

VEP NEWS

• VEP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION •

Representing More Than 2,000 Families In The Blossom Valley Area Of South San Jose Since 1969

SEPTEMBER 2013

VISTA PARK COMMUNITY ROOM GATES DEDICATION & RIBBONCUTTING CEREMONY

JOIN US - BEGINNING AT 6:30PM!

VEP'S MEETING

7:30 p.m. Tuesday

► **September 24, 2013** ◀

Vista Park Community Room
475 Hyde Park Drive

AGENDA

★ Martial Cottle Park ★

Update on Fall Construction Plans (Perimeter Trails)

Presentation by
Alicia Flynn, Project Manager
Don Rocha, Park Manager

★ Private Security Patrols ★

Presentation by TAPS Security

★ San Jose Water Company ★

Water Main Pipe Breaks - What to Do in an Emergency

★ VEP Business Meeting ★

VEP Budget for 2013-2014
VEP Goals & Objectives for 2013-2014

Announcements & Updates
Introductions/Thank-yous/Congratulations!
VEP Volunteers Who Painted the Community Room
Successful Petition for Speed Humps on Bluefield
Martial Cottle Security – Sgt. Mark Roggia,
Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department
Vista Park Gates Dedication
Highlights of Summer Issues and Meetings

★ 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 September Meeting

By Marilyn Rodgers

September's general membership meeting:

- **Presentations to include:** Update on Martial Cottle Park – presented by Alicia Flynn and Don Rocha. Alicia and Don are returning to provide additional information on the plan for Fall 2013 which includes constructing the first section of the multiuse perimeter trail, as well as an overview of plans for the first several months of 2014. The next presentation, from TAPS Security Patrol, will provide information on a second option for private patrols in the VEP neighborhood. TAPS a local company, will describe their flexible plan for security patrols for the VEP neighborhood. A brief presentation will be provided by Jim Wollbrinck, Emergency Preparedness specialist for San Jose Water Company. There have been several water main breaks/leaks in the VEP neighborhood since July 4th. Mr. Wollbrinck will provide information on what residents should do in the event this happens on your street.
- **VEP Business Meeting/Updates/Announcements.** Brief updates regarding issues and meetings that took place over the summer. Introductions and thank-yous will be included. Discussion and approval of the VEP Budget and Goals and Objectives for 2013-2014.
- **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, on **September 24th**. Please join us!

May Meeting Synopsis

By Marilyn Rodgers

President Rodgers welcomed the standing room only crowd and indicated she would keep the meeting moving along as it was a very full agenda. The first presentation was a brief update on Martial Cottle Park by Alicia Flynn, Project Manager. Ms. Flynn introduced the new Park Manager, Don Rocha (who stated that he is not related to the City Councilmember with the same name). Within a few months, Mr. Rocha will have an office on the park site, but currently has office space at the County Parks office facility. He has been a Santa Clara County Parks Ranger for many years, and is very excited about taking on this new role with Martial Cottle Park. Ms. Flynn stated that the contract was being let for the construction of the park to begin. As previously requested, the multiuse perimeter trails will be the very first part of the construction. Development of the trails should begin in late August.

Continues on page 2

◆ **2013 is VEP's 44th Year!** ◆

Continued from page 1

The trail construction will be done in two phases – the first phase will start at the corner of Snell go down Branham, follow around behind Carleton Plaza and proceed behind the homes on the west side of the park. This phase should be completed by December of 2013. The remainder of the trail will be completed by December of 2014. President Rodgers promised to have Alice and Don return for the September meeting where additional time would be allotted for a more lengthy update.

While the next presenter was preparing for her presentation, Ms. Rodgers made announcements, introduced guests, and took care of necessary association business. The slate for the Board of Directors was presented and approved by the membership. Brief reports were highlighted (included in the newsletter). Councilmember Khamis was introduced and spoke briefly, relaying everyone’s sadness and concern regarding the tragic accident involving the fatality - death of a 6 year old girl - on Bluefield. The accident investigation is continuing, however, the initial information indicates that the young man driving the car was not speeding, and he did stop to assist the family involved. There will be a meeting to provide information and to discuss possible options for safety improvement along Bluefield and the Parkview School area.

The next speaker was Linda LeZotte, District 4 Director on the Board of the Santa Clara Water District. Ms. LeZotte gave a very thorough and informative presentation on the past, present, and future of the Water District. Water District financial information was shown, including projections for continued development to assure that water is available long term for customers as well as providing for flood control. She included information for residents, and their children, regarding multiple opportunities to learn more about the importance of water, and conservation efforts, including a variety of tours that are available.

The final presentation was that of First Alarm Security and Patrol Company, by Teresa Larkin and staff. Ms. Larkin included information on the size and resources of the company including national certifications. She reviewed the proposal for the VEP neighborhood which includes approximately 8 rounds per 24 hour period/7 days per week. The residents who sign up for the service will also be provided with vacation checks, a sign for their yards, and alarm response (this includes verified responses to all companies alarm systems). First Alarm will also provide marketing to the VEP neighborhood - a flyer/brochure will be mailed to each residence in the geographic neighborhood. There will be a minimum number of required homes signing up for this service prior to service beginning. (Additional information on the proposal – refer to the article in the May edition of the VEP Newsletter.) For individual questions/information, or to have contracts sent to you, contact Ms. Larkin at tlarkin@firstalarm.com or 408/364-1110 (Note: VEP does not endorse products or services, but does assist in providing information to members and residents.)

