

VEP NEWS

• VEP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION •

Representing More Than 2000 Families In The Blossom Valley Area Of South San Jose Since 1969

April 2013

VEP'S MEETING

7:30 p.m. Tuesday
▶ **April 30, 2013** ◀

Vista Park Community Room
475 Hyde Park Drive

AGENDA

★ Santa Clara County Update ★

Presentation by Santa Clara County Supervisor

Mike Wasserman

★ VEP Business Meeting ★



Update on CSA Awards
Membership Drive Ends May 1st
Neighborhood Garage Sale, May 4th
San Jose Budget Presentation, District 10, May 7th

★ Your Concerns and Ideas ★

Your chance to voice your opinion and/or to seek VEP's help.
Everyone is welcome. Invite your neighbors!

VEP's April Meeting

by Marilyn Rodgers

April's general membership meeting:

▶ **Santa Clara County Update** – featured guest speaker will

be Santa Clara County Supervisor Mike Wasserman. The Supervisor will provide an annual update and an overview of issues affecting residents of Santa Clara County. Currently, two issues of special interest to VEP residents is that of management of the homeless, and the status of Martial Cottle Park. There will be an opportunity for attendees to ask questions of the Supervisor.

▶ VEP Business Meeting/Updates/Announcements.

▶ **Your Concerns and Ideas** – We want to hear from you! Together we can work toward positive resolution. This approach continues to make VEP neighborhoods strong, healthy, and attractive.

We look forward to seeing you, your friends and neighbors, at the April 30th meeting. Please join us!

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VEP Membership Drive Ends May 1st
See information and application on page 9
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Save the Date – Upcoming Events for VEP

April 27th – Gunderson High School Beautification Day
(see article elsewhere in newsletter for details)

April 30th – VEP General Meeting–Supervisor Mike Wasserman

May 4th – VEP Neighborhood Garage Sale
(see article elsewhere in newsletter for details)

May 7th - SJ City Annual Budget Presentation – District 10

May 28th - VEP Annual Meeting

TBA Beautification Projects for Vista Park
and Parkview area (watch for details)

March VEP Meeting Synopsis

Marilyn Rodgers and Peggy Golden

The March 26th meeting opened with announcements from Marilyn Rodgers who reminded everyone that VEP had sponsored three related workshops on crime, crime prevention, and public safety over the previous month. These workshops were intended to provide residents with the opportunity to obtain additional information and resources for themselves and their neighbors, encouraging safe and pro-active strategies.

The first workshop, a presentation on **Neighborhood Watch**

2013 is VEP's 44th year!

was presented at the February VEP meeting by Crime Prevention Specialist **Mini Le** (highlights of Ms. Le's presentation are included in the March VEP Newsletter). The second workshop was a forum with **Councilmember Johnny Khamis** and a representative of the San Jose Police Department, **Sgt. Khalighi**. In that forum, held on March 14th at the Edenvale Library, a prepared list of questions was directed at the Councilmember and Sgt. Attendees also had the opportunity to ask additional questions.

Following her remarks, Marilyn then introduced Councilmember Johnny Khamis and invited him to speak. He encouraged everyone to attend at additional opportunity on crime prevention and safety – the upcoming 1st Annual District 10 Safety Faire, scheduled for Sunday, April 7th. It will be held at Gunderson High School, from 4 to 7pm. His office and the San Jose Police Foundation are the sponsors of this event. The focus will be on vendors who specialize in a variety of products and resources regarding home and neighborhood safety. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions of, and hear from, San Jose Police. The Safety Faire is free to participants.

Marilyn also reminded everyone that the Councilmember has "Monthly Office Hours" in the neighborhood – one in Almaden Valley, and one in our area – on the third Wednesday of every month, from 5:30 to 7pm, at Lime Tree Espresso, Snell and Branham.

