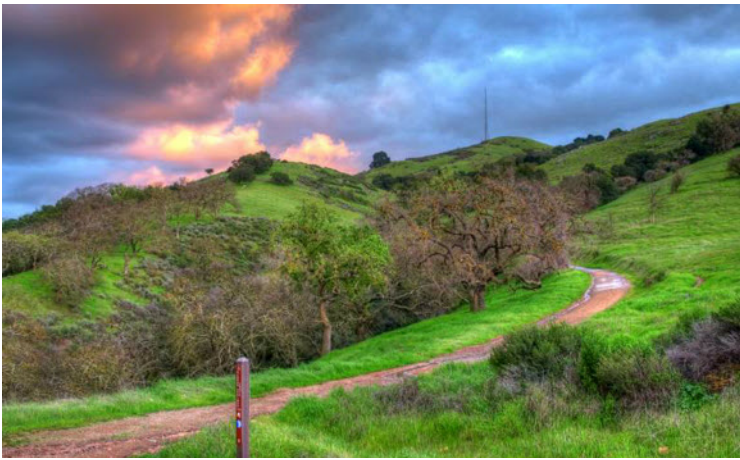


# FRIENDS OF SANTA TERESA PARK



*The Hidden Springs Trail leading to Coyote Peak*

## Coyote Peak Interpretive Sign Dedication Event

By Mike Boulland

On a rainy Saturday morning, October 25, 2014, The Friends of Santa Teresa Park held its Coyote Peak Interpretive Sign Dedication event at the Pueblo Picnic Area in Santa Teresa County Park. The festive community morning event started with music from Santa Teresa High School's "The Conor Larkin Jazz Trio" while eating donated breakfast treats: muffins and oranges from Sweet Tomatoes, coffee cake from Hobee's, and coffee from Starbucks.

FOSTP member Sam Drake, Master of Ceremonies, welcomed the over fifty guests who braved the unusually wet weather to attend the event. Five Cub Scouts from Pack 247 and their by pack leader, Chris Gilmore, led the flag salute to start the event. FOSTP president Mike Boulland spoke and explained the schedule and agenda of the day and thanked the many supporters, volunteers and sponsors. County Parks Interpretive Program Manager Julie Lee described the three-year process of working with FOSTP to overcome the many hurdles and draft copies it took develop and create the beautiful interpretive sign. Next, Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Director Robb Courtney was introduced and Justice Paul Bernal, a family descendant of Rancho Santa Teresa, recognized the efforts of Friends of Santa Teresa Park members' contributions to Santa Teresa Park's development. FOSTP secretary and photographer Ron Horii, talked about the trail that leads to

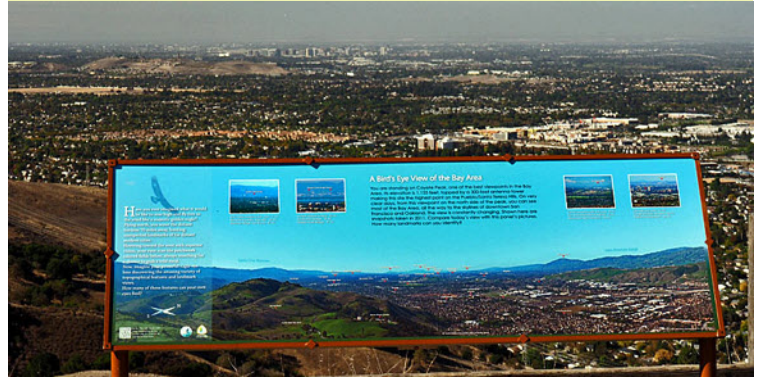
**Meetings:** 7:00 pm, 1st Thursday of each month.

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



*The new interpretive sign on Coyote Peak*

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*The group gathered at the Pueblo Picnic Area for the dedication.*

### 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:

### Inside this Newsletter:

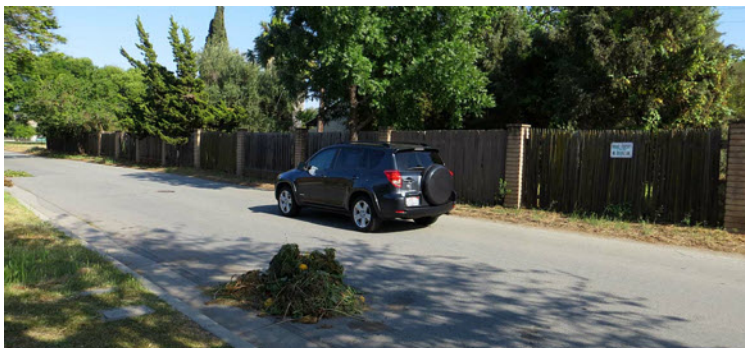
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## Curie Drive Street Improvements

