

FRIENDS OF SANTA TERESA PARK



The Hidden Springs Trail leading to Coyote Peak

Family Fandango Returns

This year's Family Fandango will be held on Saturday August 5, 2017 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Santa Teresa Park's Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch. It is being organized by County Parks Interpreters John Dorrance and Bridget Orcutt. The Friends of Santa Teresa Park will have an information table there, and members will help with activities.

Last year, after a 1-year absence due to staffing shortages, the annual Family Fandango event was held on August 13, 2016. It's an event that celebrates the history of Rancho Santa Teresa, with a focus on the Mexican settlement period. It was organized by County Parks Interpreter Chris Carson Seals, with the help of many staff, volunteers, and partners, including Open Space Authority of Santa Clara Valley Educational Programs Coordinator Teri Rogoway. Exhibitors included the Friends of Santa Teresa Park (FOSTP), the Open Space Authority of Santa Clara Valley (OSA), 4H, and the Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation Center (WERC). Entertainment included Mexican folk dancers and mariachi singers.

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About Us

The Friends of Santa Teresa Park (FOSTP) is a volunteer organization, founded in 1992 and based in San Jose, whose purpose is to support Santa Teresa County Park. We are a diverse group with a wide range of interests. Our members include equestrians, hikers, runners, mountain bikers, historians, teachers, photographers, trail crew leaders, geocachers, 4H and scout leaders, and concerned members of the community. We serve as an interface between the community and the County Parks Department. We report on problems and concerns in the park and recommend changes and improvements to it. We help out with trail maintenance and park events. If you are interested in helping out at the park or just want to know what's going on, you are welcome to join us. See our website for more information. You are welcome to join our Yahoo Group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FoSTP/>

Meetings: 7:00 pm, 1st Thursday of each month.
Upper Clubhouse/Banquet Facility, Santa Teresa Golf Club
260 Bernal Road, San Jose, CA

Website: <http://www.stpfriends.org>

Officers:

- Mike Boulland, President
- Kitty Monahan, Vice President
- Ronald Horii, Secretary, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor
- Greg Koopman: Treasurer



Mexican folk dancers at Fandango, with Janice Frazier and her horse Caribe in the background.

National Night Out at Santa Teresa

Tuesday, August 1, 2017, 5-7:30 pm. Free ice cream and cookies. Bring your family to our fun event. Meet your neighbors and public safety officials. Speak with local and county representatives. Fire engines, park ranger trucks, sheriff and police patrol cars, and other emergency vehicles will be on display. Children's crafts and games will be provided. Sponsored by: The Friends of Santa Teresa Park, Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation, United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County, City of San Jose's Community Action and Pride Grant Program. Emergency agencies' vehicles and public officials will attend depending on their schedule.

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See <http://www.stpfriends.org/#newsletters> for this and past newsletters.

Family Fandango Returns

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Trail Watch volunteer Janice Frazier brought her horse, Caribe. There was face-painting, cartoon caricatures, old-time games, kids craft activities, horseshoe tossing, cattle roping (of saw horses), and branding (using rubber stamps and ink). A blacksmith brought a portable forge and hammered metal into different shapes. In the east barn, there was storytelling, historical slideshows, and a hay-pulling demonstration.

For pictures of Fandango 2016, see <http://www.stpfriends.org/#newpictures>



Kim Gardner at the Friends of Santa Teresa Park booth at Fandango 2016.

Cattle Grazing Begins in Santa Teresa Park

On July 18, 2016, cattle arrived at Santa Teresa Park and began grazing the hills. The cattle are there to reduce non-native grasses to improve habitats for native plants and wildlife, particularly the Bay Checkerspot butterfly. Grazing also helps to reduce fire hazards by managing fuel loads. The grazing management plan was completed in 2013. It was implemented from 2014-2016. 9 miles of fencing and 7 water systems were built. The grazing areas in the park are divided into 4 pastures. The cattle are moved from one to the other. They started in the field by the Pueblo Area. Later, they were moved to the Rocky Ridge field, which is the largest. The fields will not be completely grazed down, to leave some cover for nesting birds. The hillsides near neighborhoods are covered with oak forests and are not suitable for grazing. There are currently no grazing fields west of Bernal Road, but eventually there will be. A rancher was selected to manage the cattle. He also manages cattle at the Mendoza Ranch in Coyote Lake County Park and on the ranch along Bailey Avenue. He has 50 head of cattle in the park to start with. The ultimate plan is for 20-140 cattle, depending on the food available. The rancher pays a fee to the County for

grazing his cattle. If goats were used for vegetation control, they could cost the County \$900 per acre and must be herded and tended. Goats can be used in areas where cattle cannot be used. Here is a presentation on cattle-grazing in the park by Barry Hill, Natural Resource Program Supervisor for the County Parks: http://www.stpfriends.org/Santa_Teresa_County_Park_Grazing_Management_Program-Barry_Hill.pdf



Cattle grazing in the field by the Pueblo Area.

