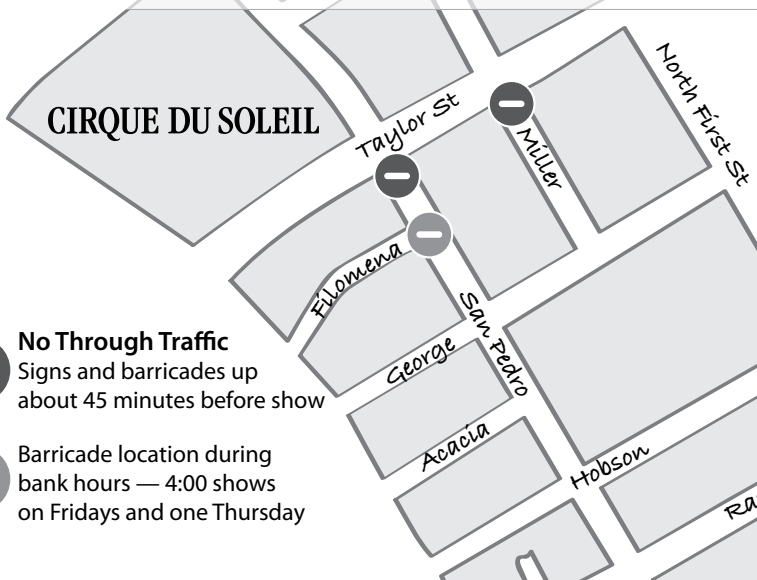




Cirque du Soleil

You may have noticed the tents going up — Cirque du Soleil is in town!

This year's show is titled "OVO" and runs from February 4 through March 7, with shows each day except Mondays. The Cirque du Soleil website says that "OVO is a headlong rush into a colourful ecosystem teeming with life, where insects work, eat, crawl, flutter, play, fight and look for love in a non-stop riot of energy and movement."



To discourage Cirque patrons from parking in our neighborhood, barricades and "no through traffic" signs will be put up on San Pedro and Miller Streets, near Taylor, as shown on the map. Traffic leaving the

neighborhood will not be blocked. Barricades will be in position roughly 45 minutes before the start of each show, and will be taken down at intermission.

Additional signs will be posted to remind people that there is "no event parking" in the neighborhood. These will be placed on San Pedro, Filomena, George, Acacia, Hobson and Rankin streets, and at several intersections at First Street. However, be aware that these are not enforceable parking restrictions — Cirque patrons cannot be ticketed for ignoring them.

We have asked the Department of Transportation (DOT) to post signs that clearly direct Cirque patrons to the designated parking lots, particularly for vehicles exiting Highway 87.

If you have concerns related to the Cirque, please report them to Tina Morrill at tinam777@yahoo.com or (408) 298-8942. Tina is our designated neighborhood contact, and is working with the DOT, Office of Cultural Affairs, and Councilman Liccardo's office on Cirque issues.

Welcome to the first edition of the *Vendome Voice* for 2010. As you know, the *Vendome Voice* went to an online format last year, to save on printing costs. But thanks to a City of San Jose grant, we are able to revive the print edition for this first 2010 issue. Future issues will continue to be published online, and as ever, you can find back issues at www.vendome.org/voice.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter. If you would like to contribute an article to a future edition of the *Vendome Voice*, send a message to board@vendome.org.

Median Island Landscaping



The Department of Transportation (DOT) has proposed halting maintenance on all median islands that have landscaping, and eventually removing that landscaping. This is being advocated as a cost saving measure.

In our neighborhood, all of the islands on North San Pedro Street, as well as the large island on Hawthorne Way, have been identified to eventually have their landscaping removed. (No trees will be removed, only the shrubs and plants.) The Hawthorne Way island is slated first for landscape removal. There is not yet a schedule for the North San Pedro islands, due to lack of money for the removal.

Many of us are concerned about the wisdom of this DOT proposal, and would like to understand the real benefits and advocate for alternatives — for example, an “adopt an island”

program where neighbors maintain the landscaping instead of ripping it out.

The VNA has been in contact with the DOT and Councilman Liccardo’s office, but we need you to make your voice heard. This issue will be discussed at our quarterly neighborhood meeting on February 25th, and Tom Ferguson, Maintenance Manager for the DOT, will be there.

The VNA quarterly meeting is on Thursday, February 25th, at the California Bank & Trust, 515 North First Street. The meeting starts at 6:15.



Cinequest 2010

The 20th anniversary Cinequest film festival starts February 23rd and runs through March 7th. Over 200 films are featured.

The venues are the Camera 12 and Camera 3, the California Theatre, the San Jose Repertory Theatre, and the San Jose State University Theatre.

Cinequest will be presenting their “Maverick Spirit Award” to Benjamin Bratt on March 4th, and their “Life of a Maverick” award to Deepak Chopra on March 2nd.

More information is available at www.cinequest.org.

The Vendome Voice

Kevin Kelley
Tina Morrill
Randy Saldinger

The *Vendome Voice* is published by the Vendome Neighborhood Association.

P.O. Box 90398
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www.vendome.org

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Help Wanted!

