2007 Memorial Day Parade & Festival.

Eric Crane of Nancy Pyle's office announced that the Parks Department will develop a site plan for the Vista Park community room, as VEP requested. A committee will be formed. **Art Rosales** will be the city lead, and **Dave Fadness** will be the VEP lead. **Marilyn Rodgers** announced that the city has budgeted funds for a display case in the community room to hold Vista Park memorabilia VEP has collected over the years.

Katherine Decker announced the non-profit *Blossom Valley Christmas Tree Fund*, established to make it possible to decorate her 75-foot Cedar tree again this year, and to collect food and toys for the needy while bringing Christmas cheer to the VEP area.

Home auto repair - zoning and blight codes

If you're considering working on your car at home, here is a summary of the zoning and blight codes regulating home auto repair:

Types of repairs allowed – Only minor repairs such as an oil change, tire repair, small part change, or minor routine maintenance may be performed. No engine or transmission rebuilding, bodywork, painting, or other major repairs are allowed.

Area(s) where repairs may be performed - Limited to the driveway or garage; at no time can repairs be made on the lawn, sidewalk, parkstrip (area between the street and sidewalk), or the street.

Vehicles to be repaired – Must be registered to residents of the home or dwelling where the work takes places.

Time allowed to complete the repairs - Maximum 72 hours (3 days); if the repairs will take longer than 72 hours, store the vehicle in a garage or approved accessory structure out of public view.

Disposal of hazardous materials - Do not dump oil, gasoline, or other hazardous waste into the ground or storm drain. Call (408) 299-7300 for more information on the proper disposal of hazardous waste.

Storage - Inoperable vehicles may be stored in the driveway for a maximum of 72 hours (3 days). At no time can an inop-



Wesley W. Terrell

★VEP Member★
Vista Park Specialist



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erable vehicle be stored on the street. Car parts, tools, tires, etc. may not be stored in the driveway or anywhere in the front setback or yard area that is within public view.

Vehicle sales - Limited to two (2) per calendar year and must be registered to a resident of the home or dwelling where they are being sold. Vehicles with "For Sale" signs may only be parked in the driveway; never on the front lawn, sidewalk, parkstrip, or on any city street.

Failure to comply with these regulations may result in fines or penalties of up to \$2,500 per day.

For more information, contact the Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement at (408) 277-4528.

[Ed. Note: The foregoing article was originally published in the Neighborhood Development Center's Summer 2006 newsletter.]

Code Enforcement now open on Saturdays

- Dave Noel

San Jose's Department of Planning, Building, and Code Enforcement is initiating a six-month pilot enhancement to Code Enforcement Division services. Effective immediately, Code Enforcement will have an Inspector available on Saturdays between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. to respond to emergency and priority customer complaints including:



- In-progress un-permitted tree removal and tree trimming on public and private property;
- Unsecured refrigerators causing a hazard to

the public;

- Sewage overflowing from residential properties;
- Requested police and fire assistance;
- Imminently hazardous housing or building conditions; and
- Unsecured swimming pool fencing.

In addition, Code Enforcement will be conducting inspections relating to activities occurring on weekends, including:

- Illegal auto repair activities;
- Excessive garage sales;
- Illegal temporary signs;
- Parking on unpaved surfaces;
- Unpermitted construction; and
- Construction during prohibited hours.

To register a complaint, call the City of San Jose's Call Center at (408) 535-3500

Taxpayer suit against Open Space Authority

-Dave Fadness

Last month, Attorney Tony Tanke wrote an article for VEP about possible refunds of Santa Clara County Open Space Authority's (OSA) property assessment taxes. If you missed his article, or just forgot to ask for a claim form, let me know.

Here's a recap of Tanke's article...

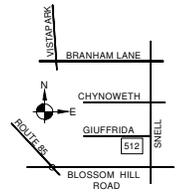
A lawsuit now before the California Supreme Court may find that assessment tax unconstitutional. If so, Silicon Valley Taxpayer's Association (the plaintiff) has asked that refunds be given to property owners and taxpayers, who may then elect to keep them. However, OSA will likely argue it is entitled to

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keep and spend the taxes--unless individual taxpayers make separate claims for their own refunds.