Marilyn introduced **Drew Spitzer**, Council Assistant for Councilmember Khamis. Drew has been responsible for coordinating and facilitating surveillance workshops provided by Logitech for several community organizations within District 10. Logitech assisted residents in the Oakland Hills in reducing crime by 50% during the last half of 2012. Drew introduced featured guest speaker **Alex Zaliauskas**. Alex made suggestions and recommendations for everyone's consideration on a variety of security issues including adequate locking mechanisms for both windows and doors, alarm systems, and lighting – both lighting for the interior of your home, and lighting for the exterior/yards. All of these are important aspects to providing adequate security for your home and yard. The final portion of his presentation was devoted to camera surveillance, again for both the interior and exterior of your home.

Following the presentation, Alex provided VEP with an online resource for those that would like additional information – www.logitech.com/alertforcommunities.



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District 10 First Annual Safety Faire

By Marilyn Rodgers and Peggy Golden

On Sunday, April 7th, Councilmember Johnny Khamis, in collaboration with the San Jose Police Foundation, sponsored the first annual safety faire for District 10 residents. The safety faire was held at Gunderson High School, and included over 25 businesses/vendors and community/non-profit organizations. More than 240 residents attended.

VEP Community Association, along with Almaden Valley Community Association, and Almaden Winery Neighborhood Association each sponsored a table at the Faire. Thank you to **VEP Board Members Katherine Decker and Arul Edwin** who skillfully "manned" the VEP table. VEP offered information and an opportunity to win a flowering plant through a free raffle drawing. One plant was provided to the Councilmember and was included with the event's larger event raffle drawing. The second plant was won by Adina Pierce.

VEP members and Nextdoor enthusiasts also manned the table for Nextdoor. Thanks to Board Member Peggy Golden, and members Bonnie Boucher and Lisa Sanchez for their assistance. We would also like to thank Peggy's husband Bill Golden for his assistance in transporting tables for our use at the event.

The Faire concluded with Councilmember Khamis providing encouragement and additional information to attendees of the event. He praised the work of the San Jose Police Department. The revenues from the event along with a grant from the Councilmember's office will be given to the Police Foundation for the purchase of finger printing equipment for police squad cars. Additionally, vendors at the event provided prizes for a free raffle drawing. Several VEP members won prizes. The largest prize awarded was a security system from ADT valued at approximately \$900.00.

A printed event program was provided to attendees. The program included a description of products and services available through the participating vendors and non-profit organizations, as well as their contact information. It will also serve as a resource for attendees future reference.



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Gunderson High School

By Rob Iverson, Activities Director

Graduation at Gunderson High School is fast approaching. We will be holding this year's commencement ceremony at the Rose Garden at 6pm on June 5th. Please congratulate our senior class; they will truly be missed.



Gunderson will be conducting the CST tests starting on April 22, and they will run through May 3rd. Please be advised that we will be on a block schedule for those two weeks. You may check our website for specific times on each of those days to see the bell schedule. Our website is www.sjUSD.org/gunderson. We continue our testing the first two full weeks in May for all of the various Advanced Placement courses that we offer.

Prom will once again be at the Corinthian Event Center, in downtown San Jose. Prom will be on May 17th, starting at 8pm. This year's theme is "Black Tie Affair". Tickets will go on sale starting April 23.

On May 16th Gunderson will be hosting their annual Multimedia Festival, where we will be showcasing some of the amazing work that our students have been creating in their classes. We will be showing original artwork, animations, and even a short movie or two. The event is from 6pm till 8pm. Athletic awards will be held on May 21st, starting at 6pm in the gym. On May 22nd, we will be hosting our Academic Awards night, where we honor our students for all of their hard work this year.

Our spring sports teams are going strong. We still have several home baseball, softball, and track meets this season. Please check the sports calendar on the school web site for times.

