

BRIEFS

Monta Vista student up for chemistry team

The American Chemical Society announced that Stephen Ting has qualified to compete for one of four spots on the U.S. team bound for the 45th International Chemistry Olympiad to be held this year in Moscow, Russia, July 15-24.

Stephen is a senior at Monta Vista High School, and this is the second time he has been identified as one of the top 20 chemistry students in the nation. He will spend two weeks at an intensive chemistry study camp at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado.

During the camp, Stephen will receive college and graduate-level training through a series of lectures, problem-solving exercises, lab work and testing. At the camp's conclusion, four students will be chosen to represent the United States.

Historical society holding Sip of History

The Cupertino Historical Society and Museum will host its annual fundraising event "A Sip of History: Stars and Stripes" on June 30 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the historic Picchetti Winery in Cupertino, 13100 Montebello Road.

The event will have a live auction, dinner, music and tour of the winery. The cost is \$50 per person and \$10 for children under 12.

To get tickets or for more information, call 408.973.1495 or visit cuperhistoricalsociety.org.

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NEWS

Lone bidder wins creek restoration contract

Busy months ahead for construction

By MATT WILSON

The design is complete, the stack of permits is in and a construction contract has been awarded for one of Cupertino's long-awaited open space projects.

The five-member Cupertino City Council on May 21 unanimously awarded a construction contract to Robert A. Bothman, Inc. for the Stevens Creek Corridor Park and Restoration Phase 2 project.

The contract is for \$3,063,900. The company was the only bidder on the project.

The ambitious project includes a new bicycle pedestrian trail connection from Blackberry Farm Park through the Stocklmeir property and onto Stevens Creek Boulevard. There will also be restoration work to Stevens Creek itself.

The existing trail that runs through Blackberry Farm dead-ends in the parking lot near the golf course. The trail will continue out onto Stevens Creek Boulevard, near the Blue Pheasant Restaurant. A lighted pedestrian crosswalk will also be installed.

The rushing Stevens Creek will see a makeover similar to the creek work done in 2008 during the first phase of the restoration. Plans for the creek consist of removing broken concrete in the creek, widening the channel for high water events and improving the habitat.

Just as in 2008, the project could see experts capture and relocate native fish during restoration and engineers draining water from the creek, removing non-native vegetation and planting native vegetation and trees.

Bothman is no stranger to



ARCHIVE PHOTOGRAPH BY JACQUELINE RAMSEYER

This area near the old Stocklmeir House and Stevens Creek in Cupertino will eventually connect to the Stevens Creek Trail and onto Stevens Creek Boulevard in the second phase of the Stevens Creek Corridor Park and Restoration. The project will soon begin, as the city council unanimously awarded a construction contract to Robert A. Bothman, Inc. at its May 21 meeting.

Cupertino and the corridor. The company constructed the Stevens Creek Corridor Phase 1 improvements at Blackberry Farm Park in 2008-09.

Bothman's lone bid came in at about 30 percent more than what the city expected. City staff stated that the increased budget can be attributed to higher costs for the creek flow diversion system and earthwork. The creek diversion was also said to be a "highly regulated element and is an uncommon, demanding task," according to a city staff report.

As for why the city got a single bid, Cupertino public works

director Timm Borden told the city council that during the May bidding phase, staff learned that potential firms were exceptionally busy preparing bids for other large projects.

Borden added that the summertime schedule required for construction puts the corridor project in competition with other projects being bid for the same time frame, such as schools, other creek and restoration projects, and all projects that have to execute work during the summer season and dry months.

Borden also told the council that the improving economy is

seeing a demand for construction, while the supply of qualified contractors has yet to fully rebound. In addition, regulatory agencies were unable to provide project permits in a timely fashion. The necessary federal approvals took 11 months to secure, according to a staff report.

Cupertino city staff believed the delay caused the project to be bid later into the busy spring season, resulting in more competition with other projects and reducing the possible options for responding to a high bid.

The adopted project budget is

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City makes changes to tree fee

By MATT WILSON

The city of Cupertino has made a small change to its municipal code regarding street trees.

The city council voted unanimously May 21 to change the code so not every building remodel requires a street tree fee.

City code previously stated that every person who constructs, remodels or alters any dwelling, commercial or industrial property, or who constructs on any unim-

proved land or property abutting a public street where approved street trees from the city's Master Street Tree List do not exist would need to pay a required fee prior to the issuance of a building permit.

The updated amendment limits the requirement for installation of street trees to only those developments or projects that are subject to street improvement requirements and where approved street trees from

the Master Street Tree List do not exist.

Any building permit that does not constitute at least a 25 percent increase in floor area of an existing structure is exempt from street improvement requirements and would also now be exempt from the street tree fee.

Cupertino public works director Timm Borden estimated to the council that the fee is about \$150.

For more information about city tree policies, visit cupertino.org/trees.

Trail

Continued from page 1

All four cities agreed. The criteria for choosing remain the same in all other respects."

Sunnyvale city staff is marketing the position as "a roll up your sleeves, technically focused effort." Members will give input to augment a broader public outreach effort that is taking place and will require an approximate six-month commitment, averaging one to two meetings per month.

Martin-Milius said this action will delay things by about a month to allow the task force to make the choices for each city.

"Even with the delay, I believe this is a fairer process for all participants and affected parties," Martin-Milius said. "A fair process serves us all well in the long run."

The Stevens Creek Trail Joint Cities Feasibility Study is a project aimed at assisting city councils from the four participating cities in narrowing feasible alternatives for completion of a multi-use trail in the Stevens Creek

corridor. The study will provide information necessary for each city to consider advancing a project to the environmental, design and construction phases.

Anyone interested in being on the citizens working group is asked to submit an application to the city of Sunnyvale Department of Public Works by June 7 at 5 p.m. Applications can be submitted online, in person or by mail.

For application materials and more information, visit visitsunnyvale.ca.gov/Departments/PublicWorks.

Corridor

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\$4.347 million, with \$2.435 million of those funds coming from grants and outside sources. Since the budget adoption, several additional funding sources totaling \$383,600 have been secured toward project expenses, including a \$214,000 Habitat Conservation Fund grant,

a \$74,600 cost share contribution from the Cupertino Sanitary District toward relocating a sanitary sewer main, and a \$95,000 Transportation Fund for Clean Air grant.

The council also gave city manager David Brandt the go-ahead to execute a consultant services agreement with SSA Landscape Architects for construction phase services for an amount not to exceed \$195,000.

The council also approved

outside funding in the amount of \$383,600 to the project budget and an additional amount of \$398,000. Authorization was also given to dedicate a new sanitary main and corresponding easement to the Cupertino Sanitary District to accommodate the sewer main relocation.

For more information about the project, visit cupertino.org.

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