

# FRIENDS OF SANTA TERESA PARK



*The Hidden Springs Trail leading to Coyote Peak*

## Welcome to National Night Out 8/7/18

By Michael Boulland

We appreciate your participation at our Second Annual Santa Teresa Community National Night Out (NNO) event at the Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch in Santa Teresa County Park. Our 2018 event is brought to you by the partnership between the Friends of Santa Teresa Park and the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department. Our community organization is delighted to have their support

Please, take the time to enjoy our free popsicles, ice cream, cookies, and family activities. Most of all, enjoy meeting your neighbors and public safety officers. The theme of the event is "Give Neighborhood Crime and Drugs a Going Away Party." "Help us celebrate NNO in a big way. NNO is a night that citizens across America can send a powerful message about neighborhood unity, awareness, safety and police-community partnership. Let criminals know that the USA truly is united and dedicated to building a safer, more caring America."

National Night Out is on Tuesday, August 7, 2018 from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm at the Bernal-Gulnac Joice Ranch, Santa Teresa County Park, at 372 Manila Drive, San Jose.

### Our Mission

The Friends of Santa Teresa Park (FOSTP) is a volunteer and neighborhood association, founded in 1992 and based in San Jose. Our mission is to help protect, enhance, maintain and restore Santa Teresa Park and the surrounding neighborhood through education, volunteer involvement, coordination, and communications with the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department Staff, the City of San Jose, and the greater community. We are a diverse group with a wide range of interests. We report on problems and concerns in the park and adjoining neighborhood and recommend changes and improvements. 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: [www.stpfriends.org](http://www.stpfriends.org). You are welcome to join our Yahoo Group:

**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



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

## Interview with Senior Ranger Frank Weiland

Mike Boulland sent a questionnaire out to Frank Weiland, the Senior Ranger for Santa Teresa, Hellyer, and the North Coyote Creek Parkway. Here are Frank's answers:

- Where did you grow up? I am a Santa Clara County native. I was raised in Morgan Hill.
- What is your education background? My education is also all local. I went through the Morgan Hill Unified School District. I attended Nordstrom Elementary, Martin Murphy Middle, and Live oak High School. I have a BS in Environmental Science from SJSU, with an AS in park management from West Valley College.
- How many languages do you speak? I speak Japanese. I attended Japanese Language school for 8 years. I am currently trying to learn Spanish from my wife and community adult school.
- Where else have you worked as a ranger? I have had the opportunity to work many parks with Santa Clara County, with time at Motorcycle Park, Calero, Almaden Quicksilver, Vasona, Lexington, Hellyer, Coyote Creek, and of course Santa Teresa.
- Why do you enjoy being a park ranger? It's difficult to narrow down what I enjoy most. I really enjoy the learning more about the natural and cultural history of the County with relation to parks and trying to help people share these experiences. I also enjoy helping park users find and connect with the recreational activity of their interest.
- What kind of help do you need at the park? Santa Teresa County Park is always in need of volunteers to assist with trail maintenance and projects, trail watch, docents for programs, and especially a group to adopt a single track trail such as the Ohlone, Rocky Ridge, or Stile Ranch Trails.
- What are your favorite part of Santa Teresa Park and your job? My favorite parts of Santa Teresa Park are the Rocky Ridge and Ohlone trails.
- Would you encourage other young adults to become a Park Ranger? I always encourage public service. I would recommend a park ranger career to anyone who is career minded with an interest or background in education, natural resources, recreation, sociology, land management, or even law enforcement
- What future improvements would you like to see at Santa Teresa Park? I would like to see how Santa Teresa Park continues to serve the public as a venue for recreation and other opportunities as the bay area population continues to climb.
- What are your hobbies? I am very interested in traveling, classic cars, motorcycles, skateboarding, riding my vintage bicycles, or anything outdoors-related.



*Senior Park Ranger Frank Weiland at the Volunteer's Recognition Celebration in Hellyer*

## National Night Out & Fandango 2017

By Ronald Horii

There were 2 big events at the Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch in the beginning of August 2017. They were similar, but different in purpose. The National Night Out (NNO) event was held at the Ranch by the Friends of Santa Teresa Park on Tuesday August 1, 2017. It was the first time an NNO event had ever been held at the ranch. Just a few days later, the traditional Family Fandango cultural event was also held there on Saturday, August 5, 2017. It has been an almost yearly event since 2006.

