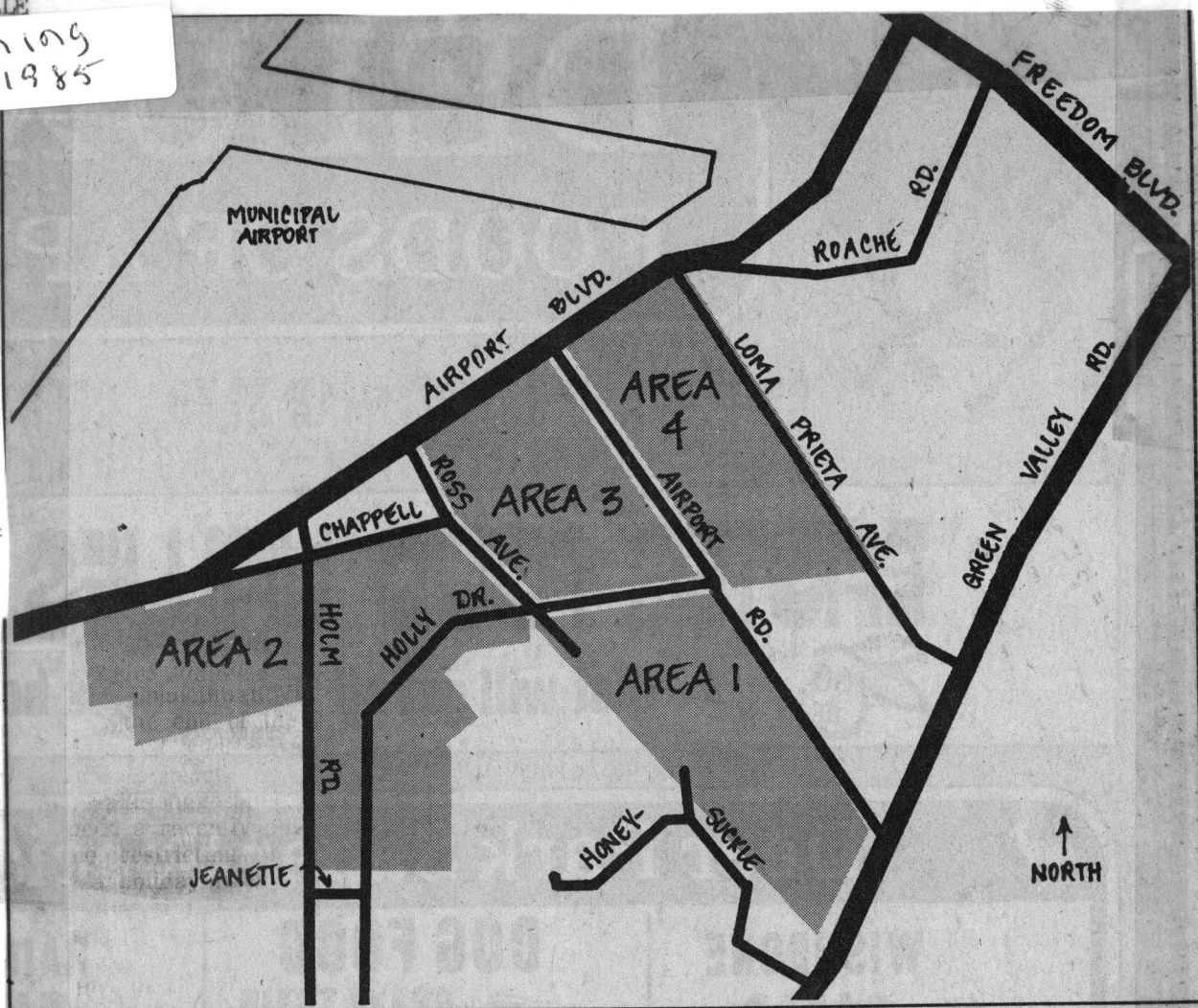


Planning
1976-1985

Map by C. Papp

Map shows areas of Freedom that will vote on annexation.

City will put annexation before voters in Freedom

By DAN YOUNG

The City Council on a split vote Tuesday night directed City Manager John Radin to proceed with plans to hold an annexation election in the Green Valley Road-Airport Boulevard area of Freedom.

The unincorporated area in question, surrounded by city land except on its northeast side, extends southwest from Loma Prieta Avenue between Airport Boulevard and Green Valley Road; it includes property on the northeast side of Loma Prieta (see map above). The unincorporated area between Airport and Green Valley from Loma Prieta to Freedom Boulevard would not be affected by the election.

Owners and residents of the Green Valley Mobile Home Park last fall petitioned for annexation to the city, and later the Pajaro Valley Unified School District asked that Freedom School, which sits on the north border of the mobile home park, be included in the annexation.

The council earlier this year, although unanimously supporting the annexation request, put off a final decision until a study of adjacent unincorporated property southwest of Loma Prieta could be conducted.

That's where the problem arose Tuesday night.

Despite a poll that showed annexation was opposed by a good portion of the registered voters in those adjacent areas, City Manager John Radin was recommending the council authorize an election for the entire area, saying "it would give the people the choice of approving or disapproving the annexation."

Mayor Ann Soldo sided with council members Betty Murphy and Vido Deretich, who said the council's action was "forcing" an election on the Freedom residents.

"I am opposed to annexation by election (when the residents do not petition for the election)," the mayor said. "I see this as just generating another problem with the Freedom-area people."

"I think it (the election) should come as in other areas, when the people have come to us ... We should not be going to the people."

Councilman Frank Osmer disagreed, saying the council was "just asking them if they want to come in."

"We've already been through this battle," Mrs. Murphy said. "And the people from Freedom have already indicated they do not want to come in."

She said the Freedom residents turned down annexation in an election "years ago," but

was quickly corrected by Councilman Rex Clark, who said only a petition was circulated seven years ago, and no election was held.

"And many of those people were coerced into signing the petition, and they'll be the first ones to admit it," Clark added.

Mrs. Murphy said the poll taken by the city pretty much indicated that nobody in the areas under question were "panting at our gates," to which Osmer responded that "polls don't mean anything."

Councilman Joe Marsano then made a motion to direct Radin to go through with the election process for the entire area southwest of Loma Prieta, and it carried with a 4-3 vote — the mayor, Deretich and Mrs. Soldo casting "no" votes.

Candida Neal of the Planning Department said this morning a date for the election has not yet been determined. The city may hold the election by mail, or set up a regular election, she added.

Plans for the election must be brought back to the council for final approval, and must also be approved by the Local Agency Formation Commission, Radin said this morning.

Radin said Tuesday night the city would hold three informational meetings in the area before the election.

WATSONVILLE
REGISTER-PAJARONIAN
April 10, 1984