Curie Drive Street Improvements

By Michael Boulland

The Friends of Santa Teresa Park board members, Mike Boulland and Ron Horii, are working with the County Parks and Recreation Department and the City of San Jose to “design and prepare construction documents for the development of new shared-use pathways along the perimeter of the historic area to facilitate access to the park”(Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Agenda, March 7, 2012 – Agenda Item No. 7.) The county has allocated \$600,000 for the neighborhood improvement project. A meeting is scheduled to discuss this issue August 2, 2017, with County Park staff, City of San Jose staff, and FOSTP members.

We look forward to this session to help our neighborhood children have a safer route to and from school. We plan to keep you informed about the latest events with this project in our newsletter or on our website: stpfriends.org.



Curie Drive narrows starting at the Bear Tree Lot and ending at San Ignacio Ave. across from Bernal Intermediate School.

Poison oak education

By Greg Koopman

Poison oak in our hills is an extremely common plant. In fact, it is the most common woody shrub in California. There are many variations of this plant all over the world, but the one that is most abundant in our area is called Western Poison Oak and can be found all over the West Coast from Canada to Baja California. Western Poison Oak always has groups of three leaves with smooth edges. Poison oak can grow as a shrub, as a climbing vine, or as a very large bush. It can grow in places with extreme sunlight to dense shade. The plant's color varies and is usually determined by the season. It can appear as very shiny, oily looking, green, dull green, yellow, or even a vibrant red. The green, brown, or reddish branches can be bare branches in the winter, or the leaves can include red berries in the fall. Poison oak is in the *Toxicodendron* genus of the flowering plants of the sumac family. Poison oak is not actually an oak but the leaves resemble the leaves of a white oak tree. Poison oak is not actually poisonous but has a common allergen called urushiol. Urushiol appears to be an oil but it is actually a resin that appears everywhere on the plant and can be highly transferable to hands, pant legs, shoes, dogs, garden tools, automobile seats, etc. Also, never burn poison oak, as the allergen can be carried by the smoke. According to the American Skin Association, "About 85% of the population is [to varying degrees] allergic to...poison oak, and about 10 to 15 percent are extremely allergic." They also stated that, "This is the most common allergic reaction in the US and affects as many as 50 million Americans each year."

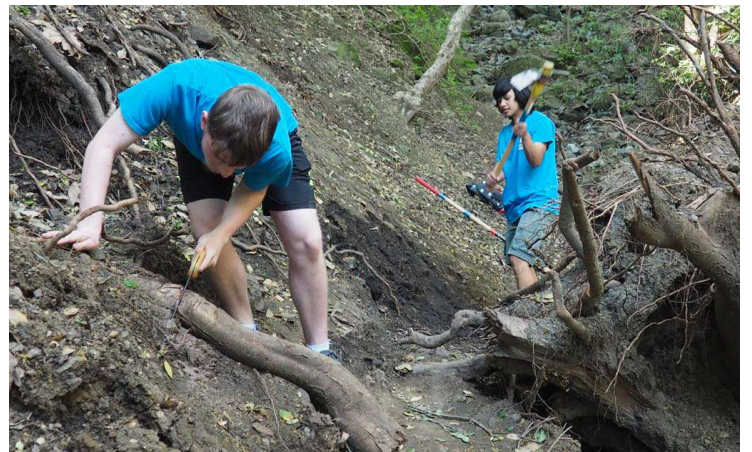
If you feel you have come in contact with it, you should be okay as long as it is washed off with cool water and a strong soap using a washcloth within an hour or two. Any contaminated clothing, etc. should be removed from any further contact until thoroughly cleaned. A reaction often begins at the point of contact on the skin with a highly itchy dot or row of dots resembling bug bites. Do not ever scratch the infected area because the resin and inflammation can spread. Sometimes, I will cut the toe area off of a sock and make a sleeve to cover the infected area of my arm so I do not scratch it while sleeping at night. In extreme cases it is important to seek medical help for a strong allergic reaction. It is important to be able to identify and avoid poison oak at all times. Do not touch plants that you do not know about, and of course, always stay on the trails.