Taxpayers need to be aware they may lose their rights to refunds if they do not file their own personal refund claims, even if the Supreme Court declares the assessment tax unconstitutional. Taxpayers will have a right to obtain refunds of assessment taxes paid within only four years prior to the date of a refund claim.

This means that, if a taxpayer paid the assessment beginning with OSA's first levy in 2002, his or her refund claim would have to be filed within four years of the date the taxpayer actually made his or her first payment of 2002 taxes, which were due on December 14, 2002 and April 10, 2003.



Refund claims would thus be due in early December 2006 for most taxpayers. Any taxpayer filing a refund claim later than that date would lose all or part of his or her refund.

Taxpayers need to file their signed original claims with the OSA at 6830 Via Del Oro, Suite 200, San Jose, CA 95119, making sure they ask OSA to stamp a copy of the claim form "filed" or "received" on a specific date. Taxpayers should keep a copy for the own records.

As a service to taxpayers, SVTA will supply claim forms prepared by its attorney that can be filled out, signed, and filed. Upon request, SVTA will also file the claims on taxpayers' behalf and keep copies.

SVTA's lawsuit is not about whether open space funding for parks and trails is a good or a bad thing. Most people, including most SVTA members, believe it is good.

This lawsuit is about how open space and other government spending must be paid for under the California Constitution as enacted by the voters of our state, whether through general or special taxes approved by voters or through assessments on real estate for special benefits to particular parcels.

Reserving the Vista Park community room

- Dave Noel

As of January 2006, these were the fees for reserving the new "Vista Park Neighborhood Center." Contact Brandon Kwock at (408) 268-1133 or brandon.kwock@sanjoseca.gov to reserve the room.

(Cont'd next

page) Fees summary:

Hourly Rates (two hour minimum):

Resident = \$60

Non Resident = \$95

Application Fees:

Resident = \$50

Non Resident = \$100

Package Rate for 7 hours (application fee included):

Resident = \$420

Non Resident = \$665

Cleaning and Damage Deposit = \$250

'Tis the season to be pruning

-John Marks

~ The best way to prune orange trees ~

Orange trees need little pruning compared to other fruit trees. In fact, they prefer to have a skirt of leaves all the way to the ground. This protects the trunk which can get sunscald when exposed to strong sunlight.



Citrus trees bloom and bear fruit on new growth, so cutting off branch tips will reduce the size of your crop. If desired, you can prune off the dead twigs and small branches found on the inside of the tree, but be aware of the sharp thorns, as these can give nasty scratches!

~ Keeping ants off fruit trees ~

Ants will climb into plants, shrubs, and trees to get access to the sweet exudate of certain sucking insects (aphids, mealybugs, and scale). They use the exudate as food.

Prevent access by ants onto any shrub or tree that you see them invading by spreading *Tree Tanglefoot Pest Barrier* around the stem or trunk. Wrap a 3-inch wide band of masking tape around the trunk near its base. Spread a 2-inch or so wide band of *Tanglefoot* over the tape. Ants can't cross the goeey, sticky stuff.

Replace the tape and *Tanglefoot* as needed.

~ How to prune lavender ~

Some say that lavender should be cut back almost to the ground in the early winter. But that's a care technique applicable only in the Eastern U.S. Lavender in California should be pruned after flowering in mild-winter areas.

You can use hedge shears to cut them back, or prune off stalks that have spent flowers on them. You'll get better results if you prune off the stalks. Make your cut just above a junction, leaving at least an inch of the leafy stem. Your lavender will be bushier and more compact as a result.

~ Growing parsley in pots ~

Parsley is easy to grow in pots, and with restricted sunshine. But, since their seeds aren't reliable, transplants at a nursery often take several weeks to sprout.

Use a commercial potting mix. Keep the mix moist. Fertilize monthly with a water-soluble complete fertilizer, such as *Jobes* or *Miracle-Gro*. Your parsley will grow all winter, but it is best to plant new ones to replace the old plants every spring.

~ Your rain gutters ~

Yes, it's time to get the ladders out and peer into your rain gutters. There, you'll find stray tennis balls, toys, and worst of all, a bunch of rotting leaves. Not only will they rust out the gutters, but render the downspouts useless. So plan to get up there on a sunny Saturday and clear them out.

The leaves that fall on the ground can be tossed into the compost pile, too. Or you can use the lazy gardener's method by raking them into garden beds and use them to cover exposed soil. The leaves will break down over the winter and turn into rich garden humus by spring.