It is with great sadness that the Gunderson family would like to report that our Assistant Principal in charge of Guidance, Mr. Paul Yllana, lost his battle with stomach cancer on March 26th. Paul is survived by his Wife Joy, and their son Isaac. In lieu of flowers, they are asking for contributions to an education fund for Isaac

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Traffic and Speeding on Busy VEP Residential Streets

By Marilyn Rodgers

Two busy residential streets in the VEP neighborhood have continued to grow in both volume of traffic and unfortunately... in decreased attention to traffic laws, especially speeding and failing to stop at stop signs. Two streets which have been significantly impacted over the last two years are Bluefield and Hyde Park Drive. Hyde Park Drive (between Chynoweth and Vistapark Drive) is increasingly a favorite route for non-residential drivers (those who are not residents of the neighborhood), using it as a short cut to avoid signals on Branham or Capitol Expressway. Both streets have parks along them. Residents walking their dogs or accompanying children to the parks are encouraged to be especially vigilant when attempting to cross these streets to enter or leave the parks. This is particularly true for Hyde Park Drive, as the number of cars parked on both sides of this busy residential street has greatly increased in recent months. This coupled with the fact that Hyde Park Drive curves hampering drivers' vision of oncoming traffic or pedestrians in the street a few hundred feet ahead of them, increases the risk of accidents.

Unfortunately, there have been several accidents in recent weeks in the VEP neighborhood.

Everyone is very busy, often stressed, and increasingly in a hurry. We need to step back and take a moment to support each other, remind ourselves and our neighbors to be good role models, and slow down in the neighborhood that we all value and enjoy living in! Our safety, and the safety of those we care about, as well as our property values... will all benefit from it!

Stay Informed, Sign up for AlertSCC

By Marilyn Rodgers

A few weeks ago, you may have been surprised to have received an "alert" regarding a stolen vehicle with a small child inside it. Santa Clara County initiated its **AlertSCC system** to notify residents to be on the look out for the vehicle and report it.

This is a system that can be utilized for any disaster or emergency situation. It is free to residents. If you would like to be notified in the event of an emergency in our area, you just have to sign up for it. To sign up online, to go www.alertSCC.com. You can request the information be sent to your mobile device, to your e-mail, or to your home landphone.

This is another opportunity to be informed and to be prepared!

Community-Wide Garage Sale on May 4th

Our annual *Community Garage Sale* will be held on Saturday, May 4th. Make sure to mark it on your calendar now, and start gathering those treasures you no longer use from your garage, attic, and closets.

We want to get everyone in our community to have a garage sale on the same day. The best way to find a new home for your unused stuff is to increase traffic to your home. So, VEP will advertise this event in local newspapers and by distributing flyers around our neighborhoods.



Activity attracts more activity. Your best resource is you. Get your neighbors involved. People will pass by your street unless they think something is happening there. Try to get *everyone* on your street to join in. You might even pool all your neighbors' goodies into one big second-hand superstore. If your neighbors aren't selling, ask if you can spread out to their driveway.

Plan now to make sure you can be seen from the street. Put up balloons or signs. Have your out-of-area friends bring garage sale items that add to yours-make it a big, fun event on your street or cul-de-sac. A little energy and creativity now will pay off in big dividends, freeing up space in your home and putting extra money in your pocket.

If you will be participating and would like to have your street specifically listed on craigslist, please email just the street name to vepeditor@gmail.com.

Reporting Crimes in San Jose:

There is more than one way to report a crime. Go online to sijpd.org home page, upper left corner where it says "Click Here to File A Report". You can also **dial 911** (emergency) if you are a **witness to a crime in progress**. Remember to access 911 from cellular phones (in the City of San Jose), **dial 408-277-8911**. (The non-emergency number is 311, and the cellular version of that is 40-277-8900).

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Annual VEP Membership Drives Comes to a Close

By Marilyn Rodgers & Adina Pierce

The annual VEP membership drive will come to a close on May 1st. If you have already sent in your membership renewal, thank you! If you have forgotten to send in your renewal, please do it today. An application is included in this newsletter, and is also included online at the VEP website – www.vepca.net. Complete the application, make out a check to VEP Community Association for \$20.00, and mail it to: VEP Community Association, P.O. Box 18111, San Jose, Ca. 95158.