Eagle Scout Projects on the Ohlone/Nature Trails



Boy Scout Andrew Yanogacio (in blue) of Scout Troop 227 organized an Eagle Scout project to work on the Ohlone Trail. Starting on 4/2/17, Andrew and other volunteers, as well as Senior Park Ranger Frank Weiland (right) worked on the Ohlone Trail, improving drainage.



Andrew (right) and another scout work on clearing fallen trees from the Nature Trail. Others picked up trash and cleaned off graffiti from the waterfall.



Worn-out and vandalized signs along the Nature Trail, originally placed there in 1981, are being replaced as part of an Eagle Scout project by Ethan Chen. New posts were installed on June 9 & 10, 2017. New signs are being fabricated.

Then and Now Stories About Rancho Santa Teresa's History

A Request to Learn More About the History of Rancho Santa Teresa

By Michael Boulland

At our last Friends of Santa Teresa Park meeting, a new volunteer, Marilyn August, wanted to know more about the rich history of the Rancho Santa Teresa area. Hearing her request, I realized more articles need to be written in our newsletter that keep the tradition of retelling the colorful stories from the old Rancho Santa Teresa era. I plan to devote a section of each future newsletter for retelling the historical stories in a column called "*Then and Now Stories of Rancho Santa Teresa's History*."

On June 2, 2017, I walked around the Bear Tree Lot with San Jose's Councilmember Sergio Jimenez and his staff member Helen Chapman. I took them to the fence, and Mountain Charlie Clampers Monument dedicated to the "The Bernal Family Adobe Site and Bear Tree" on Curie Drive. They were very curious about hearing the property's oral legends and wanted to see more of the historic sites.



San Jose District 2 City Councilmember Sergio Jimenez (center) at the Bear Tree Lot's Clampers monument on Curie Drive with Ron Horii (left) and Mike Boulland, (right). Mike gave a tour of the Santa Teresa Park Historic Area, 6/2/17. Accompanying them was Helen Chapman and FOSTP member Greg Koopman, who took the picture.

Next, I wanted to show them the actual Bear Tree with the iron ring tree scar left on the tree limb from the early 1820's to verify the Bear Tree stories. The ring is from the Spanish or Mexican Vaquero Bernal ranch hands who chained the wild sedated grizzly bears to the tree to await their turn to fight a fierce bull in the Bernal's deadly stockade. I also told

them about a modern archeological excavation discovery of a grizzly bear burial near to the base of the tree. I was amazed how big the tree has grown since I first saw the large oak tree in 1972. The current health of the tree showed no damage after a deliberate fire destroyed the remains of the original Bernal Adobe home back in the late 1970's. I realized the Bear Tree stood for more than 192 years. The tree's mammoth limbs have grown heavy over the years. Some limbs are more than forty-two-inches in diameter, so large that the County Parks department had to place huge steel poles under the branches to support the water soaked limbs from falling to the ground.

At the Rancho, the Bernal family enjoyed many Hispanic sporting events of the early California rancho days. The most popular contest was the bull and bear fights. During the 1822-1855 Spanish and Mexican rule of California, Rancho Santa Teresa held popular fandango parties that everyone was invited to attend. These fevents could last from one to two weeks, with the Bernal family hospitality supplying their overnight guests shelter and a delicious barbeque feast. Families traveled from the Pueblo San Jose and surrounding ranches to enjoy their favorite social event of the year, a fandango filled with dancing, drinking, celebration, and music.

The culminating highlight of the event was to sit around the hacienda's wooden stockade to select a bull and make a wager on which animal would survive a fight to the death with a bear. Typically, when attacking an opponent, a bull's head thrust upward, while the bear's arms swipe downward.