Additional reminders – this is VEP’s last meeting before Summer Break. Next meeting will be September 24th. Have a nice summer!

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Activities, Issues, & Meetings - Summer 2013

By Marilyn Rodgers

Traditionally VEP has taken a “summer break” which means no membership meetings or newsletters during the summer months of June, July, and August. These activities return to a regular schedule beginning again in September. However, during this time, the President and Board of Directors continue to act on behalf of the membership, should issues of concern arise.

The Summer of 2013 was a very busy one, with multiple issues of concern coming to the forefront.

The first was that of the tragic accident involving the Quiroz family and the death of 6-year old Aileen on Bluefield drive, (close to Parkview Elementary School,) on May 14th. This tragedy sparked a call to action for safety improvements on Bluefield Drive (see articles elsewhere in the newsletter).

In June, VEP was notified of an issue that has long standing interest and concern. We received notice from the San Jose City Planning Division of a draft SEIR for Communications Hill development by KB Homes for a second phase of home residential/village center commercial project. The proposal is to build up to an additional 2400 homes on Communications Hill. A letter of concern was sent regarding the need for inclusion of a plan for improvement of the intersection of Capitol Expressway/Narvaez and onramp north of Hwy 87. (See article elsewhere in newsletter on meetings and copy of letter sent on behalf of VEP.) Increase in accidents in the VEP neighborhood. Beginning in late Spring, an unfortunate increase in the number of accidents (with two fatalities) occurred (see articles on specifics of accidents elsewhere in the newsletter).

Also, over the Summer, some very positive activities took place. These included: Groundbreaking for Martial Cottle Park, Painting of the Vista Park Community Room by VEP Volunteers, and the Construction of the Vista Park Gates for the Community Room (see articles elsewhere in the newsletter).

Please Slow Down on Neighborhood Streets

By Marilyn Rodgers

These days everyone is in a hurry, and more often than not – stressed and distracted. Please remember to slow down as we drive on neighborhood streets. **Many people do not realize that, whether posted or not, the speed limit by schools, parks, and assisted living facilities is 25 miles per hour.** Please, slow down as you pass the schools, parks, and assisted living facilities in our neighborhood, and.... Encourage and support your family and friends to do the same!!



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Fatal Accident on Bluefield Drive – May 14th

By Marilyn Rodgers

On May 14th, a fatal accident occurred, resulting in the death of 6 year old Aileen Quiroz. A fatal accident in our neighborhood is always upsetting, but the neighborhood was especially saddened by the news of a death of a child. The accident occurred on east Bluefield Drive, close to Parkview Elementary School.

VEP members, particularly those living on Bluefield or neighboring streets (as well as several VEP Board Members), immediately became involved with the hope of both assisting the family and providing information to the neighborhood. In addition to sending out an e-mail with information, several residents and members attended the vigil held curbside on Bluefield the evening of May 17th. The vigil was an opportunity to support the family and communicate our condolences.

While the investigation into the causes of the accident was ongoing, concerned neighbors initiated discussion (voicing their anger and concern) on problems with speeding drivers on Bluefield Drive, and safety around Parkview School. As the accident happened close to a pedestrian crosswalk used by both students and parents for Parkview School, as well as entry into the adjacent Parkview Park (neighborhood park across from the school), the issue of needing a „school crossing guard” arose.

To provide some immediate assistance to parents and neighbors regarding their safety concerns, VEP initiated a request for a mobile electronic speed monitoring sign which was to be placed on Bluefield Drive close to Parkview School. In addition, Parkview School Principal Amy Boles initiated a request for help from parents, and from the community, for “volunteer crossing guards”. VEP members Peggy Golden, Bonnie Boucher, and Marilyn Rodgers responded. In addition to several Parkview School parents, VEP volunteers signed up for several shifts to function as “voluntary safety officers” (cannot function as Crossing Guards without mandatory training and insurance). This activity continued for the next 3 weeks until school closed for the summer.

With assistance from Councilmember Khamis and his staff, an information meeting was scheduled at Parkview School. The meeting was held on June 11th at 7:30pm. Over 100 people attended the meeting. Speakers/presenters at the meeting included Councilmember Khamis, and representatives from the City of San Jose Department of Transportation - Deputy Director Laura Wells, as well as Lt. Ta, representing the San Jose Police Department, Traffic Enforcement Division. Parkview Principal Amy Boles briefly spoke conveying her condolences to the family (who were present at the meeting). She also described her plans for additional education at Parkview - for both students and parents with a focus on pedestrian and vehicle safety. This education will be scheduled to take place shortly after the beginning of the school year (in the Fall). School is scheduled to start August 19th.

While most of those attending the meeting were concerned about east Bluefield Drive and safety around Parkview School, the meeting had been opened to VEP residents concerned about speeding anywhere in the VEP neighborhood. As a result, many diverse issues were raised including such things as parents dropping students off in the middle of the street, or turning around and blocking driveways of private residences close to the school; to speeding issues on west Bluefield Drive, on Vistapark Drive (both north and south of Branham), and on Hyde Park Drive.

At the request of attendees present at the meeting who wanted to know “the next steps to be taken,” notification of a second meeting, to be scheduled in the first part of July, was initiated.

VEP helps make good things happen!

