



WE CAN HAVE SAFE RELIABLE POWER WITH TREES

Come Out and Celebrate
Heart of the Park V
and
National Public Lands Day

Saturday, September 27
1:00-4:00 PM

Jeffrey Fontana Park, corner of
Meridian Ave. and Oakglen Way

National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest, single day volunteer effort for public lands including parks, trails, and green space. In honor of Public Lands Day's 20th anniversary MFPA is holding it's 5th annual "Heart of the Park" celebration on the 27th of September.

There will be something for the whole family, even the family dog.

- Informational Booths on Native Plants, Water Conservation, Container Gardening, Composting, Flowers, and Birds in our Parks.
- NEW! Informational stations manned by a veterinarian and a dog trainer.
- Raffle with donations from local businesses.
- NEW! Silent Auction
- Children's Games and Balloon Animals.
- Sign up to be an MFPA member or renew your membership.
- Refreshments and merchandise for sale.
- NEW! A Dog Parade

Shaded seating and restroom facilities will be provided.

MFPA's MAJOR FUND RAISER OF THE YEAR!

Credit cards accepted for membership, raffle tickets, and silent auction items. Cash needed for food and 50/50 raffle.

LOCAL BUSINESS RAFFLE DONATIONS:

- * Almaden Pet Salon
 - * Almaden Valley Nursery
 - * Amato Pizzeria
 - * An-Jan Feed & Pet Supply
 - * C'est Si Bon Bakery
 - * Charlie's Cheesecake Works
 - * Elegant Nails
 - * Five Guys Burgers and Fries
 - * Golfland
 - * La Playita Restaurant
 - * Legends Pizza Co.
 - * Orchard Supply Hardware
 - * Peet's Coffee
 - * Petco
 - * Pinnacle Animal Hospital
 - * Redmond 76
 - * Starbucks
 - * SummerWinds Nursery
 - * Wine Cellar Restaurant
 - * Whole Foods
-and more.....

3 RAFFLES WITH DIFFERENT COLORED TICKETS:

- Teal - Regular, \$1.00 each
- Red - High Value, \$3.00 each
- Blue - 50/50, \$1.00 each

Some NEW Things are Happening at Heart of the Park this year...

Informational Booths

A Way with Flowers and Frames -

Flowers to hand out.

Almaden Valley Nursery - Native plant display.

Lee Pauser - Display of nesting box, exhibits of barn owls and other birds in TJ Martin, Jeffrey Fontana, and Guadalupe Oak Grove Parks.

Lori Hamilton's Dog Training - Creating a dog you can take anywhere.

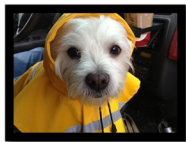
Master Gardeners - Container gardening, cool weather vegetables.

Orchard Supply Hardware - Composting techniques, raffle for composting bin, giveaway buckets and seed packets.

Pinnacle Animal Hospital - Dr. Moore will present information on general pet health, keeping your dog healthy and warning signs to look for.

San Jose Water Company - Residential water conservation, handouts and giveaways.

Dog Parade



Bring your dog out to the Dog Parade at Heart of the Park on Saturday, September 27. The Dog Parade begins at 2:00 pm. Check-in will be at 1:45 pm

There will be prizes for all dogs. Costumes are optional but if your dog wants to wear a costume there will be an additional prize for best costume.

Information on how to enter can be found on our website, SaveOurParkTrees.com. There are also entry forms on the fence by the dog park entrance.



Silent Auction

This year we are adding a silent auction to our festivities at Heart of the Park. Silent auction items include:

- Golf package: Summitpointe Golf in Milpitas
- Four nights at a Bass Lake condominium
- Golf package: Spring Valley Golf Course in Milpitas
- Four hours of private dog training
- San Jose Giants package with SF Giants collectibles
- Hand sewn Amish Quilt
- Painting and \$100 custom framing gift Certificate
- J. Lohr Wine Package
- Flower Arrangement by A Way with Flowers and Frames

50/50 Raffle

Buy a Blue raffle ticket. Put it in the jar and if your ticket is chosen you win half of the amount in the jar.

Balloon Animals

For the children and the young at heart!