By Mike Boulland

A major road improvement on Curie Drive starting in front of Santa Teresa Park's Bear Tree Lot Monument and continuing to San Ignacio Avenue has been scheduled to be completed by the end of 2017. The Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department will be using the Capital Improvement Program funds to complete the widening and paving of Curie Drive and extend the sidewalk next to the park interpretive site. The street work is being completed as a result of the joint community and FOSTP members' requests for street improvements to help students and residents travel safely to and from Bernal and San Anselmo Schools. The completion of the street project will widen the street to allow children to walk or ride their bikes on new bike lanes or sidewalks safely on either side of the street. FOSTP members applaud the Parks Department staff for helping protect the safety of our community's children and residents.



*Top: Curie Drive where it narrows at the Bear Tree Lot*

*Middle: The Bear Tree Lot, Pyzak House, and fence around it*

*Bottom: Fence around the Pyzak House and narrowed Curie Drive*

## Parks for Life Challenge

by Kitty Monahan

In 2014, the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department created this challenge to make the public aware of the 29 County Parks. About 200 teams took up the challenge and visited all County Parks, took pictures of their adventures, and presented their reports. Roxanne Koopman, a member of the Friends of Santa Teresa Park, and her daughter placed 4th and received wonderful prizes at the picnic at the Casa Grande on March 8, 2015.

The Challenges for 2015 began on May 1 and will end on July 31, 2015. It is time to make teams, create a flag, and register on [parkhere.org](http://parkhere.org).



*Roxanne & Vanessa Koopman of Team VanessaRox displaying their Parks for Life Challenge flag*

## Parks for Life Challenge: A Great Way to Encourage Park Use

by Allison Koopman

When I first saw an article for the Parks for Life Challenge in the newspaper, I didn't know just how much my family's life would be transformed by the whole experience. From October 1st to December 31st last year, my Dad and I were dragged along as my very competitive Mom and sister, who made up the team VanessaRox, raced from park to park, completing weekly challenges. Despite the fact that I wasn't nearly as competitive in the challenges as my Mom and sister, I think I ended up visiting almost every one of the Santa Clara County parks. Though we went to so many County Parks, still the most fun times I experienced when joining my Mom and sister on their team's adventures were in Santa Teresa County Park. Santa Teresa is the closest County Park to where my family lives, and we often visit it for weekly hikes or bike rides, but this Challenge helped show my family even more of what the park had to offer. We found hard-to-find geocaches, came upon lesser-known hiking trails, and discovered more wildlife than we had ever seen before. At the end of this 3-month contest, my Mom and sister took the well-deserved 4th place, while we were happy to place 16th, considering there were more than 250 teams who participated in this impressive contest that the Santa Clara County Parks created.



## Rewarding Hikes

by Roxanne Koopman

I always believe that school-age kids should embrace a healthy lifestyle by being physically active everyday, including weekends. Being a middle school PE teacher, I try to recommend to my students that they should be more adventurous by doing outdoor activities and discovering new things on their own. However, with no specific sets of parameters, my suggestions tend to hold no allure to them. So, copying the concept of Parks for Life Challenge (a treasure hunt with a twist of Amazing Race type outdoor contest), I have promoted something that gives them an incentive to go out and have fun while being physically active.

During last year's Thanksgiving break, at least 15 of my students individually went out to hike either the strenuous Coyote Peak trail or the easy Norred trail in Santa Teresa Park. A week prior to the break, I sent out an email description of the two hikes including distances, elevations, and trail maps. I recommended that they were to do the hike(s) with friends or family members to make for a pleasant and safe activity. They were also instructed to take a picture of themselves with the beautiful scenery in the background and to email me the picture as a proof that they did complete the task. One of their motivations for doing this activity was to get exempted from running one of our weekly timed mile runs at school.

When these 15 students started redeeming their mile run passes, other students caught on and wanted another chance to get a mile run pass as well. A popular incentive hike in my PE classes has emerged! I found a fun and rewarding way for my students and their families to spend time in our beautiful county parks that are practically in their own backyard!