The purpose of National Night Out, which is a nationwide event, is to bring neighbors together to get to know each other and learn about government resources to fight crime and improve the neighborhood. We served free ice cream and popsicles. Visitors could see a fire engine and a sheriff's patrol car. A park ranger, sheriff's deputies, and firemen were there to answer questions. Children's crafts projects and games were provided. City Councilmember Sergio Jimenez came by, greeted people, and helped with a raffle.

Family Fandango is a cultural event, celebrating the rich history of Rancho Santa Teresa, from its founding in the Spanish settlement era of the 1800's to the American ranch period of the 20th century. It is put on by the County Parks' Interpretive Department, with help from rangers and volunteers. The event included dancing, animals, caricatures, cattle roping and branding, butter-making, period clothing dress-up, 4H displays, kids' crafts, and games. Janice Frazier brought her horse Caribe.

In both events, FOSTP had an information table, with displays about nature and the park's history and current events. We passed out copies of our newsletter and other information. Ron Horii had displays of his pictures of Santa Teresa Park and outdoor photography. FOSTP members also helped with the activities.

See the FOSTP website for pictures and descriptions of both events. While FOSTP will be holding another NNO in 2018, there will not be a Fandango, due to resource shortages in the Interpretive Department. However, Park staff will help with activities in NNO.

## Santa Teresa Park News in Pictures

These are some of the events in Santa Teresa Park since our last summer newsletter. See our website for more info.



*Eagle Scout project: signs along the Nature Trail, with QR codes for more information*



*Mike Boulland on the Stile Ranch Trail during our PixInParks Hike on 3/25/18, talking about the history of the area.*



*Ron Horii's photography class at the Bernal Ranch, 9/30/17. He will be giving another class there on 9/30/18.*



*On 7/10/18, a 70-acre fire burned the hillside between the Norred and Bernal Hill Trails. No structures were damaged.*



*On 1/13/18, a group of about 50 volunteers assembled at the Pueblo Day Use Area for a Martin Luther King Day of Service in Santa Teresa Park. Trail crew members gave instructions and led them down the Hidden Springs Trail to the Ohlone Trail. The volunteers worked on the Ohlone Trail, widening and smoothing it.*



*For many years, we have been working with the County and the City on improving the safety of Curie Drive west of San Ignacio, near Bernal School. There is a bottleneck in the road in front of the Bear Tree Lot, Pyzak Ranch, and Bonetti Ranch, which makes that stretch of road hazardous for bicyclists and pedestrians. These properties are all part of Santa Teresa Park. This year, County Parks Director Robb Courtney said, "Park staff will make a dirt path along Curie Drive when they have time." We are keeping track of this issue in our meetings and welcome community input to make sure it happens.*

## Director Robb Courtney Retires

By Mike Boulland

In July 2018, Robb Courtney, Director of County Parks and Recreation retired. We will miss Robb's happy smiles and the care he gave to our Santa Teresa Park community. FOSTP appreciated his calm management style and excellent communication skills that made him a problem-solver. FOSTP wishes him the best and happy retirement. Robb Courtney's departure was a loss for Parks, but fortunately for our Santa Teresa Park neighborhood, the Park's Department appointed a new temporary director who is very familiar with the park.

The Friends of Santa Teresa Park members wish to welcome the appointment of the new Acting Director of Parks and Recreation, Don Rocha. It's a small world, as Don attended Bernal Intermediate School and remembers exploring the park's historic sites and trails when he was young. We welcome him back to our community and wish him the best in helping us make Santa Teresa Park a shining jewel in our county park system and our neighborhood.