The tradition of the event was to handicap both the animals in a unique manner that balanced the enormous size, strength, and sharp claws of the grizzly bear's body to the long, sharp horns and hard kicks of the long-horned bull's front feet. Separating the two animals from each other was one long chain. First, the bulls two front feet were locked to the front end of the chain, while the other end secured the grizzly bear's back two feet. Once, all the guests were surrounding the arena, the event started when the grizzly bear was released from tree and sent out into the arena to a fight to the death. Unable to move freely and frightened by the long sharp horns of the bull, the fierce grizzly bear would attack. As he charged the bull on all four paws, he would stop and stand up on his back two feet, only to have the bull pull the bear's two feet from under him by the bull's front feet backing away. The awkward hobble chain was designed to trip the bear when the bull backed away and forced the two animals to fight. Sometimes it took two or three separate bulls fights before the strongest grizzly succumbed to the long-horned bull's sharp attacks. Legend has it that 700 grizzly bears died entertaining the Bernal's Vaqueros and guests at their Rancho Santa Teresa. When California entered the Union, bull and bear fights were made illegal, and the event ceased.

Saving the Bear Tree Site

The County's purchase of Lot #9 property on June 7, 1993, was an important date in the story of saving the original 1825 Rancho Santa Teresa Hacienda adobe historical site. The important site needed to be saved not only because of its historic buildings, but because of its rich oral interpretation literature that contains a rare opportunity to retell and enjoy a local oral story as did our local pioneers. The oral literature that been documented keeps many of the 6000-year history of Native American, Spanish, Mexican and American pioneer settlements alive. Keeping the tradition of retelling these historical oral history stories will keep filling the imagination of our young children and establish a sense of neighborhood hero character and identity.

The Bear Tree monument holds the title of being the first monument in the park dedicated to the famous Rancho Santa Teresa's Bernal Family Rancho and its bull and bear fights. This dedication set in motion the dream to purchase and add various surrounding pieces of property to save the existing Bernal family rancho buildings. Each building site was to retell the fascinating history and herstory of the Bernal's family pioneer struggles to survive during separate time periods. The site was to include the various five Bernal family homes used as educational interpretive centers to help explain the different eras of farming and water from prehistoric man to the present day.

The community felt the site's purpose would be an excellent opportunity to fill the need of our local school children to visit on field trips and learn about living on an early California adobe hacienda. Funding by Bob Biggs, a realtor, and the E. Clampus Vitus ®Mountain Charlie No. 1850 organization, allowed the Friends of Santa Teresa Park, Santa Clara County Park and Recreation Department, and the local students from the Oak Grove School District to set in motion the task of partnering together to build the historical monument on Curie Drive.

On June 7, 1993, a dedication event was held. Formal presentations by County Supervisor Mike Honda, San Jose City Councilmember Charlotte Powers, members of the Friends of Santa Teresa Park, the Lead Ranger Eric Goodrich, and the Santa Clara County Park Director recognized the historical importance of the site to the Santa Teresa community, City of San Jose, and the County of Santa Clara. The Bernal Intermediate School Jazz Band, led by Randy Tyler, played music and welcomed all the neighbors and guests to the festivities. The culminating gift to mark the importance of the event was the certificate with each child's fingerprint who was involved in saving the site. It was given as a personal memento to commemorate this historic occasion to Mike Honda for all his work in helping the students protect the historic lot and Bear Tree for our community. The certificate also included the student drawing created by Jeffery

Dioleta, a very talented artist, ten-year-old Baldwin Elementary School student, who presented the certificate to Mike Honda.

The dedication event was the end result of several years of work by neighbors, county officials, and my Baldwin fourth grade students. The property was in danger of being turned into a housing subdivision. Realizing the importance of the site to give our local school children a place to learn, respect, and develop pride in their historic neighborhood, a call was sent out to help save the Bear Tree Site. Most importantly to the children, the site would help keep alive the custom of passing down the rich, colorful oral history stories that were passed down from the families of pre-historic natives to families of today. Below is one example of the children's creative poem work that was used to help save the local history site:

Saving the Bear Tree

By Mr. Boulland's Class, Baldwin School

In 1824, there once was a tree,
That didn't let bears go free.
A great grizzly bear was caught,
Then for sport, the bear and bull fought.
A long iron chain was placed around the grizzly's neck,
Spectators around the corral, all could see it, they even checked.
All of San Jose came and cheered,
Even Don Bernal with a long black beard.
The tree survived in our neighbor's lot,
Over time, everybody just forgot.
In 1993, the tree is still there,
Because Mike Honda really cares.
The county was so kind,
To make up their mind,
Protecting the Bear Tree,
Saving it for you and me.
Thank you for saving the Bear Tree,
Now it will go down in history!