During the Holiday, Winter, and Spring breaks, I lined up more hikes for my students to do that included the Guadalupe trail in Almaden Quicksilver, the Vista Loop trail in Santa Teresa Park, and the perimeter trail in the new Martial Cottle Park. Needless to say, the popularity of my recommended hikes grew so exponentially that I'm still getting requests for more, even though the school year is almost over.

## Explore Santa Teresa County Park on Two Wheels!

by Greg Koopman

Here comes the sun! As the warmer season approaches, it's time to get out that old mountain bike that's been collecting dust all winter. Don't forget to bring your helmet as it is required in this park. Gloves and other protective clothing are always recommended for safety as well. I always whistle a tune around blind corners to make sure hikers and equestrians are not surprised by my approach. Make sure to bring ample water, especially if you're going there during the heat of the day. It's nice to have a map, but all trails are open to bicycles at Santa Teresa County Park. If you see a trail that looks like fun, try it, because it probably will be! The views from the high points of the park will be instant gratification, guaranteed!



## Saving Mt. Umunhum's Tower

by Sam Drake and Ron Horii

The Umunhum Conservancy is a non-profit corporation dedicated to the preservation and restoration of Mt. Umunhum and its historic Radar Tower. Mt. Umunhum and the Radar Tower are owned by the Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD). MROSD is in the process of opening the summit of Mt. Umunhum to the public. However, MROSD does not spend its funds on historic preservation. Unless the Conservancy raises funds to save it, the Radar Tower will be demolished. About \$1.5 million needs to be raised by 2017. "We need help from everyone in our community" said Kitty Monahan, the Conservancy's Secretary.

Thank you to everyone who came to the April 16th meeting of the Santa Clara County Historical Heritage Commission and asked them to put the Tower atop Mt. Umunhum on the County's Heritage Resource Inventory! The Commission was very impressed with your input.

For more information and to help save the tower, see: <http://umunhumconservancy.org/>



## Coyote Peak Transmission Tower

By Mike Boulland

Have you ever noticed the tall transmission tower on Coyote Peak in Santa Teresa Park? It's a great hiking destination for the family and one of my favorites hikes in Santa Teresa Park. It takes less than two or three hours to hike the up and back. The trail up Coyote Peak is steep but well worth the hike because of the fantastic view of the Santa Clara Valley. Many hikers use an alternative route to the top. Using the Rocky Ridge Trail is a longer moderate route for families that choose the trail for its annual Mother Nature's spring Rocky Ridge Trail wildflower show. The trail takes you through the serpentine rock outcroppings that allow large fields of wildflowers to blossom. It's a show I try to catch every year.

The tower itself is a landmark for everyone in the Blossom Valley and Santa Teresa community who use it as a reference point to locate their homes. The tower may be seen from all over the valley.

The communication antenna tower has many functions as it sends out broadcast signals by radio, phone, microwave, television, cell, city, county and other communications methods. Today, without the tower's repeater for television signals from many of the major TV stations, many residents who do not use cable or the Internet in the valley would not be able see their favorite TV programs without the free broadcast signals from the tower. Revenue from the tower lease is one of the park's major funding sources for the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department's general fund.

On a clear day, take a walk with your family to the top of Coyote Peak and enjoy the 360-degree vista view and see the base of the communication tower. The best time to go for the clearest view is after a rainy day where the haze is blown away and the view is amazing. You might enjoy a view to the north and see the towers of the Golden Gate Bridge 60 miles away.



## Schools Run in the Parks

By Ron Horii

The Oak Grove School District held a cross-country meet in Santa Teresa Park for the third year in a row on September 18, 2014. About 180 runners from Bernal, Davis, and Herman middle schools ran the 2.2 mile course starting from the Pueblo Day Use Area. It followed the Mine and Pueblo Trails. The runners enjoyed the challenging and scenic trails. The parents, especially the ones from Bernal, appreciated the close proximity of the course to their schools. In previous years, it was held at Alum Rock Park. The race was organized by Bernal PE teacher and cross-country coach Roxanne Koopman. In exchange for free use of the park, students contributed community service hours by doing trail cleanup at Hellyer and helping with movie night at Santa Teresa.