Traffic & Safety Concerns: Follow-up Meeting

By Marilyn Rodgers

On July 9th, at Edenvale Library, two separate meetings were held. One was for those residents concerned about the specific issues affecting east Bluefield Drive and Parkview School, and the second meeting was for people concerned about issues affecting west Bluefield Drive. Each meeting lasted approximately an hour. Those in attendance for each meeting, in addition to the concerned residents, were staff from Councilmember Khamis’ office, representatives of San Jose Department of Transportation, and representatives of VEP.

East Bluefield Drive and Parkview School – both issues and possible interventions were discussed. Prior to school starting, DOT stated that the following would take place: crosswalk and curbs would be repainted, additional signage for crosswalks and speed would be installed, and the sign for the crosswalk hidden by a tree would be moved. Additionally, Councilmember Khamis made a commitment to find funding for a Crossing Guard for Parkview School (as well as expedite the hiring process to have a crossing guard in place by the start of the school year). Residents continued to be very eager and committed to having speed humps installed on Bluefield. They volunteered to work to obtain the required number of needed signatures of homeowners on Bluefield (as well as street(s) that only have an outlet on to Bluefield).

West Bluefield Drive (area west of Vistapark Drive) – this section of Bluefield Drive had very similar concerns as their counterparts on the east side of Bluefield. Cars tend to speed past Meadows Park on their way to Capitol Expressway. Residents discussed a variety of options. Their preferred intervention was to have stop signs (a 3-way stop) at the intersection of Bluefield and Edelweiss. This intersection currently also includes a crosswalk across Bluefield. The crosswalk is difficult to see for vehicles heading west - as it is located just past a rise next to Meadows Park. The crosswalk at that location facilitates parents and students going to Carson School, a block away. Residents are very concerned about the number of “near miss” accidents that have occurred. To determine need/authorization for a 3-way stop, a traffic study is required. The traffic study will be scheduled for the Fall, after school starts. Additional interventions discussed were lights to highlight the crosswalk, and a possible grant for permanent electronic speed control signs on this section of Bluefield.

Funding for road safety issues continues to be problematic. As a result, possible improvements for Hyde Park Drive will probably be delayed until FY 2014.

Upcoming Public Workshop: Medicare & Affordable Care Act

By Marilyn Rodgers

Are you confused and/or concerned about the Affordable Care Act, and if it will affect you or provide you with additional options? State Senator Jim Beall, is sponsoring a workshop that will help provided needed information.

FREE Medicare and Health Forum

Saturday, Oct. 5, 9am-12pm

**Campbell Community Center, Orchard City Banquet Hall
1 West Campbell Ave., Campbell**

RSVP at www.sen.ca.gov/8326/medicare or call (408) 558-1295.

Guest speakers include: Medicare expert Connie Corrales, from Sourcewise, previously Council on Aging Silicon Valley, will explain Medicare’s changes. Certified Educators from Covered California will explain whether you are one of the 5 million Californians who will benefit from health coverage offered by Covered California and if you qualify for financial assistance.



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Accident Rate Increase in the VEP Neighborhood

By Marilyn Rodgers

Since last May, there has been a dramatic increase in serious accidents in VEP neighborhoods, all as a result of speeding.

Just one month following the tragic fatality on Bluefield Dr. (May 14th) there was an accident at Bluefield and Vistapark on June 14th, involving minor children. Occurring just before midnight, the crash involved a 12-year-old driver of a stolen car and four younger children riding inside. The driver lost control of the car, crashing into a home on the NE corner of Bluefield and Vistapark Dr. The car hit a gas main, causing two homes to become engulfed in flames. Both homes were extensively damaged. Fortunately, neither the minors in the car or the residents were injured.

Three accidents have occurred at or near Branham and Vistapark Dr. The most serious, and fatal, was caused by a stolen truck driven by three young adults, apparently driving south on Vistapark at speeds in excess of 70 mph. The vehicle ran the red light at Branham, hitting a VW Jetta. The passenger in the Jetta died later at the hospital. Another accident just south of Branham on Vistapark involved a car hitting a female pedestrian crossing the street. This accident happened just at dusk and the woman was wearing dark clothing. The couple in the car that struck her, stopped to help. Unfortunately, she was seriously injured.

There have been three single-car crashes: one on Chynoweth, and two on W. Bluefield. The Chynoweth accident took place around 8:30am on a Saturday morning. The speeding car crashed into the median, was totaled, and took out one of the Palm trees as it headed toward Pearl. Two other accidents have occurred at the intersection of W. Bluefield and Edelweiss – with one vehicle ending up in Meadows Park and demolishing a large tree. The second accident resulted in the car ending up on the sidewalk. Both of these accidents happened on Sundays.

Communications Hill Community Meeting and SEIR Scoping Meeting, June 10th

By Marilyn Rodgers

Representing VEP, I and several VEP members attended the June 10th meeting at the Communications Hill Fire Station. The purpose of the meeting was two-fold. First, to provide information to the community on the proposed development by KB Homes for the second phase of the Communications Hill Residential/Village Center Commercial Project, and secondly, to begin the process of obtaining public input on relevant environmental issues for the project in the development of the draft SEIR. The proposal includes a plan to build up to an additional 2400 homes on Communications Hill, as well as many other amenities.