*Park Director Robb Courtney with Mike Boulland and Sam Drake*

## In Memory of Rick Leonard

Long-time volunteer Rick Leonard passed away in November, 2017. This is adapted from a memorial poster at the Bernal Ranch created by John Dorrance:

Park volunteer and amateur astronomer Rick Leonard passed away this year. A very generous man, he donated his time, knowledge, personality, and skills to Santa Teresa County Park. For more than a decade, he conducted fascinating night-time star-gazing hikes here along with presenting various well-attended public presentations. His topics ranged widely from werewolf mythology, to the making of the TV series "Lost in Space", to the reasons behind our planet's seasons.

And if Rick was not scheduled to do a talk or demonstration, he would show up to help hand out popcorn and lemonade at the park's summer movie nights. Rick's volunteerism reached far and wide. He managed the huge

"Tarantula Festival" at Henry Coe State Park for many Octobers in addition to working on projects with the Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District, the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority, and other public agencies.

What I will miss about Rick is probably what the audiences that got to know him will also miss - his willingness to cheerfully share himself with others.



*Rick Leonard helping at a movie night at the Bernal Ranch.*



*Just before he retired, Park Interpreter John Dorrance made this poster thanking some of the people he worked with over the years at the Bernal Ranch. See page 8 for more on John.*

## Kelsi Ju, Park Interpreter meets with FOSTP members

By Michael Boulland

FOSTP members met the new Park Interpreter, Kelsi Ju, at our August 2018 FOSTP meeting. She introduced herself to our members and presented her plans. Kelsi is on temporary assignment at the Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch site. I respect her youthful enthusiasm and eagerness to create new activities. Our FOSTP members are eager to work with her on her volunteer projects

Kelsi suggests three new volunteer "Opportunity" openings. Each "Opportunity" contains several time slots to choose from. They are 1) volunteer *Land Steward (Maintenance)* positions, 2) volunteer *Visitor Center (Museum) Host* Positions and 3) volunteer *Weed Party* Positions. Each volunteer opening can use multiple volunteers.

These new volunteer positions will help keep our neighborhood safe by having the park filled with additional watchful eyes at the site. FOSTP is delighted with Kelsi's new designs for our neighborhood volunteer programs that keep the weeds, debris, and blight from overrunning the facility.



*Kelsi at the Bernal Ranch*

## Meet Kelsi Ju, Park Interpreter

By Michael Boulland

Recently, I asked Park Interpreter Kelsi Ju to share with me some of her fantastic experiences growing up and becoming a Park Interpreter. I sent her nine questions to answer for our FOSTP Newsletter. Below are her responses:

“Thanks for the opportunity to share my stories with others.

- Where did you grow up? I grew up in San Francisco, California, and Honolulu, Hawai'i. My mother's side is from O'ahu and Mau'i. My father's side mostly lives in California now.
- What is your education background? Bachelor of Arts from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
- How many languages do you speak? I speak English, Spanish, Japanese, Cantonese, Hawaiian, and Ngäbere.

English and Spanish are my strongest. I am illiterate in Japanese and Cantonese because I did not exceed in the traditional school settings, and Hawaiian and Ngäbere are originally oral languages, not written.

- Where else have you worked as an interpreter? National Park Service, Muir Woods National Monument, Golden Gate Bridge, Fort Point Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Peace Corps Panama, O'ahu Nature Tours.
- Why do you enjoy being a park interpreter? I enjoy working outdoors, using my language skills, and being a change agent in local communities.
- What kind of help do you need at the park? Community involvement on all levels is always welcome and needed. Currently, we have a number of volunteer opportunities available, including volunteer beautification days, education program volunteers for the school year, and historic house hosts. For the general public we are asking folks to enjoy their parks and treat them as part of their own community.
- What are your favorite part of Santa Teresa Park and your job? My favorite part of working at Santa Teresa Park is the accessibility of the location to the city and the beautiful Santa Teresa Spring. This site is the perfect gateway for urban folks to begin exploring nature and learn about the historical significance of Bernal Ranch to the Muwekma Ohlone, Mexicano/Chicano, and Santa Teresa communities, while being close to the comfort of their own communities.
- Would you encourage other young adults to become a Park Interpreter? Absolutely, it is a great profession with a large amount of versatility in multiple scenic locations. In a typical week I deliver school programs for youth, work on maintenance projects on site, translate public information for accessibility, outreach to traditionally underserved communities, provide basic first aid/trail safety, and meet people from all over the world. I would also strongly encourage youth to remember that education does not always come in the form of a classroom and textbooks. Real life experiences in the field can be just as valuable.
- What surprises have you discovered while working at the park? The greatest surprises have been discovering the stories/histories about people of color that are being developed to be told in the Santa Clara County Parks. It is a very exciting time for the parks! I have learned about Chinese laborers at New Almaden, Japanese American farmers at Martial Cottle, Amah Mutsun heritage at Chitactac, and Mexicano/Chicano ranchers at Bernal Ranch, to name just a few. I am looking forward to learning about the untold stories of strength, sacrifice, and tenacity which have contributed to the parks of present day. Hopefully, this will also create a legacy of diverse role models for the youth who attend the parks and will become future leaders in their own communities.