The Board of Directors appreciates all of the kind comments that members include with their membership renewals. Thank you again for your continued support of VEP!

To assure that there is no interruption in receiving the newsletter and e-mail alerts, your renewal must be received by May 6th!

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: VEP Membership Drive Ends May 1st :
: See information and application on page 9 :
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VEP Annual Board Elections

by Marilyn Rodgers and Jeri Arstingstall

May is the annual meeting for VEP which includes the election of a slate of members who will serve as the Board of Directors.

The names of members who will be included in the slate are forwarded to the membership for election at the May meeting, and will be listed in advance in the May VEP Newsletter. Once the membership elects the Board of Directors, the Board then elects organizational officers such as President, Treasurer, etc.

We would like to encourage members to consider running as a member of the Board!! Currently, we have a wonderful group of board members, many of whom have served on the board for several years! Our goal, however is to rotate members through these important roles. It is a nice opportunity for members to learn more about our community and our city, and provides individual members a venue for sharing skills and talents with their community. New board members also provide new ideas along with enthusiasm in giving back to their community.

If you have questions or would like additional information about serving as a board member, don't hesitate to contact any current board member. Contact information is listed on the cover sheet of the newsletter.

Jeri Arstingstall, a VEP Past President is the Nominating Chairperson this year. Please contact her for additional information or to volunteer to be a candidate. Contact Jeri at phone number 408-281-1959, or e-mail at jeri@arstingstall.com.

Report Street Lights Needing Repair

By Marilyn Rodgers

Good lighting does deter criminal activity in the neighborhood. Have you noticed one or more street lights that have gone dark? If so, the City depends on residents to report this. You can report it either by calling into a voicemail recording or by going online to complete an e-mail report.

For either method please have the following information:

1. The Street Light Pole number - **number** is located at approximately eye level.
2. The name of the street and address (or other info, such as southwest corner of Street X)
3. Nearest cross street
4. Your name and daytime phone number

To **Call in** and leave a voicemail message – call **408-277-5517**. The timeline for repair is usually 7 to 14 days. If additional repair work is needed, for instance if the copper wiring has been stolen, the repair of the street light will be delayed.

To report by **going online** – go to sanjoseca.gov, then to [Department of Transportation, then Street Light Repairs](#) – and provide the above information via e-mail as indicated.

Communication with Our Members

by Marilyn Rodgers, Adina Pierce, Susan Iverson

Face to face communication is usually the most meaningful and rewarding. Monthly membership meetings between September and May, special events and projects provide this opportunity. However, we have many non-face to face opportunities as well – they are as follows:

As you are reading this newsletter, you already know about our Number 1 (and most popular) way to communicate with our members – through the **VEP NEWS**. Our members continue to tell us how much they enjoy receiving and reading the newsletter.

We continue to evaluate and utilize electronic means of communicating with our members, particularly in between editions of the newsletter (remember **e-distribution of the newsletter** is available upon request as well).

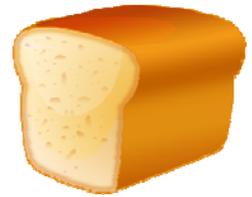
E-mail alerts – if you have e-mail and would like to receive monthly e-mail Alerts, please be sure we have a current e-mail address. (We usually send one or two e-mails per month, so we will not fill your mailbox with junk e-mails; and e-mail addresses are confidential).

VEP Website – www.vepca.net – find current information, highlights of upcoming events, as well as historical information on the website. Our website is intended for use by both members and non-members. Look for an increasing amount of information to be available on the website in the future.