VEP has a long standing concern regarding the need to improve the intersection at Narvaez and Capitol Expressway and the freeway onramp north to Hwy 87. With the addition of 2400 homes, and the potential for an additional 4800 vehicles travelling up and down Communications Hill, this intersection would certainly be negatively affected. A letter of concern was sent to the San Jose City Planning Division (see copy of the letter elsewhere in the Newsletter). VEP's letter of concern and recommendation that improvements to this key intersection/onramp be included as part of the draft SEIR was strongly supported by the over 200 people in attendance at the meeting! (See the VEP's letter, below.)

While the proposal for the new addition to Communications Hill showcases many positive amenities, the current homeowners had many concerns and complaints regarding unresolved issues. These concerns were strongly verbalized, and essentially redirected the focus of the meeting. City Staff made a commitment to current homeowners to assist in working toward resolution of the many unresolved concerns. All comments that were written will be included in the draft SEIR. A draft document will be available for public review and comment in the Fall – tentatively late September/early October.

Letter from VEP to Mr. Bill Roth, Planner II Department of Planning, Building, and Code Enforcement City of San Jose

June 8, 2013

Mr. Roth:

VEP Community Association represents approximately 2400 homes, bordered on the north by Capitol Expressway, on the east by Snell, and on the west by Narvaez and Hwy 87.

We are in receipt of the "Notification of Preparation of a Draft SEIR for the Communications Hill 2KB Home Residential/Village Center Commercial Project".

This letter is to express our strong concern and disappointment that the initial documents provided regarding the notification of a SEIR do not appear to include any improvement to the intersection of Narvaez and Capitol Expressway and the on-ramp north for Hwy 87. This intersection/onramp has a long history of traffic congestion, to the point of gridlock. In 2006, the City of San Jose Department of Transportation assisted in slightly improving the flow of traffic by altering the timing for the traffic signals. Currently, this intersection/onramp continues to have a notorious reputation, to the point that many residents drive out of their way, rather than being significantly delayed by lengthy traffic backup (stacking of vehicles).

Capitol Expressway is one of the major transportation arteries for the City of San Jose. It is currently the major outlet for the residences on Communications Hill, who travel down to Vistapark

Continues on page 5

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Continued from page 4

to Capitol Expressway to the above mentioned intersection and/or to old Hillsdale to Narvaez to the onramp for Hwy 87. With the development of an additional 2200 residences on Communications Hill, and the probable additional daily vehicle traffic of approximately 4400, it is distressing that this site has not been included for improvement.

Without a plan for meaningful improvement for the Narvaez/Capitol Expressway/Hwy87onramp, the surrounding neighborhoods would be significantly negatively impacted.

Therefore, as the lead agency for the SEIR, we would like to strongly encourage the City of San Jose, Department of Planning, Building, and Code Enforcement to have included information as to how this crucial intersection/onramp of Narvaez/Capitol Expressway/Hwy 87 might be significantly improved as part of the implementation of this project.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Rodgers, President
VEP Community Association

Safety Improvements for Bluefield Drive!

By Marilyn Rodgers

By Summer's end, several improvements have been implemented for Bluefield Drive, and several others are scheduled. On west Bluefield Drive the traffic study will be completed in October. Following the study, preferred interventions will be completed. On east Bluefield Drive, thanks to the City Department of Transportation staff, several improvements have been completed – including curb and crosswalk repainting, and re-placement of street signs.

Thanks to Councilmember Khamis who obtained needed funding for a crossing guard at Parkview School, and for his expediting the process for hiring into that position. Parkview's crossing guard started two days after school started! Thank you Councilmember Khamis!

Congratulations to the VEP members and residents of east Bluefield Drive! They have successfully completed the requirements needed prior to having speed humps installed on Bluefield Drive! (see article in the next column)



Bluefield Drive: A Success Story

By Yogendra Singh

CONGRATULATIONS are due to the residents for the success of their efforts in helping to improve pedestrian and vehicular safety on Bluefield Drive!

From Laura Wells (DOT): "Congratulations on a successful petition effort, 76% support for the road humps – very impressive!"

At the safety meetings during the summer, electronic speed signs had previously been suggested as a deterrent to speeders, however, most of our residents preferred the option of speed-humps. The construction to place our road humps on east Bluefield Drive will happen in the fall (October or November). The speed-humps should help to slow down discourteous drivers.

Bluefield Drive residents, Akilyn Rostege and Lori Padilla need to be commended in helping us successfully obtain the signatures of 76% of the residents on Bluefield Drive and Avon Court. Moreover, all the residents who attended the Community Safety Meetings this past summer should also be recognized, for it was their voices that spawned this project.

Late in the summer, we had heard from Victor Gomez: "I am contacting you this afternoon with some really good news."

Mr. Gomez was writing to inform us that Johnny Khamis, our District 10 City Council member, had been able to secure funding for the crossing guard at Parkview School. The crosswalk in front of the School has already been repainted and a new Crossing Guard is already on the job, pending the hiring of a permanent Crossing Guard.

It was in September 2012 that we had requested our City mark neighborhood crossings, a must for the high traffic and accident-prone four-way intersection at Vistapark and Bluefield Drive. We also asked for "Speed Breakers" on Bluefield Drive to check fast-driven vehicles and help us in making our neighborhood peaceful. We knew that our City Government could help us and our Council Member, Johnny Khamis, is to be congratulated for his success in getting the jobs done promptly. This will make Bluefield Drive and Parkview Elementary School kids' lives more safe and secure.

Lastly, but not least, the residents of Bluefield Drive would like to thank both the VEP Community Association and the Nextdoor Parkview network, for creating neighborhood communication channels that create a feeling of unity among the members.