## Muriel Wright Center to Become Mental Health Facility

By Ronald Horii

The Muriel Wright Center, which is above the Pueblo Day Use Center in Santa Teresa Park, is being converted into a mental health care facility. It was originally built in 1963 and was used as a residential juvenile correctional facility. It was closed in 2013 because of declining census, and juvenile offenders were transferred to the James Ranch in Morgan Hill. After that, the facility sat unused and vacant. To put it to use, in 2014, the Santa Clara County Parks' Volunteers Office moved in, along with an office of the County Sheriffs assigned to patrol the County Parks. It was also used as a training facility by the Sheriff's Office and housing for Americorps volunteers, who did work projects all around the County. Americorps did extensive work in upgrading and beautifying the center. The Volunteers Office had about 10,000 square feet of space, which included a reception area, offices, meeting rooms, dorm rooms for Americorps, a kitchen, dining area, and a large lounge area with exercise equipment and a TV. They held meetings and recruiting events there. However, it didn't last.

In early 2016, the Volunteers Office were told they would have to move out to make room for the mental health program. Originally, they were told they would have to move out by June 2016, but the date kept getting pushed out. Now they are looking at moving sometime in 2019, once they have a place to move to. In 2017, they temporarily moved into a much smaller office space (<400 square feet) adjacent to the Sheriff's station. The plan is to move them into a new facility at Vasona Lake County Park, near County Park headquarters, but it hasn't been built yet. In the meantime, their former space has been cleared out. The retrofitting project, originally expected to cost \$5 million, has been funded, though latest cost estimates are around \$7 million. Contract bids were opened on May 25, 2017 and awarded to D.L. Falk. The opening date for the mental health facility has been delayed many times, partially due to construction issues. At one time it was 2016, then fall 2017, then March 2018, July 2018, and is currently August 2018, but that could change. The actual opening is dependent on certification by the State Department of Health Care Services

and licensing of the contracted health care provider, Telecare Corporation.

Why the change? It started in 2011 with the passage of AB 109 and AB 117 by the California State Legislature. The bills were in response to a May 2011 U.S. Supreme Court decision that could have forced the early release of almost 40,000 prison inmates. The effect of the bills was to shift the responsibility for low-risk non-violent, non-serious, and non-sexual felony offenders from the state to the county jails and probation departments. This resulted in a dramatic increase in county jail populations and the demand for mental health treatment.

The majority of inmates in the Santa Clara County jails were suffering from mental health and substance abuse problems, which for many, resulted in criminal behavior. Since 2013, the County has been trying to address the increasing need for residential treatment. On March 16, 2016, the County's Office of Reentry Services in collaboration with the Behavioral Health Services Department issued a proposal to the Public Safety and Justice Committee of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors to convert the Muriel Wright Center to a residential treatment center. In their proposal, they said "This program will provide onsite staffing oversight 24/7 and services such as mental health and substance abuse use treatment using evidence-based best practice approaches of motivational interviewing and cognitive behavioral therapy, as well as medication evaluations, crisis intervention services, employment/vocational training, and provision of after-care services. The program will serve adult male and female offenders ages 18 and over that are residents of Santa Clara County recently released from jail with chronic mental health illness and substance abuse conditions... Additionally, the proposal includes using the facility with a single 15-bed unit for mental health crisis residential treatment. Treatment would include individual, group and family therapy as appropriate and the incorporation of multiple types of groups that would encompass issues such as: anger management; Seeking Safety; life skills building; relapse prevention; psycho-education groups that address management of mental health symptoms, substance abuse, and criminal thinking; referral to vocational training and provision of after-care services. The program staffing would consist of three Crisis Residential Teams that would staff three shifts over 24 hours." This is what the report said about the Muriel Wright Center: "At the current time the facility is being utilized by the Parks Department to house AmeriCorps volunteers and a separate part of the facility is a sub-station for use by the Sheriff's Parks Patrol function. Due to the difficulty in identifying facilities to house community based mental health and substance abuse programs, we believe this use is a priority for this site. With that in mind, we have communicated with the Parks Department that the facility will no longer be available for their use if the Board approves this proposal. At