~ Autumn gardens ~

Cool-season vegetables to plant now include broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, peas, radishes, green onions, beets and lettuce grapefruit. Also plant spring-flowering bulbs now, including daffodils, tulips, hyacinths, and crocus.

~ National Gardening Association ~

General information for gardeners may be found at the National Gardening Association web site, www.garden.org. One of its most useful features is a localized report. There are also how-to basics, on-line courses, a horticultural dictionary and plant name finder, events calendar, message board, seed swap, and links to a children's gardening site. You can search the site's library for informative articles.

Tree squirrels in Santa Clara County

Santa Clara County has three species of tree squirrels: the native Western Grey, the introduced Eastern Grey, and Eastern Fox Squirrels. All three squirrels may cause damage around homes and gardens.



Squirrels will gnaw on electrical wiring and gnaw through shingles and other roofing materials to gain access to homes. All three squirrels will occasionally build nest in attic spaces of houses.

In yards and gardens they will gnaw the bark of trees and ornamentals shrubs, sometimes doing considerable damage. In gardens, squirrels may eat newly planted seeds or seedlings. Yard lawns may be damaged as squirrels dig holes to hide nuts for later use. Squirrels will also take food from yard bird feeders.

Squirrel activity occurs during the daylight hours. Tree squirrels in residential areas may be seen running along power lines, moving about on back fences, in trees, and foraging for food on the ground.

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The Eastern Fox Squirrel is rather large, 18- to 23-inches long and up to 2-1/4 pounds. Color patterns are variable. The most common bay area color seems to be a russet color coat and reddish tail, although all black individuals are seen.

The Eastern Grey Squirrel is smaller, 18- to 20-inches long and up to 2-1/4 pounds. Their color pattern is gray with a reddish wash, usually having a white underbelly.

The Native Western Grey Squirrel is the largest of the three tree squirrels at 20- to 24-inches and up to 2-3/4 pounds. Their color is a silvery gray with a white underbelly.

These squirrels will have two broods each year in times of abundant food, with usually about three young per litter. Litters may occur in mid-December to late-summer, depending on species.

~ Control ~

No poison bait is registered for use against any tree squirrel. Trapping may be done with permits from California Department of Fish and Game.

The best form of control is habitat modifications and squirrel proofing. Close openings into your home with 1/4-inch hardware cloth or make other suitable repairs. Human hair from a barber shop seems to be as good a repellent as any; scatter it around nests in attics or other parts of a building. Trim trees appropriately to prevent squirrels from jumping onto roofs.

To prevent squirrels from climbing them, encircle trees with a two-foot wide collar of metal placed six feet above the ground.

Prevent squirrels from traveling on wires by installing two-foot sections of lightweight 2- to 3-inch diameter plastic pipe. Split the pipe lengthwise, spread opening and place over the wire. The pipe will rotate on the wire and cause traveling squirrels to tumble. [Ed. Note: Contact your utility company for advice before attempting this on electric power or telephone wires.]

For more information, contact Santa Clara County Vector Control District, 976 Lenzen Avenue, San Jose, CA 95126; (408) 792-5010 or fax at (408) 298-6356. Visit www.sccvector.org.

Mary Hayes Chynoweth

- Leonard McKay (*)

Who was San Jose's most famous lady? Could it have been a woman with magical powers to heal and locate rich iron mines, who believed that optimistic thinking and a sound diet were the keys to good health?

If so, then it had to be **Mary Folsom Hayes Chynoweth**, a healer, teacher, spiritualist, minister, hard worker, mother of two important San Joseans, political advisor and holder of "The Power." As a youngster, Mary Folsom lived in the small town of Cuba, New York, in a family of Free-Will Baptists. By age twelve, she was helping to support the family by washing clothes,

sewing and weaving. She became a teacher at 18 and taught school after the family moved to Wisconsin.

One day while teaching, she was stricken with the "Force," driving her to her knees where she received "The Power" to heal and to have spiritual insight. Soon she was called upon



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to heal a man who had deeply cut his hand with a saw. As she passed her hands over his, he quickly recovered. Over her lifetime, more than 7,000 people claim that she had cured them of various maladies.