Editor's Note: If you are interested in joining your VEP Community Members on the Nextdoor Parkview network, go to their website to create a new account: <https://nextdoor.com/>



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Martial Cottle Park: Ground Breaking Ceremony

By Marilyn Rodgers and Adina Pierce

Photography by Katherine Decker and Irene Shoeberg

The ground breaking ceremony, which signaled the long awaited start to construction of Martial Cottle Park, took place at 10am on Friday, August 9th. Santa Clara County Supervisor Mike Wasserman acted as Master of Ceremonies for the event which included many staff, dignitaries, and elected officials from Santa Clara County, the State of California, and the City of San Jose. Over 200 people attended the event. Importantly, also in attendance were many local volunteers and residents, including a large group of VEP members and residents. Additionally, there was representation from residents of other surrounding neighborhood associations such as Colony Green, Hayes, and Erikson. Marilyn Rodgers and Adina Pierce were introduced, as were other members of the Task Force involved in the development of the Master Plan. Gregg West, past President of VEP and Santa Clara County Parks Commissioner was also introduced. VEP was proud to have several past presidents in attendance, including Jeri Arstingstall, Bob Aquino, and Dave Fadness. Current VEP Board Members who enjoyed the festivities were Katherine Decker, Adina Pierce, and Peggy Golden.



B. Aquino, J. Arstingstall, M. Rodgers, D. Fadness, & A. Pierce

District 10 City Councilmember Johnny Khamis spoke. The Martial Cottle Park property is entirely in his council district. Santa Clara County Supervisor Dave Cortese also spoke. Mr. Cortese, shared a personal perspective. Prior to his current role, he had been Mr. Lester's personal attorney. He advised and assisted Mr. Lester as they worked through the very involved legal issues inherent in allowing Mr. Lester to donate 300 acres to the County and State. The property will eventually be developed into the first urban agricultural park completely surrounded by homes.

This day was very exciting and somewhat emotional for those that have been involved in this process for the last several years. Those of representing VEP are very proud that the construction of the park is actually commencing. VEP has a proud history of being proactive in assisting Mr. Lester in his quest to keep the promise he made to his mother. That promise was to not sell the property to developers, but rather assure the land would continue as a working farm, and be used as an opportunity to teach current and future generations the importance of agriculture in this "valley of heart's delight". Mr. Lester's family arrived in the area, and began farming the land in 1860, over 150 years ago.

Over the years, Mr. Lester rebuffed multiple attempts and offers to purchase his (and his sister's) property. Crises developed however, upon the death of his sister in 1999. Mr. Lester was concerned that he would be forced to sell the property to pay



Councilmember Khamis speaks before breaking ground.

the required inheritance taxes. VEP immediately came to Mr. Lester's aid in requesting assistance from our elected officials – both local and federal. Mr. Lester was allowed the opportunity to work through the long process of donating the property which would eventually become a regional park. At the time of the actual transfer of his property in 2006, the value of the property was determined to be over \$1 million dollars per acre. Thus, Mr. Lester's gift to the people of the County and State was in excess of over \$300 million dollars!

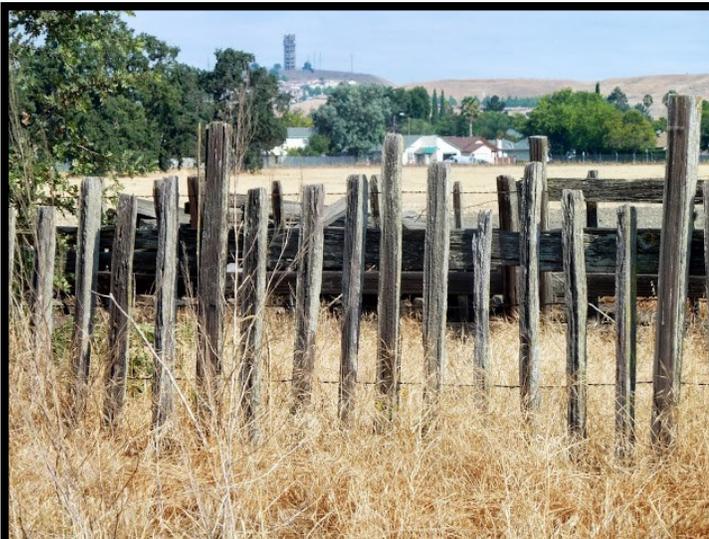
The first aspect of the construction will be the multiuse perimeter trails. The first phase of this construction will start at the corner of Snell and move along Branham, then behind Carlton Plaza and the homes that back up on to the Lester property on the west side – Birmingham and Barron Park. This phase will be completed by December 2013. The remainder of the perimeter trail will be completed by December 2014. For an update on Martial Cottle Park and the construction, please attend the VEP meeting on September 24th!

Please enjoy the pictures taken on the day of the Ground Breaking Ceremony which are included on pages six and seven of this newsletter. Thank you to photographers, VEP Vice President Katherine Decker and long-time VEP member Irene Shoeberg for their willingness to share these special pictures with us!

Officials On-Scene: J. Khamis, M. Wasserman, & D. Cortese



More Photographs from the Martial Cottle Park Ground-Breaking Ceremony



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Photography by Katherine Decker and Irene Shoeberg

Volunteers Paint Vista Park Community Room - A Special Thank You! -

By Marilyn Rodgers

An special event took place in August for the Vista Park Community Room. The results of this event will be enjoyed by all those who use this space for meetings and social gatherings, currently and into the future!