VEP - Yahoo groups and Facebook – for those members interested in additional electronic access and use “social media” sites, VEP has a new “private” Facebook account, available to VEP members only. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/vepca/>

A Year of Bread

By Kathy Wood, Baker



To talk or not to talk? - that is the question. Sitting down in front of the television after a day of working hard, and envisioning relaxation while watching your favorite program, is a common occurrence in many households. But (and there's always a “but”), into the room pops another family member desiring to enjoy the show alongside you. Now, are you a talker, or a non-talker? Do you enjoy watching television quietly (hearing every word) or do you have to announce what's going on play-by-play?

Talkers and non-talkers do not belong in the same household unless some rules and regulations are visibly present, either in a wall-mounted picture frame near the television, or with an easy-to-read printout handed out before the program to be shared. The head of the household should go over each law attaining confirmation of understandability and agreement.

The following are some rules and regulations that could apply in your home: 1) No talking in the room while a conversation is ongoing on the television (gasps and sighs are permitted in reasonable volume). 2) Doorbells, clock chimes, fans, wind chimes, etc. shall be disengaged, turned off, or removed from the viewing area. Cell phones should be put on vibrate only. 3) No clapping allowed – this includes foot-stomping and high-fiving (thumb and finger clapping is ok). 4) During commercials, each person will receive 20 seconds to give their opinion or response to someone else's opinion until the program resumes. Suggestion: take notes during the show so those 20 seconds aren't wasted. 5) If you have previously watched the current viewing, no spoilers, please, or any hints that would sway one's opinion (if you've already seen it, why are you here?). 6) After the movie (or program, or sporting event, or reality tv,) all comments, opinions, clapping, foot-stomping, and high-fiving are permitted (in most cases).

Feel free to adjust these rules to apply to your home. We could go on to discuss proper etiquette for entering a room containing a person reading, and the talking issue (another time). The following recipe is for savory muffins that don't make noise and are permitted for television watching. Enjoy!

Bacon-Cheddar Corn Muffins: *Ingredients:* 1cup yellow cornmeal, 1 cup all-purpose flour, ¼ cup sugar, 1 ½ teaspoons baking powder, ¼ teaspoon baking soda, ½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, ½ teaspoon smoked paprika, 1 cup fresh corn kernels, or frozen corn kernels, thawed, 1 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese, 6 bacon slices, cooked and crumbled, 2 large eggs, lightly beaten, 1 cup buttermilk, ½ cup butter, melted.

For instructions, a picture, and other bread recipes, surf on over to ayearofbreads.blogspot.com.

“Rolling in the dough!”

21 THINGS A BURGLAR WON'T TELL YOU

1. Of course I look familiar. I was here just last week cleaning your carpets, painting your shutters, or delivering your new refrigerator.

2. Hey, thanks for letting me use the bathroom when I was working in your yard last week. While I was in there, I unlatched the back window to make my return a little easier.

3. Love those flowers. That tells me you have taste... and taste means there are nice things inside. Those yard toys your kids leave out always make me wonder what type of gaming system they have.

4. Yes, I really do look for newspapers piled up on the driveway. And I might leave a pizza flyer in your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it.

5. If it snows while you're out of town, get a neighbor to create car and foot tracks into the house. Virgin drifts in the driveway are a dead giveaway.

6. If decorative glass is part of your front entrance, don't let your alarm company install the control pad where I can see if it's set. That makes it too easy.

7. A good security company alarms the window over the sink. And the windows on the second floor, which often access the master bedroom - and your jewelry. It's not a bad idea to put motion detectors up there too.

8. It's raining, you're fumbling with your umbrella, and you forget to lock your door - understandable. But understand this: I don't take a day off because of bad weather.

9. I always knock first. If you answer, I'll ask for directions somewhere or offer to clean your gutters. (Don't take me up on it.)

10. Do you really think I won't look in your sock drawer? I always check dresser drawers, the bedside table, and the medicine cabinet.

11. Here's a helpful hint: I almost never go into kids' rooms.

12. You're right: I won't have enough time to break into that safe where you keep your valuables. But if it's not bolted down, I'll take it with me.