She married Anson Hayes, a widower with a five year old daughter. Mary bore him three sons: Everis, Jay Orley and Charles Carroll. Young Charles died when he was only four, but the other sons and their families continued to live close to Mary all her life, most often with all their families in a single large mansion divided into three living quarters. The sons invested in iron mines in Wisconsin, but were unable to locate the rich veins of ore beneath the surface. Mary used her miraculous power to pinpoint the exact location of rich ore.

In 1872, the family decided to vacation in California for the winter at a place then known as "Haywards," and, while there, she was invited to lecture on temperance. The family ventured a few miles south to San Jose and loved the area so much they made an offer to buy the John Tennant farm just south of town. It was not for sale so they purchased 168 acres just south of the Tennant farm and, before returning to Wisconsin, they made a second offer to Tennant that was later accepted.

In 1873, Mary's husband died of a heart attack and sixteen years later she married Thomas Chynoweth, an epileptic who was 21 years younger than she was. He died just two years later. It is curious that the great healer was unable to heal either of her two husbands or her young son.

Great financial success in the Wisconsin mines allowed the family to return to San Jose, where the first great mansion, designed by architect George Page, was built. Here Mary constructed her True Life Church, acting as the spiritual guide for its congregation. Her sons purchased the San Jose Herald newspaper in 1900 and the San Jose Mercury in 1901, intent on upsetting San Jose's political boss of the time, Johnny McKenzie, and the corrupt political arm of the Southern Pacific Railroad. The purchase of the two papers created the San Jose Mercury Herald, giving them a public forum for their reform campaign.

In 1905, Mary Hayes Chynoweth died at age 80. Her last words were: "I have never wronged anyone." It is curious how similar this was to "Mountain" Charlie McKiernan's motto of the same era, now the motto for the local E Clampus Vitus chapter: "Right Wrongs Nobody."

[(*)Ed. Note: Mr. McKay posted this history lesson on the

**Our
Local
History...**

Beloit College's Mindset List

- Dave Noel

Each summer Beloit College in Wisconsin issues their Mindset List. A creation of Beloit's Keefer Professor of the Humanities Tom McBride and Public Affairs Director Ron Nief, it looks at the cultural touchstones that have shaped the lives of today's first-year students. Below is a sampling of this year's list. For the whole list, visit www.beloit.edu/~pubaff/mindset.

Members of the class of 2010, entering college this fall, were mostly born in 1988. For them: Billy Carter, Lucille Ball, Gilda Radner, Billy Martin, Andy Gibb, and Secretariat have always been dead.

1. The Soviet Union has never existed and therefore is about as scary as the student union.
3. For most of their lives, major U.S. airlines have been bankrupt.
6. There has always been only one Germany.
7. They have never heard anyone actually "ring it up" on a cash register.
12. Smoking has never been permitted on U.S. airlines.
16. DNA fingerprinting has always been admissible evidence in court.
22. Mr. Rogers, not Walter Cronkite, has always been the most trusted man in America.
23. Bar codes have always been on everything, from library cards and snail mail to retail items.
28. Carbon copies are oddities found in their grandparents' attics.
36. They have rarely mailed anything using a stamp.
47. Small white holiday lights have always been in style.
48. Most of them never had the chance to eat bad airline food.
49. They have always been searching for "Waldo."
54. There have always been live organ donors.
55. They have always had access to their own credit cards.
56. They have never put their money in a "Savings & Loan."
59. Disneyland has always been in Europe and Asia.
62. Acura, Lexus, and Infiniti have always been luxury cars of choice.
65. Diane Sawyer has always been live in Prime Time.
66. Dolphin-free canned tuna has always been on sale.
67. Disposable contact lenses have always been available.
72. Richard M. Daley has always been the Mayor of Chicago.
75. Professional athletes have always competed in the Olympics.

The flip side...



Two elderly couples had dinner together one night. After eating, the wives left the table and went into the kitchen.

The two gentlemen sat talking when one said, "Last night we went out to a new restaurant and it was really great. I would recommend it."

The other man said, "What's the name of the restaurant?"

The first man thought and thought and finally said, "What's the name of that flower you give to someone you love? You know, the one that's red and has thorns."

"Do you mean a rose?"

"Yes, that's the one," replied the man. He then turned towards the kitchen and yelled, "Hey, Rose, what's the name of that



Bulletin Board Ads

restaurant we went to last night?"