VEP volunteers painted the interior of the Community Room! **A special thank you to Dave Fadness and Bob Chesnos!** To Dave, who organized and coordinated the event, and to Bob for sharing his expertise as a professional painting contractor who supervised the event (Bob is also a long time VEP member and VEP Newsletter advertiser)!

Please see the article written by Dave (*below*) thanking all of the dedicated VEP volunteers who helped make this happen! Thanks to all of you, our meeting space looks like new!



We painted the Vista Park Community Room!

By Dave Fadness

On Saturday, August 17, an energetic group of volunteers painted the interior of the Vista Park community room, VEP's meeting place. This project enjoyed the benefit of professional painter, Bob Chesnos, a long-time VEP member and advertiser in this newsletter.

The following nine volunteers offered to help:

Bob Aquino
Phil Bejar
Bob Chesnos
Bill Golden
Victor Goodrum
Councilman Johnny Khamis
David Pfaff
Bob Shoberg
Josie Supencheck

We broke into two groups; a morning and an afternoon shift. Amazingly, the morning shift finished the job before noon that day. The result is something we all feel justifiably proud of.

Special thanks to San Jose Parks' Hal Spangenberg and their painter, Phil Johnson for providing paint and supplies. Mr. Spangenberg also got us 24 newer chairs.

The next step is a professional floor waxing which will be done under contract by the City of San Jose. That work will be finished before VEP's September meeting, so be sure to attend and have a look at our gleaming digs.

Hats off to our dedicated volunteers!

Ongoing Volunteer Work in our Community

By Dave Fadness

We owe our thanks to the following people who do ongoing work as volunteers to keep our streets and parks looking as attractive as they do:

- ♥ Jeri & Walt Arstingstall - water the street tree they planted on Gaundabert Lane.
- ♥ Joyce Chesnos - cleans and maintains the trees and shrubs on the triangular median on Narvaez Ave., on the south side of Branham Lane.
- ♥ Marianne Damon - picks up trash along the west side of Vista Park and along Chynoweth Ave.
- ♥ Aiko Fadness - helps water trees and pick up trash every week on the Route 87 bike and pedestrian path south and north of Chynoweth Ave.
- ♥ Rob Giannoccaro - cleans-up and removes graffiti all over our community.
- ♥ Dave & Mary Gillies - are the adopters of Meadows Park.
- ♥ Peggy Golden - is the adopter of Parkview II Park.
- ♥ Frank Kistler - cleans and maintains the area where Chynoweth Ave. ends at Martial-Cottle Park.
- ♥ Bob & Francine Olsen - clean the large parcel and maintain the trees on the northeast corner of Branham Lane and Narvaez Ave.
- ♥ Marilyn Rodgers - cleans and maintains the trees and shrubs on the cul de sac where Vistapark Dr. ends, just south of Hyde Park Dr.
- ♥ Brian Trat - waters trees that he and *Interact* volunteers planted on the Gunderson High School campus.



Martial Cottle Park Property – Fence Cut; Homeless Encampment Discovered, Relocated

By Marilyn Rodgers

In early June, long time member Sandy Bousman called to alert us that people had been seen going through a cut in the fence along Branham Lane, and were seen entering the Lester property (soon to be the Martial Cottle Park). She was looking for the correct number to call for notification and assistance. As this took place on a weekend, it took some time to determine the current correct number to call, but finally were able to talk to a Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department Dispatcher who very quickly dispatched County Deputy Sheriff's (even though we made it clear this was not an emergency).

The behavior of the County Deputy Sheriff's was both professional and assistive. They responded immediately to our call, took needed information, and began to search the perimeter of the property. To our surprise, a total of 4 separate cuts had been made in the property's perimeter chainlink fence – three along Branham, and one at the end of Vistapark Drive. The Deputies also discovered a small homeless encampment located behind Carleton Plaza. The Deputies, under direction of their supervisor Sgt. Mark Roggia, obtained needed authority to relocate the people involved, and assisted in moving them off the property.

A special thank you to Sgt. Roggia!

Should problems arise in the future regarding the security of the property, call 408-299-2311.

Parkview Night Out

By Peggy Golden

One evening late last May, a few members of "Nextdoor Parkview" got together to plan an event for the upcoming "National Night Out." After a quick review of the San Jose Police Department's website with instructions and the list of requirements, it seemed like a daunting task. Quite frankly, the whole process was a little over-whelming for the average "volunteer." So, we switched gears and decided to have our own version, dubbing it "Parkview Night Out." We decided on driveway parties with our primary goal being to have fun, meet your neighbors and maybe play a few games. We set up a simple call to action on the "Nextdoor Parkview" network and left it to each individual street to make their own flyer and/or get word out to the rest of the residents who may not yet be members of Nextdoor.

We left it up to each resident as to whether they wanted to host a party or be a party goer. Very soon we had volunteers planning to host parties on Viewpark Circle, Bluefield Drive, Sposito Circle, Dulcey Drive and Mia Circle. Ideas and plans were popping up all over the Parkview neighborhood.