13. A loud TV or radio can be a better deterrent than the best alarm system. If you're reluctant to leave your TV on while you're out of town, you can buy a \$35 device that works on a timer and simulates the flickering glow of a real television (go to www.faketv.com).

14. Sometimes, I carry a clipboard. Sometimes, I dress like a lawn guy and carry a rake. I do my best to never, ever look like a crook.

15. The two things I hate most: loud dogs and nosy neighbors.

16. I'll break a window to get in, even if it makes a little noise. If your neighbor hears one loud sound, he'll stop what he's doing and wait to hear it again... If he doesn't hear it again, he'll just go back to what he was doing. It's human nature.

17. I'm not complaining, but why would you pay all that money for a fancy alarm system and leave your house without setting it?

18. I love looking in your windows. I'm looking for signs that



you're home, and for flat screen TVs or gaming systems I'd like. I'll drive or walk through your neighborhood at night, before you close the blinds, just to pick my targets.

19. Avoid announcing your vacation on your Facebook page. It's easier than you think to look up your address.

20. To you, leaving that window open just a crack during the day is a way to let in a little fresh air. To me, it's an invitation.

21. If you don't answer when I knock, I try the door. Occasionally, I hit the jackpot and walk right in.

Sources: Convicted burglars in North Carolina, Oregon, California; Kentucky; security consultant Chris McGoey (www.crimedoctor.com and www.crimedoctor.com); and Richard T. Wright, a criminology professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, who interviewed 105 burglars for his book *Burglars on the Job*.

Inexpensive protection for you and your home:

1. If you don't have or want to use a gun or a baseball bat, here's a more humane way to wreck someone's evil plans for you: wasp & hornet spray.

Self-defense experts suggest putting a can of aerosol wasp & hornet spray near your door or bed. It's inexpensive, easy to find, and more effective than mace or pepper spray. A can of wasp & hornet spray can typically shoot 20 to 30 feet and is a lot more accurate than pepper spray. It temporarily blinds an attacker until they get to the hospital for an antidote. So, if someone tries to break into your home or attack you, spray the culprit in the eyes. Doing so will give you a chance to get away, call the police, and may even save your life.

2. Put your car keys/alarm fob beside your bed at night. Tell your spouse, your children, your neighbors, your parents--everyone you know or meet--to put their car keys beside their bed at night.

In an emergency situation, if you hear a noise outside your home or someone trying to get in your house, just press the panic button for your car alarm. The alarm will be set off and the car's horn will continue to sound until either you turn it off or the car battery dies.

This tip came from a neighborhood watch coordinator. Next time you come home for the night and you start to put your keys away, think of this: It's a security alarm system that you probably already have and requires no installation. Test it. It will go off from most everywhere inside your house and will keep honking until your battery runs down or until you reset it with the button on the key fob chain. It works if you park in your driveway or garage.

If your car alarm goes off when someone is trying to break into your house, odds are the burglar/rapist won't stick around. After a few seconds all the neighbors will be looking out their windows to see who is out there and what's going on. A criminal doesn't want that to happen.

Remember to carry your keys while walking to your car in a parking lot. The alarm can work the same way there. This is something that should really be shared with everyone. Maybe it could save a life or a sexual abuse crime. It could also be useful for any emergency, such as a heart attack, when you can't reach a phone.

Gunderson Project April 27

By Dave Fadness

On Saturday, April 27, volunteers are going to plant trees and spread 100 cubic yards of wood chips on the Gunderson High School campus—a big job. Our aim is to get plenty of students to do the actual work and a handful of adults to help supervise them. This work will begin at 9 am.

We need wheelbarrows, scoop shovels, and rakes. If you have any of these to share with us, please bring them that morning (be sure to put your name on anything you lend us). If you have a few hours to share with us, please attend. In either case, your help will be appreciated.

This is one of a series of monthly projects organized with the energetic help of Gunderson's **Stephanie Heuer** who recruits student volunteers. San Jose Unified students need community service hours to graduate, we need help doing work that improves our community--it's a perfect match.

