

NewsBriefs

WVCS presents a meal served with compassion

Cupertino-based West Valley Community Services will see its monthly Taste of Compassion fundraiser head to Steamer's Grillhouse, 31 University Ave., in Los Gatos. The monthly fundraiser sees the nonprofit team with a local restaurant to divert half of all proceeds for programs to prevent hunger and homelessness in the West Valley.

Taste of Compassion takes place on March 21 and 22. Tickets are \$24 in advance and \$26 at the door.

Visit www.tasteofcompassion.org or call 408.255.8033, ext. 152.

Local colleges' faculty showing off artistic side

The De Anza and Foothill College art faculty and staff exhibition is open and ready for viewing at the Euphrat Museum of Art at De Anza College, 21250 Stevens Creek Blvd.

The art show presents a variety of artwork created by full-time and part-time art faculty and staff from De Anza College in Cupertino and Foothill College in Los Altos Hills. Sculptures, paintings, drawings, prints, mixed media, photography, ceramics and more will be on display until April 19.

A reception with the artists will be on April 12 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Program's goal aims to develop lifetime readers

Parents and caregivers are invited to a free presentation on interactive reading skills on March 23 beginning at 7 p.m. at Cupertino Community Hall, 10350 Torre Ave.

Raising a Reader will see host Sanika Sathe discuss with parents how they can engage their children in a routine of daily "book cuddling" from birth to age 5. The program's goal is to foster healthy brain development, parent-child bonding and early literacy skills that organizers say is critical for school success.

Call 408.446.1677, ext. 3321.

NEWS



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATT WILSON

Construction work has begun on a pathway from the Scenic Circle residential street into Blackberry Farm Park. The approximately 270-foot pathway will act partly as a safer route to school for students traveling to and from Monta Vista High and Kennedy Middle schools.

Construction commences on new pathway to tri-school area

Safety key for students, cyclists

By MATT WILSON

Construction has begun on a new access path that will allow easier pedestrian and bicycle access from areas west of Stevens Creek to the Stevens Creek Trail, Blackberry Farm Park and the nearby tri-school area, which includes Lincoln Elementary, Kennedy Middle and Monta Vista High schools.

The Scenic Circle pathway will

open up access from the Scenic Circle neighborhood into Blackberry Farm. The project includes construction of a 200-foot-long pathway, which will involve opening a gate at the site and building an access route into the park and across an existing bridge over a creek.

The pathway will provide students and residents in the Monta Vista area with what the city and some parents say is a safer route to school, compared to some of the twisting and winding hairpin portions of McClellan Road.

A crosswalk and curb ramp will be installed at the pathway entrance for safety reasons. The trail will be 8 feet wide with handrails, stairs

and ramps. The city is bringing in soil to grade the trail for handicap compliance. Wooden ramps and a railing will be added to an existing bridge.

The pathway will be made of Granicrete paving similar to what exists in the Blackberry Farm group picnic area. A low retaining wall protects a large but non-native Chinese elm tree considered important due to its size. Two larger native trees will be planted as well to offset the necessary removal of several small oaks.

The city is hoping work goes smoothly and the project will be completed in time for the start of the 2011-12 school year.

The project saw a lot of debate among neighbors in the small and secluded Scenic Circle neighborhood. Residents in the area voiced concerns throughout 2010 about the potential impact on their neighborhood due to a likely increase in pedestrian and bicycle traffic. The city hosted neighborhood meetings with residents to find ways to mitigate issues during design of the final project and after the pathway is open.

In February, the city agreed to work with Pavex, Inc. on construction. The total project cost is approximately \$360,000.