Then, something amazing happened. Nicole Scott, while planning her own version of a driveway party (complete with a bounce-house for the kids), decided to enter a July 4th photo contest put on by the Nextdoor website network. She entered a picture of her daughter waving an American flag with fireworks in the background, and it was a winner! (See Photo, Below) After a few days of frantic social net working gone viral, her photo earned the most votes and won the national contest! Her prize? An ice cream truck for the neighborhood! What perfect timing for P.N.O.! Thanks to Nicole (and Nextdoor!), some of us enjoyed free ice cream in Parkview III Park before the driveway parties got started! What a perfect way to kick-off a fun night - dessert first!

So, on Saturday, July 20th - a beautiful warm evening - the Parkview neighborhood started buzzing. A game of sock wars was played at Bonnie Boucher's house while some devoured hot dogs on the grill. The Schreckengost's featured hopscotch for the kids and finger foods. Bluefield Drive had the most parties. These were hosted by the Rosteges, the Singhs and the Witmeyers, with lots of delicious food, music and good conversation! And, Jodi Carr set up a photo booth in her driveway! Dulcey Drive had a very nice time meeting neighbors. And, Mia Circle came alive with Joe Neto's band, Funkranomicon, playing out of his garage!

What a wonderful way to spend a Saturday night and just enjoy each other's company. After so many negative issues plaguing our neighborhood this summer, it was a welcome switch. We needed that! And, as far as I know, we didn't break any rules. Let's make sure we do it again!



Photographs from Parkview Night Out: July 20

Photos by Peggy Golden, Nicole Scott, the Rostege Family, and Joe Neto



Neighbors In the Know



A Year of Breads

By Kathy Wood, Baker

The Dog days of summer...fall, winter, and spring. My dog, Lily, has no idea what time of the year it is (as far as I know). She keeps a busy schedule throughout the day including ball-retrieving, fly-chasing, and several (dog) catnaps. As I'm not a morning person, I'm thankful Lily isn't either. She often lies in bed until I rouse, or, if she does wake up, quietly wanders downstairs to lie on the couch until somebody else comes down.

The other furry member of our family is an orange, tabby cat named Tango. He and Lily stand about the same height and weigh in similarly. Their morning exercise routine involves being released outside, Tango in the lead with Lily right on his tail (literally). Every morning without fail, Tango jumps up on the fence, Lily barking at him angrily from down below. I swear Tango turns around, looks down at her and smiles (na-na-na-na-boo-boo) before jumping down on the other side to make his morning rounds of the neighborhood. What I don't understand is every morning she remembers to chase him, but forgets that she never once has caught him; she's not a quitter and is definitely consistent.

After this warm-up routine comes the reward of breakfast – a doggie treat. Lily will sit to receive this gift then hurriedly runs to the living room couch to protect it until she feels like eating it. This could happen immediately or take several hours. If anyone comes near this precious cookie, she turns into Doggy (Doctor) Jekyll, deep-throat growling, and whiskers twitching but with tail wagging (Doggy Hyde).

Dinnertime means hanging around under the table in case something edible falls and a little whining to encourage some dropping works in her favor. As soon as everyone leaves the table Lily stands by the front door and makes several high-pitched noises, which in her dictionary means "let's go for a walk!"

Her reward for walking is two more doggie treats (my reward for walking is 2 pieces of chocolate). Around 10:00 pm Lily will look at us with those big, brown eyes of hers that say "Isn't it time to go to bed?" Anymore she doesn't wait for us; she just trots up the stairs, makes a nest with her pink camouflage blanket in her doggie bed and plops down with a huge sigh. She is definitely a creature of habit and is my best baking companion (in case something falls to the floor).

Lily has given her "paw up" approval (high five) for several breads over the summer. Check out our blog at: ayearofbreads.blogspot.com to find your favorite. We are still "Rolling in the Dough."

Fall Plantings

By John Marks

September is a good month for planting cool season veggies, including beets, carrots, lettuce, parsnips, certain types of peas, and Swiss chard. Broccoli, cauliflower, kohlrabi, rutabaga and turnips also do well. Leaves, stems, flower heads and roots are the edible portions of these versatile vegetables, depending on the species.

Anything grown from seed (most of the above) can usually be started in August or September. Those bought as nursery-grown seedlings are usually better transplanted in September, since the same warm weather that stimulates fast seen germination can cause tender, thirsty seedlings to wilt or burn.

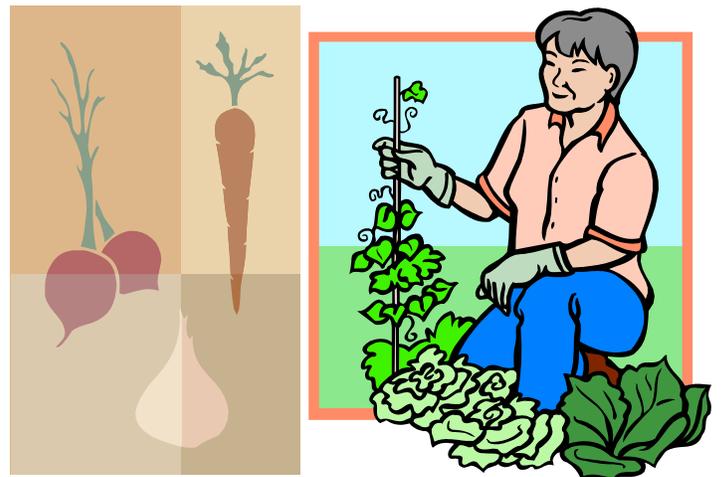
Root crops, such as carrots and parsnips require full sun, sandy or loamy soil, and regular irrigation. When sowing carrot seeds keep the soil moist and never let a crust form on top, or the seeds have difficulty sprouting (start indoors?). Unfortunately, parsnips never get as much good P.R. as their orange cousins. Parsnips' creamy white to yellow roots have a unique, mild flavor and can be baked, fried, mashed, or cooked in soups or stews. Cold weather makes them sweeter.