The Summer Barbecue is the Vendome's biggest event of the year. This year's Barbecue will be held on Saturday, June 26th. We need your help to make this event a success.



The Barbecue is organized by the VNA Barbecue Committee. The committee meets for about an hour per month leading up to the event, deciding what kind of food to serve and what activities to hold. This year's Barbecue is funded through a City of San Jose CAP grant, and we want to make the best of it.

This is your opportunity to have a lot of fun, while putting on an event that is appreciated by your Vendome neighbors! Ready to help? Want more information? Contact the Barbecue Committee at bbq@vendome.org.

The Bottom Line

The Vendome is a small neighborhood, and the Vendome Neighborhood Association is a bare bones organization. Everything we do is thanks to volunteers who are generous with their time, and neighbors who are generous with their money.

In 2010, total VNA expenses were just over \$1500 — 70% of this was spent on neighborhood events, with the Summer Barbecue being our biggest and most expensive event. About 20% was spent on communication, including meeting fliers, web hosting and one print edition of the *Vendome Voice*. Less than 5% was spent on overhead; our yearly Post Office Box rental is our single largest overhead expense.

Where does our money come from? The VNA has no official standing with the City, and receives no regular funding. However, in 2008, we applied for and received a grant through the City's Community Action and Pride (CAP) program. We applied again in 2009 and received a somewhat larger grant.

While these grants have been helpful in funding events like the Barbecue and Pumpkin Patch Kidz, the time overhead in writing grant applications, administering grant funds, and writing grant reports has been significant — the officers of the VNA spent more than 100 hours on grant requirements in 2009 alone. Given the overhead, our modest expenses, and the shrinking pool of grant funds, the Board decided not to apply for a CAP grant in 2010.

Thankfully, the VNA has a much more important funding source — our generous neighbors and downtown businesses. In 2009, Vendome neighbors donated more than \$800 to the VNA. Local businesses donated hundreds of dollars in prizes for the raffle at our Barbecue.


We greatly appreciate this support, and strive to manage our limited funds responsibly and transparently. The Treasurer presents a detailed financial report to the Board every month, and every one of these reports is available at www.vendome.org/association. They are also presented at each quarterly meeting, and we invite your questions and comments.

If you are able to make a donation to the Vendome Neighborhood Association, please use the envelope attached to this issue of the Vendome Voice, or send your check to P.O. Box 90398, San Jose, CA 95109. The VNA is not a 501(c)3 organization, so your donation is not tax-deductible, but it is still greatly appreciated.

2010 Vendome Neighborhood Calendar

Check out our events for 2010. An up-to-date calendar is always available at www.vendome.org.

Ryland Park Gardening Days

Feb 21	Show up at Ryland Park to garden with your neighbors and play in the dirt!
May 16	Tools, water, and snacks are provided, but you will need to bring your green thumbs and enthusiasm.
Aug 8	Stay as little or long as you can, between 9:00 and 11:00 AM.
Nov 7	

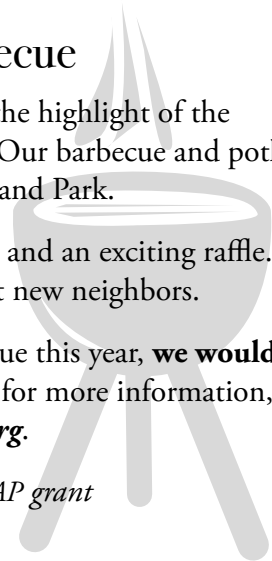
Vendome Summer Barbecue

June 26 The annual barbecue is the highlight of the Vendome social season. Our barbecue and potluck is held every June in Ryland Park.

There will be good food, fun games and an exciting raffle. Catch up with old friends and meet new neighbors.

If you can help out with the barbecue this year, **we would love to have your help**. See page 3 for more information, or send an e-mail to bbq@vendome.org.

The 2010 barbecue is funded by a CAP grant from the City of San Jose.



Pumpkin Patch Kidz

Oct 31 The Vendome Neighborhood Association provides pumpkins and decorating supplies for all the little ghouls and goblins in the neighborhood. Cookies and drinks are also provided. Ask your kids to bring you along as well. It's a great chance to get to know your neighbors.

Pumpkin Patch Kidz is held in Ryland Park on Halloween Day, between 10:00 AM and noon.



Neighborhood Quarterly Meetings

Feb 25	Join us to hear updates on neighborhood and city issues and events, as well as occasional guest speakers on topics you suggest.
April 29	This year, our meetings will begin at 6:00 PM — with a mixer until 6:15. We realize that some people may not be available this early in the evening, but we need to be courteous to our hosts at California Bank & Trust, who have to stay late at work while we meet.
Aug 12	On Thursday, February 25th , we will be joined by Cecillia Barrie, Principal of Grant Academy . Anyone interested in our local elementary school is greatly encouraged to attend. Also, Tom Ferguson of the DOT will be there to discuss the median island landscaping (see story on page 2).
Nov 4	<i>California Bank & Trust is at 515 N First Street. We meet in the Community Room on the second floor.</i>