*Muriel Wright Center*

the current time, there are no plans to move or change the use of the facilities currently being utilized by the Sheriff's Office." The report was received by the Board of Supervisors on April 12, 2016. The issue was voted on in subsequent budget hearings and Board of Supervisor meetings, but there was no attempt to provide an outreach to the community around the Muriel Wright Center.

On July 31, 2017, an article appeared in the San Jose Mercury News. It was about the County's new sobering station, but it had this sentence: "In addition to the sobering station, the county early next year is opening a 30-bed residential recovery program for substance abusers at the Muriel Wright Center, a former youth ranch for female juvenile offenders in South San Jose, where sobering-station clients may wind up." This was reported in Nextdoor by community resident Issa Ajlouny, who also started a Change.org petition to stop it. Neighbors in the community below Santa Teresa Park were concerned about the impact of this project on their neighborhood. The Friends of Santa Teresa Park was also concerned about the impact to the park and park users. On September 14, 2017, FOSTP President Mike Boulland, Secretary Ron Horii, and Issa Ajlouny met with Supervisor Mike Wasserman and his Chief of Staff John Gibbs, who is also a County Parks Commissioner. They discussed this issues, and John Gibbs created a Q and A information document. The meeting was discussed in the November 2, 2017 FOSTP meeting:

[http://www.stpfriends.org/FOSTP\\_Minutes\\_11-02-17.html](http://www.stpfriends.org/FOSTP_Minutes_11-02-17.html). Here is the latest version of the Q&A document:

<http://www.stpfriends.org/MWC-Wasserman-QA.pdf>.

One of the question addresses the lack of community noticing about the changes: "In the past, did the County notify the community as the uses changed at the Muriel Wright Center? Programs housed at the site have changed multiple times over the years and no specific outreach occurred. The location (2 miles from the nearest neighbor), and the change from the historic use as a large corrections facility to a smaller treatment facility likely contributed to the decision not to conduct more extensive noticing for the current change." We have been discussing this issue in FOSTP meetings. There have been some recent developments with the County Parks' contract with the County Sheriffs that may affect their stay at the Muriel Wright Center. Check our website for further developments:

<http://www.stpfriends.org/#News>.

## 10 Reasons to Celebrate National Night Out with Your Neighbors

1. To have fun - no excuse is needed to celebrate!
2. To meet your neighbors. When you know who lives in your neighborhood, you are more able to identify suspicious activity.
3. To increase a sense of community in your neighborhood.
4. To strengthen your Neighborhood Watch group or plan on forming one. Please contact San Jose Crime Prevention at (408) 277-4133.
5. To make new connections within the community. When you know your neighbors, you can exchange knowledge, skills, or resources. You might want to organize a meet-up, such as a mother's group, dog walker's group, etc.
6. To plan a campaign for traffic calming, better street lighting, or other improvements that benefit everyone.
7. To encourage your kids' involvement in the community.
8. To meet some of the long-time residents in the neighborhood and learn about the neighborhood's history.
9. To have a neighborhood clean-up day and celebrate afterwards.
10. To start/continue neighborhood traditions and celebrations.