New Garden for Butterflies

by Dave Poeschel

In March, volunteers planted our first butterfly garden, and it has grown beautifully over the summer. Soon large sandstone boulders will be placed to complete the garden's retaining walls. With fingers crossed for winter rains, we plan to expand on the success of the current garden, adding more native wildflower varieties. With your support and patience, MFPA will continue to provide the TLC needed to grow this garden into a healthy habitat for pollinators and people. Visit the garden near Golf Creek in Jeffrey Fontana Park to see its progress!



Planting in March by Dave Poeschel and his work party

The garden today!

Trimming Program Saves Trees

by Pier Maggiani

MFPA's mission is safeguarding and enhancing our trees in TJ Martin and Jeffrey Fontana Parks. Last year we coordinated a trimming program for over sixty trees. The program included removal of dead trees, trimming dead branches, and trimming for safety and aesthetics. Most importantly, trimming lowers the canopy of trees to keep them safe from PG&E's goal of removing trees deemed to be a hazard to the high voltage power lines.



Drought Impacting Park

by Larry Sasscer

Have you noticed the large dry areas of dead turf in the parks? Changes are coming to our parks to meet a mandated 20% reduction in water use created by the ongoing drought. This year MFPA was allowed to complete just one new project, the butterfly habitat. No more new planting projects are allowed at this time. In addition, many parks in San Jose may undergo a turf reduction program - swapping out high water use grass areas for other landscaping options.

This fall, MFPA representatives will begin working with San Jose Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) managers on a turf reduction plan for TJ Martin and Jeffrey Fontana Parks to push for and support appropriate and attractive landscape changes. As planning progresses our community will be informed and engaged in the process.

MFPA Membership Changes

by Rod Carpenter

Membership in our organization is growing, so our structure is changing this year to better accommodate our many new families. Individual memberships will remain fixed at \$20 a year, however, the \$50 three-year membership option will be phased out. Current three-year memberships will be honored until their scheduled expiration date. In its place is a new one-year family membership at \$35 to cover all the members of your household, opening membership to all park users, children and adults.

All current memberships expire on Dec 31, 2014 or in succeeding years if a three-year membership is in place. All renewals will have an anniversary date of January 1, 2015 or a later year for the three-year. All new memberships will have anniversary dates set to the first day of the month following the receipt of the membership payment and are valid for 12 months.

Member renewal forms have been mailed out to appropriate members and we invite you to return those by mail or renew in person while enjoying our fifth annual Heart of the Park celebration September 27. New members are encouraged to join at the park! New memberships and renewals may use a credit card at the Park or via the "Make A Donation" button on our MFPA web site, SaveOurParkTrees.com.

New Doggie Bag Dispensers and Good Neighbor Signs Are Here!

by Dick Stevens

Because of the high costs and because San Jose Parks budget cutbacks, doggie bags were eliminated several years ago. As a part of a campaign by MFPA to reduce litter in our parks, 4 new bag dispensers are being deployed in TJ Martin Park, and we will have a total of 5 doggie bag dispensers in Jeffrey Fontana and Guadalupe Oak Grove Parks. We are also deploying "Good Neighbor" signs at each doggie bag station.



We are filling the dispensers with produce bags, bread bags, newspaper bags, or any bag of similar size. We are asking all of you that walk dogs in our parks to help by saving these bags and keeping the dog bag dispenser nearest you supplied with bags.



By working together as a community, we can keep our parks enjoyable places for all. Thank you for your help and support!

PG&E Denies Tree #13 Heritage Status

by Linda Wilson

Four years ago MFPA began a campaign to have the City declare a grove of Coast Live Oaks near Meridian Ave. protected Heritage Trees. Included in the campaign was the tree marked by PG&E as #13, the thirteenth of 140 trees slated for removal. The Heritage Grove was dedicated in 2012, while MFPA continued the campaign for Tree #13.

After a successful signature drive in our community this year, the City decided to allow Tree #13 a Heritage designation. The property owner must request the designation. Unfortunately, the area of land including the tree is not City property, but PG&E property. In April, MFPA met with Councilman Khamis and PG&E representatives to ask them for such an action. In July we learned that they refused to afford the tree this protection. The newsletter insert is the PG&E answer to MFPA's request, and our Board of Directors' response. And the beat goes on!