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The VEP Executive Board reserves exclusive right to re-use 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.

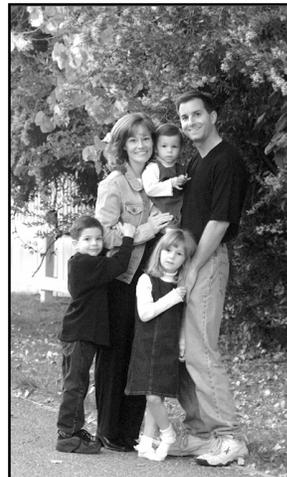
Bulletin Board advertising rules:

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.



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Council District 9 news

-City Councilmember Judy Chirco

One of the Valley's oldest women's organizations, *We and Our Neighbors* is celebrating the new street and pedestrian safety improvements in front of their historic *We and Our Neighbors Clubhouse*. I want to offer a special invitation to join us for this event on Saturday, November 4th at 10 am.

This project at the intersection of Union Avenue and Los Gatos Almaden Road included adding sidewalks, traffic signal modifications, and crosswalks. Newly planted trees and improved drainage were also elements of this million dollar improvement project.

We and Our Neighbors is one of the oldest continuously meeting women's service organizations in Santa Clara Valley. Union School District women started meeting in 1892 and built their clubhouse in 1910. It is listed on the National Register of Historic places.

We and Our Neighbors invite all interested residents to attend their monthly meeting on Saturday, Oct. 21st at 1 p.m. For further information on *We and Our Neighbors* please contact **Penny Canario** at (408) 267-8175.

~ Kiwanis Chili Cook-off and BBQ ~

Cambrian Park, South San Jose, and Willow Glen Kiwanis Clubs are co-sponsoring their 1st Annual Chili Competition and Barbecue Dinner on Saturday, October 21st from 5 to 8:30 pm at the Camden Community Center. Ten teams of Chili Competitors will be judged by a panel of professionals and all attendees will vote for their favorite Chili Team.



Proceeds benefit youth programs including those at the Camden Community Center.

The Camden Community Center is located at 3369 Union Avenue, between Foxworthy and Camden Avenues. For more information please contact **Dave Littau** at (408) 879-7501 or email at pdllittau@sbcglobal.net.

If you wish to receive periodic emails from my office please visit www.sanjoseca.gov/district9 and click on "Join Judy's email list." As always, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact my office at District9@sanjoseca.gov or (408)535-4909.



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★★ Workshop Dates ★★

2:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 8

7:30 p.m. Thursday, November 9

11:00 a.m. Saturday, November 11

Place: Vista Park Community Room (on Hyde Park Drive)

★★Call (800) 972-2880 to confirm attendance and date★★

Long term care is a vital way to plan for your future. In fact, did you know that 40% of people who need long-term care are working age adults between 18 and 64. The good news is, it's easy to prepare yourself.

Learn how long term care insurance can help cover your care in a comfortable place—like at home—so you can help protect your assets and your family from the rising costs of long term care. Please RSVP or call today for more information—there's no obligation.

Stephen A. Gregerson, CFP (A VEP Member)

(800) 972-2880

Please pass the following form along to any neighbors who are not VEP members.

VEP

★ ★ Membership Application ★ ★

Note: none of the following information will be shared with any third party.

★ ★ Please type or print legibly ★ ★

Last name(s): _____

First name(s): _____

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Telephone # _____

Email address(es): _____

Comments): _____

Can you give VEP a few volunteer hours? _____

Mail your \$20 check to VEP, P.O. Box 18111, San Jose 95158. Thank you!

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Vista Park

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 VEP's
 October 24th Meeting

THE VEP NEWS



VEP Community Association

P.O. Box 18111 San Jose, CA 95158

Email: vepca@vepca.org Website: www.vepca.org

Published monthly by VEP Community Association, a not-for-profit organization of volunteers established in 1969 to serve and represent more than 2000 homes in the Blossom Valley area of southern San Jose. VEP is dedicated to neighborhood maintenance and improvement in its membership area as well as to active involvement in civic affairs. This newsletter is mailed monthly to all members in good standing, to our advertisers, and to schools and government officials serving our membership area. For membership or paid advertisement information, contact our Treasurer or write to the address listed above.

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