*Source: National Association of Town Watch packet*

## National Night Out Partnerships

By Mike Boulland

This year, the Friends of Santa Teresa Park (FOSTP) wants to recognize the partnership support from both the City of San Jose, through the Beautify San Jose Grant (formerly the Community Action and Pride Grant), and the Santa Clara County Parks & Recreation Department (SCCP&R). More than twenty years of City of San Jose grant funding has made a difference to our Santa Teresa Park community. The difference shows in the grants' support for our various neighborhood and park programs. Specifically, our FOSTP website, our meetings, newsletters and other publications, park watch, anti-graffiti, trail-building programs, and community events like National Night Out and Fandango have given our community a sense of pride and appreciation for our neighborhood and helped to make it a better and safer place to live.

This year, our FOSTP members welcome our new Santa Clara County Parks Department partnership. Their support this year, as a co-sponsor of our 2018 NNO event allows us to hold the event at their Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch. FOSTP's members look forward to a continued partnership with the County parks to bring you more annual NNO community events. We are fortunate for the support they provided us by staffing the open buildings, restroom facilities, and a clean-up staff.



*Construction at the Muriel Wright Center, 7/29/18*

## Park Interpreter John Dorrance Retires

by Ronald Horii

At the end of April 2018, Park Interpreter John Dorrance retired. He had been a familiar face at the Bernal-Joice-Gulnac Ranch in Santa Teresa County Park. He was the ranch's first and only full-time interpreter until he retired. Prior to joining the County Parks, he was an editor and writer for the San Jose Mercury News and several magazines. In 2001, he joined the County Parks' Interpretive Department and worked on developing educational programs. In 2003, John was offered the job of interpreter at the new ranch, which opened in 2002. He jumped at the chance and set out to put his mark on the newly-restored ranch. Working with Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4H, and volunteers, he designed and directed the construction and operation of the chicken coop and covered garden boxes. In later years, he had scouts, interns, and volunteers build and maintain benches, cabinets, fences, and rabbit hutches. He had more Eagle Scout projects than anyone else in the County Parks. Keeping the ranch looking good was important to John, so he had volunteers pull weeds, pick up trash, and paint the ranch building. Single-handedly, he removed graffiti, repaired broken rails, and pulled trash from the pond at Santa Teresa Spring.

Much of his time at the ranch was spent designing and teaching interpretive programs for school groups. Students got to experience what it was like to live and play during the rancho era of the 19th century. Some of John's creations, such as sawhorses for cattle-roping and branding and a hay bale-lifting pulley demonstration, were adopted by other parks. Inside the west barn, he designed and installed an audio-visual center using donated equipment. The system has been used for showing movies and Powerpoint slide-shows. John made videos on the park's history, and they can be viewed on a TV monitor in the barn. A favorite event at the ranch has been "Bug Out" movie nights, combining classic sci-fi monster movies with displays of real insects, carnivorous plants, frogs, and reptiles. These played

to usually packed houses and became John's favorite event: "My fondest memories of my park were our science movie nights. I had figured out a way to combine two of my favorite things from childhood -- 1960's monster movies and simple science stuff. Get an amateur arachnid lover into the barn to talk, sometimes sing, about the natural history of our local spiders and show the movie 'Tarantula.' Have the public taste some chocolate covered ants and listen to a mycologist while showing them the film 'Them.' Get an forensic expert from the police department to tell of maggots and the freshness of corpses then show 'The Fly.' What could be better?!"

On his days off and on vacation, John enjoyed traveling. He particularly liked going swimming and diving in Florida and Hawaii. He's been doing more of that since he retired and spends a lot of time exploring the California coast.

John is a skilled builder and a creative artist. His office at the ranch was filled with his creations, which included animated pencil sharpeners. He modified pencil sharpeners, using the motor to turn figures, such as dragons, space ships, and planets. Before it closed, he was signed up to teach maker classes at the Tech Shop in San Jose. Now that he's retired, he'll be teaching enrichment and lifelong learning classes at Morgan Hill's Senior Center.



*John in Florida, enjoying retirement.*



*John Dorrance giving a tour of the ranch house and a demonstration of an animation wheel in 2003.*

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**For more on FOSTP, see <http://www.stpfriends.org/> Visit our STPFriends Facebook page**