The Bear Tree, supported by metal braces, in the Bear Tree Lot on Curie Drive.

News in Pictures:



Planter box restoration by Boy Scout Troop 164 from Milpitas, led by Anthony Trien, 7/16/16



REI/Bay Area Ridge Trail Work Day on the Stile Ranch Trail, 11/5/16



Lots of people went to Santa Teresa Spring to play Pokemon Go, 7/19/16



Ron Horii gave a photo class at the Bernal Ranch on 11/12/16. After he gave an outdoor demonstration of cameras and an indoor slideshow on photography techniques, he led a walk around the ranch and to Santa Teresa Spring (above).



Campout and Movie Night, Pueblo Area, 8/6/16



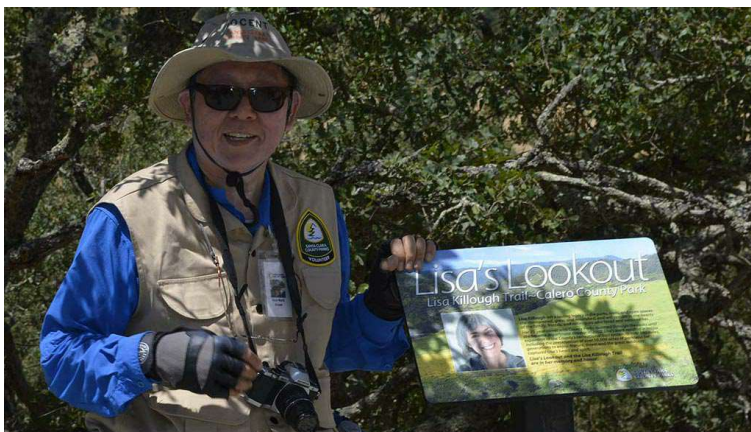
San Jose Fire Department and CalFire training exercise in the Pueblo Area, controlled burn, 6/7/17

Rancho San Vicente Dedication, 6/3/17

In the South Almaden Valley, just 0.6 miles from Santa Teresa Park at the other end of Fortini Road, across McKean Road, is Rancho San Vicente. It is 966 acres, purchased by Santa Clara County in 2009. It adjoins Calero County Park and is an expansion to it. It sits in-between Calero, Almaden Quicksilver, and Santa Teresa County Parks and potentially can provide links between them. The trails master plan for Rancho San Vicente and Calero began in 2010 and was approved in 2013. Since then, trail design and construction have been on-going. On 6/3/17, there was a dedication ceremony at Rancho San Vicente. It was originally scheduled as a grand opening for the whole park addition, but because of construction and permitting delays, it was not ready to open to the public. However, the Lisa Killough Trail was complete. The trail honors the late County Parks director, Lisa Killough. The ceremony honored her and dedicated the trail named after her. Her family was invited to participate. There were speeches and a ribbon-cutting for the new trail. Participants got to hike to a rest area on the trail, called Lisa's Lookout. That area has picnic tables, great views, and a sign about Lisa Killough. The park should open in summer of 2017. The Lisa Killough and Cottle Trails will provide a loop. More trails will be built in the future. For pictures of Rancho San Vicente and Calero, see: <http://rhorii.com/#Calero-RanchoSanVicente>



Ribbon-cutting on the Lisa Killough Trail



Ron Horii at Lisa's Lookout (by Mike Boulland)

Open Space Authority Protects Land in Santa Teresa Hills

The Open Space Authority of Santa Clara Valley (OSA) recently purchased two properties in the Santa Teresa Hills, protecting them from development and hopefully allowing a future linkage between Santa Teresa County Park and Almaden Lake. The first is the 8.79-acre Sanfilippo property up in the hills at the end of Miracle Mountain Drive, with views of Almaden Lake. It had originally been slated for a 7800 square foot house. The OSA bought it for \$825,000 in September of 2015. On 5/13/17, the OSA's Land Steward team had a cleanup of the property, where they picked up trash and covered up graffiti on trees and a stone monument.