Another school running event that made use of a nearby county park was the Oak Grove School District's SLUG run on May 2, 2015. This was a 5K fun run and fundraiser to benefit science and technology programs in participating district schools. Roxanne Koopman founded and organized the run. It used to be held at Sakamoto School and took place on city streets. This year, for the first time, it was held on new paved trails at Martial Cottle Park. It started and ended at Del Roble School, which is just south of Martial Cottle. 6 elementary schools and 2 middle schools participated with about 400 runners. It was the first race ever to be held on Martial Cottle's trails. The race was much safer and had less of an impact on neighborhoods as it was held on dedicated trails, with no need for street crossings, except for Chynoweth north of Del Roble School. In exchange for free use of the park, students and parents put in 12 hours of community service by taking trail user counts on the Martial Cottle trails.

## Summer 2015 Events at Santa Teresa County Park

Saturday, July 11, Night of the Meat-Eating Plants Movie Night, 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm. Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch. For reservations call (408) 226-5453.

Sunday, July 26, A Taste of Archery - 8:30 am - 10:00 am Avenida Espana at Santa Teresa. Register online or call (408) 355-2201.

Saturday, August 1, 8/22/2015 In The Park After Dark Movie Night. 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm. Pueblo Area, Santa Teresa. Meet in the lower parking lot with a low chair or blanket. (408) 225-0225.

Saturday, August 22, In The Park After Dark Movie Night. 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm. Pueblo Area, Santa Teresa. Meet in the lower parking lot with a low chair or blanket. (408) 225-0225.





**Santa Teresa Pictures, top to bottom, left to right:**  
*Amphibian Movie Night, Bernal Ranch Barn, 6/13/15*  
*Rocky Ridge Trail Work Day, 1/17/15*  
*Campout, Pueblo Area, 8/2/14*  
*Family Fandango, Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch, 10/4/14*  
*Waterfall, Laurel Canyon, 2/9/15*  
*Movie Night, Pueblo Area, 9/26/14*  
*Stile Ranch Trail, 3/14/15*



## Coyote Peak Interpretive Sign Dedication Event

*Continued from page 1*

Coyote Peak and where the interpretive sign would be located. He announced that the vans would not be able to transport everyone to the top of the peak due to the weather closing the roads. He told the group to look up from the Pueblo Picnic Area to the top of the peak where one could see the new interpretive sign location in a small break in the fence at the lookout point.

The rainy weather didn't dampen the crowd's enthusiasm for the silent auction, the next activity. The popular auction was organized by FOSTP members Roxanne and Greg Koopman. Even though light mist sprinkles fell from the sky, most of the guests stayed until the last prize was rewarded to see if they won. Every one left with a souvenir from the event, a smile on their faces, and happy they participated in a memorable community event.



*Left: Justice Paul Bernal. Right: County Parks Director Robb Courtney*



*The Conor Larkin Jazz Trio from Santa Teresa High School provided entertainment.*

The Friends of Santa Teresa Park would like to thank the following people and organizations: Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department and staff, particularly Robin Schaut, Julie Lee, and Phil Hearin; the City of San Jose's Community Action and Pride Grant Program; Justice Paul Bernal; Nich McBrian; and Rich Robertson.

FOSTP thanks the following businesses for their donations of refreshments for the celebration event: Starbucks Coffee Bernal Road for coffee, Sweet Tomatoes for muffins and oranges, and Hobee's for coffee cake.

We'd also like to thank the following businesses for their donations of items for the silent auction: Dolce Hayes Mansion: \$80 Sunday brunch, Happy Hollow Park and Zoo: \$26 tickets for 2, Children's Musical Theater: \$60 tickets for 2, Fish Market: \$50 gift certificate, Lawrence Hall of Science: \$60 family pass, Nob Hill Market: \$25 gift card, and Amici's East Coast Pizzeria: \$30 gift certificate.

Finally, special thanks go to Greg Koopman for the donation of 2 kids' bicycle helmets for the silent auction, Bernal Intermediate School student volunteers and their parents, Cub Scout Pack 274, and the Conor Larkin Jazz Trio from Santa Teresa High School.



*FOSTP member and Bernal School teacher Roxanne Koopman (right) directed students from Bernal to help pass out donated refreshments.*



*Scouts and leaders from Cub Scout Pack 274 led the group in the flag salute.*

**Join our Yahoo Group:**

**<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FoSTP/>**

**Visit our website: <http://www.stpfriends.org>**

**Newsletter & website funded by San Jose Community Action and Pride (CAP) Grant**