Republic Services Recyclery (www.republicservices.com) has agreed to donate and deliver 100 cubic yards of "chocolate" wood chips for the unfinished area adjacent to the east wing of the Gunderson campus. Non-profit **Our City Forest** (www.ourcityforest.org) is donating four trees, related supplies, and Tree Amigos; three trees will be planted on campus, one adjacent to the campus on Gaundabert Lane.

We owe our thanks to these generous companies and to our dedicated student and community volunteers for what will undoubtedly be another successful beautification project.

For more information or to offer help, call me at (408) 578-6428 or email drfadness@sbcglobal.net.

Gunderson Grizzly Pride



Tree Planting & Wood Chips Day

Saturday, April 27
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Join your classmates and Our City Forest
in a campus beautification event that will earn you

Community Service hours for graduation

To sign up
★★ contact Ms. Heuer ★★
no later than April 24

Meet between Buildings E and N
(on the east side of the school)
before 9 a.m. on April 27



Note: Republic Services Recyclery (www.republicservices.com) will donate and deliver 100 cubic yards of colored wood chips for this project. Trees, stakes, and planting materials will be provided by Our City Forest, a private 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to engaging community members in the planting, growth, maintenance, protection, and appreciation of our urban forest (www.ourcityforest.org). We owe our thanks for the success of this project to these generous companies and to our dedicated student and community volunteers.



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SeniorNet Willows Schedules Registration & offers free User Groups for May 2013

SeniorNet/Willows – the place for affordable and high quality computer education for the 50+ age group – is preparing for its 2013 Session 3 classes. Two free-of-charge user groups have been scheduled for May. **Registration for classes is Saturday, May 18.**

All who are interested in some hands-on experience with the iPad are invited to attend the **1st Monday of the month iPad User Group on May 6, 2:30 – 4:00** at the Willow Glen Community Center, 2175 Lincoln Avenue (at Lincoln & Curtner). There is no charge – all are welcome -- no need to respond -- just come with or without an iPad, and bring a friend.

The 2nd Monday of the month User Group, May 13 from 2:00 – 4:00 is a topic just in time for summer and fall travel planning. Bob Rollin, a professional travel planner will provide an information session on: **Online Travel Planning**. Rollin will discuss making a "bucket list" and why it is important to do so; least expensive versus best value; are individuals able to design and plan a trip without a travel agent, and more. This will be an interactive session so come with questions. The session will take place at the Willow Glen Community Center, 2175 Lincoln Avenue (at Lincoln & Curtner). There is no charge – all are welcome – no registration requirement, just show-up.

Registration for all 2013 Session 3 classes is Saturday, May 18. Doors open at 1:00 pm for 1:30 registration. Registration and classes are held at Willow Glen Community Center, 2175 Lincoln Avenue (corner of Lincoln and Curtner Avenues).

SeniorNet/Willows is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, organized and run by a 100% volunteer staff and is open to adults 50+.

See our website for additional class details: www.snicsj.org/willows.

There is a second Learning Center in Almaden. For information, call: 408-268-1703.

VEP helps you solve community problems

It's Time to Renew Your VEP Membership

VEP membership is based on a calendar year, January through December, so it's time to renew your membership. You'll find a remit envelop in this newsletter. Please be sure to fill in the information requested, enclose your \$20 check made payable to VEP, and mail it back to us as soon as possible--while it's still fresh in your mind. That's all there is to it!

In a very real sense, renewing membership is your vote of confidence and support for the work we do as VEP volunteers. Yes, we get an occasional "thank you," but proof positive of your appreciation is your willingness to renew membership each year. We also appreciate the nice comments many of you offer along with your renewal—for that, we offer our thanks!

VEP membership is the best value you'll ever experience. Renew today and ask your neighbors to join our growing family. Thank you.

What is VEP Community Association?

VEP is an all-volunteer organization of your neighbors working to improve our neighborhoods.

VEP sponsors many projects and events that improve safety, our quality of life, and the appearance of our community.