Cleanup at the Sanfilippo property, 5/13/17

In May of 2017, the OSA purchased the historic 51.78-acre Pfeiffer property, which is adjacent to the Boulder Ridge Golf Course and overlooks the Almaden Valley. The land has been owned by the Pfeiffer Family since the 1940's. It includes the Greystone Quarry site. Sandstone from that quarry was used to build Stanford University, St. Joseph's Basilica, and what is now the San Jose Museum of Art. The property includes sandstone rock outcroppings and caves, with panoramic views across the Almaden Valley. It can easily be seen from the Los Alamitos Creek Trail and Almaden Quicksilver County Park. The OSA will be working on plans for volunteer activities and docent-led tours.



View of the Pfeiffer property in the Santa Teresa Hills, from Almaden Quicksilver County Park

Meet Ranger Justin Everts

By Kitty Monahan, FOSTP Board Member

At the Friends of Santa Teresa County Park's board meeting on Thursday, July 6, 2017, Santa Clara County Parks Ranger Justin Everts helped the members plan National Night Out and the Fandango events. Justin started as a seasonal park ranger in August 2014 at Sanborn County Park and then at Anderson County Park. He became a permanent park ranger in June of 2016 and assigned to Hellyer County Park.

After graduating from Washington State University with a degree in geology, Justin met Ryan Lugo, a Santa Clara County Parks ranger, who introduced him to the County's Park system. He signed up for park classes at Santa Rosa Junior College and was hired by Santa Clara County Parks in 2014. He is now working out of class as the Senior Ranger at Hellyer County Park, standing in for Senior Ranger Frank Weiland who is on bereavement leave as his father died July 6, 2017 in Morgan Hill. The Friends of Santa Teresa Park welcome Justin.

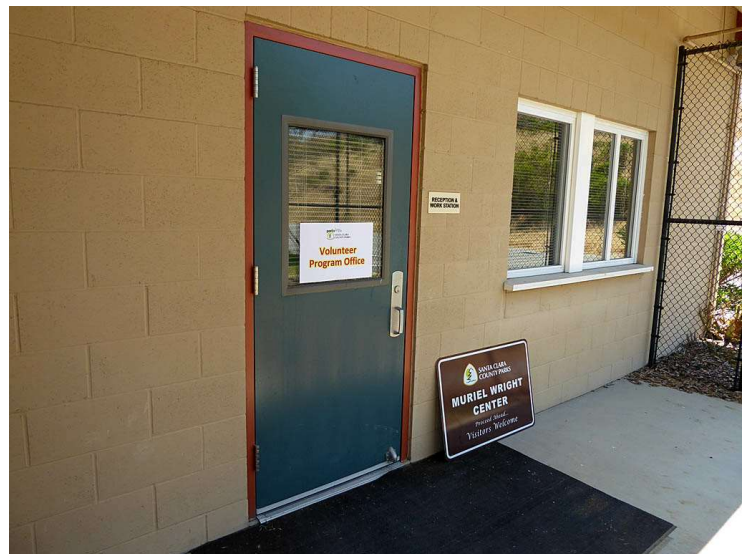


Ranger Justin Everts at the Santa Teresa Golf Course Upper Banquet Facility

Park Volunteer Program News

In 2013, the County Parks' Volunteer Program moved into the Muriel Wright Center in Santa Teresa Park, which was previously a residential juvenile correctional center. They took up half of the building, sharing it with the County Sheriffs who patrol the County Parks. The building was remodeled with the help of Americorps crews, who were housed in the center. Americorps performed maintenance and construction work all over the county. In 2017, the Volunteer Program temporarily moved into offices in a different part of the building, closer to the sheriffs. They will be moving into a new building, which will be built at Vasona County Park, next to park headquarters. The reason they are moving is that the County wants to use the Muriel Wright Center for their mental health program. The sheriffs will stay.

The Volunteer Program has a new manager, Julie Lee. She has been with the County Parks for over 27 years and was previously a park ranger and a supervisor of the interpretive programs. She came to Muriel Wright in 2016 as the interim manager, replacing Frank Weiland, who was also an interim manager, but left to become the senior ranger at Hellyer/Santa Teresa. Julie has been named to the manager position permanently.



Temporary Volunteer Program Office Entrance at the Muriel Wright Center, behind the basketball courts

This newsletter is funded by the City of San Jose's Community Action and Pride (CAP) Grant. FOSTP is a member of the United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County, which administers this grant.

For more on FOSTP, see <http://www.stpfriends.org/>