Another favorite is the humble beet. For absolute cut beauty and flavor, go for the Chioggia, also called Bull's Eye, an unusual Italian heirloom beet with concentric white and red rings inside. Albina Verduna is a sweet white beet that grows well here, and Sangria is a classic deep red, like the wine. Because it develops its shape early, Sangria also makes a good "baby beet" when pulled early.

Swiss chard, a leafy vegetable, is actually a type of beet without the tasty bulbous root, and is beautiful on the dinner table served raw, steamed, or stir-fried. It's also an attention getting ornamental in the garden, when you're touring with friends. The Bright Lights variety is especially attractive, showing up with crimson, yellow and white stems.

The obvious leafy vegetable choice is lettuce, which comes in four varieties: crisphead, like iceberg and butterhead, Bibb loose leaf, Oak Leaf, and Romaine, which grows in vertical stocks.

I trust you've been pulling the heads off those dandelions all summer. If not, you should have. Every time you walk to the car to go somewhere and you see a yellow dandelion blossom, don't think, "I'll have to dig that up when I get home." It'll never happen. Prevent that plant from multiplying by going over and plucking the blossom; if it's already progressed to the fuzzy ball, all the more important to trot over and close it into your hand and throw away, before the wind spreads the spores.



VEP Community Schools Calendar

September / October 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
15	16	17	18	19 Picture Day @ Parkview	20 Walk-A-Thon ~ 8:30am-2pm ~ Harvest Festival ~ 5:00-8:00pm ~ @ Carson	21 Hip-Hop Festival ~ 1:00 PM ~ @ Gunderson
22	23	24	25 Gunderson Idol ~ 6:00-8:00pm ~ @ Gunderson	26 MATH NIGHT ~ 6:30pm ~ @ Parkview	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5 Walk-A-Thon with Food, Music, Games for Kids, & Silent Auction ~ 9:30am-3pm ~ @ Parkview
SJUSD Schools: This Week is Fall Break No School ~ September 9th to October 30th						
6	25 Powderpuff Football Game ~ 3:00-4:30pm ~ @ Gunderson	8 PTA Meeting ~ 7:00-8:00pm ~ @ Carson	9 Powderpuff Championships ~ 3:00-4:00pm ~ Gunderson Idol ~ 6:00-8:00pm ~ @ Gunderson	10	11 Night Rally ~ 5:00-6:00pm ~ @ Gunderson	12 Homecoming Dance ~ 7:00-10:00pm ~ @ Gunderson
13	14	15	16	17 GHS Cheer Fundraiser ~ 3:00-9:00pm ~ @Round Table Pizza	18	19

Local School Contact Information

Carson Elementary School ~ Home of the Cougars

WEB: <http://www.sjUSD.org/carson/> PHONE: (408) 535-6287



Parkview Elementary School

WEB: <http://parkviewca.com/> PHONE: (408) 226-4655



Gunderson High School ~ Home of the Grizzlies

WEB: <http://www.sjUSD.org/gunderson/home/> PHONE: (408) 535-6340



VEP Community Calendar

September / October 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
15	16	17	18 D10 "Office Hours" Meeting w/Johnny Khamis ~ 5:30-7:00pm ~ Lime Tree Espresso 171 Branham Lane	19	20	21
22	23	24 Vista Park Gates Dedication: 6:30pm VEP Community Meeting: 7:30pm @Vista Park Community Room	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2 D10 "Office Hours" Meeting w/Johnny Khamis ~ 5:30-7:00pm ~ @Almaden Community Center Community Rm. 6445 Camden Ave	3	4	5 FREE Medicare & Health Forum ~ 9am-NOON ~ @Campbell Community Center
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 D10 "Office Hours" Meeting w/Johnny Khamis ~ 5:30-7:00pm ~ Lime Tree Espresso 171 Branham Lane	17	18	19

Dates to Remember!

VEP Community Meetings

September 24, 2013
October 29, 2013
November 26, 2013

Community Events

Santa at Vista Park
Sunday, December 1st, 2013
Holiday Decorating Contest Judging
Saturday, December 14th
Community Garage Sale
Saturday, May 3, 2014

THE VEP NEWS



VEP Community Association

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 Email: vepca@vepca.net Website: www.vepca.net

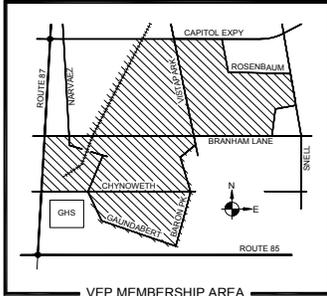
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Published monthly by VEP Community Association, a not-for-profit organization of volunteers established in 1969 to serve and represent more than 2,000 homes in the Blossom Valley area of southern San Jose. VEP is dedicated to neighborhood maintenance 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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 Let us know at vep@vepca.net.



VEP MEMBERSHIP AREA



Check our website: www.vepca.net

7:30 pm
 in the
 Vista Park
 Community Room

Be sure to attend
 VEP's Community Meeting
 Tuesday, September 24th