VEP volunteers make our neighborhood's needs, views, and concerns known to government at all levels.

VEP was founded in 1969. We are one of the largest, most successful, and most continuously active and enduring grass roots volunteer organizations in Santa Clara County.

Why join VEP?

To receive our newsletter nine times a year.

To receive monthly email alerts.

To keep our neighborhoods beautiful, safe, strong, and prepared.

To participate in and support effective neighborhood activities and representation.

To support VEP's annual *Community Service Awards* for high school graduates.

To be part of an outstanding volunteer community organization with 40 years of success in our neighborhoods.

Note: All of the events on Crime, Crime Prevention and Safety had several themes which were highlighted and repeated:

- * Be aware, become informed, and be vigilant!
 - * Lock vehicles, gates, doors and windows of your home
 - * Use Lighting – inside your home
 - * Use Lighting for the exterior of your house and yard
 - * Report Street Light outages to the City
 - * Consider purchasing and installing alarms systems and/or camera surveillance systems
 - * Get to know your neighbors
 - * If you have a burglary (or an attempted one) – **Report it!**
 - * Report unusual or suspicious activity
 - * Inform your neighbors of incidents
 - * Encourage neighbors to report incidents
- ☺ If your street or immediate neighborhood is concerned, or has experienced several incidents, **Start a Neighborhood Watch Program!**

** 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): _____

Street address: _____

Telephone # _____

Email address(es): _____

Comments): _____

Can you give VEP a few volunteer hours? _____

I am willing to volunteer for:

- Beautification/clean-up projects
- VEP News/mailling prep
- Memorial Day Parade & Festival
- Distribute flyers Serve on a committee
- Serve as a VEP officer or committee chair
- Other _____

Please let us know: I prefer getting my newsletters by email.

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

What is VEP Community Association?

- VEP is an all-volunteer organization of your neighbors working to improve our neighborhoods; VEP is our community's "homeowner's association".
- VEP volunteers participate in a variety of activities, all of which originate in and benefit our neighborhoods.
- VEP volunteers make our neighborhood's views and needs known to government at all levels.
- Founded in 1969, we are one of the largest, most successful, and most active and enduring grass roots volunteer organizations in Santa Clara County.

Why join VEP?

- To receive our newsletter nine times a year, keeping you up-to-date and informed.
- To participate in and support neighborhood activities and representation.
- To contribute to our annual VEP Community Service Awards for area high school graduates.
- To be part of an outstanding community organization with a long record of success for our neighborhoods.

VEP Community Calendar

April / May 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 VEP Commu- nity Meeting— 7:30 PM— Vista Park Community Room	1	2	3	4 Community Garage Sale
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25

Dates to Remember!

VEP Community Meetings

September 25, 2012
 October 23, 2012
 November 27, 2012
 January 22, 2013
 February 26, 2013
 March 26, 2013
 April 30, 2013
 May 28, 2013

Community Events

Community Garage Sale - Saturday May 4, 2012

THE VEP NEWS



VEP Community Association

P.O. Box 18111 San Jose, CA 95158
 Email: vepca@vepca.net Website: www.vepca.net

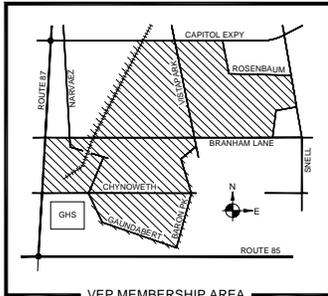
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Published monthly by VEP Community Association, a not-for-profit organization of volunteers established in 1969 to serve and represent more than 2000 homes in the Blossom Valley area of southern San Jose. VEP is dedicated to neighborhood maintenance 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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Prefer your newsletter via Email?
 Let us know at vep@vepca.net.



Check our website: www.vepca.net

Community Room

Vista Park

in the
 7:30 pm

Be sure to attend
 VEP's
 April 30th Meeting