

MEMBERS SOUGHT FOR CITIZENS WORKING GROUP TO CONSULT ON STEVENS CREEK TRAIL

*Residents who live near trail now
eligible to join group*

BY ALIA WILSON AND MATT WILSON

More voices are wanted in helping piece the Stevens Creek trail together.

The cities of Sunnyvale, Cupertino, Los Altos and Mountain View are inviting residents to apply for a spot on a citizens group whose job it is to look at connecting the trail to the San Francisco Bay.

Residents in the group will assist agency staff, a consultant team and policy representatives in preparing a feasibility study of trail development in the Stevens Creek Corridor. The project goal is to someday connect planned trail segments in Cupertino and Mountain View.

The citizens working group was formed in October 2012 with two members from each city. The project is seeking an additional member from each city to give neighbors of the creek trail who didn't have the chance to apply before the opportunity to do so.

Initially members of the Stevens Creek Trail Feasibility Study Four Cities working group barred residents who live within 500 feet of the trail from joining the committee.

"This limitation caused a great deal of consternation and mistrust among many residents," said Tara Martin-Milius, working group member. "By removing the limitation and adding one person per city, this roadblock to participation was eliminated.

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Summer Sounds: Cupertino Summer Concert Series kicks off June 6..... *page 7*

At a Good Clip: Sophomore creates 'Clipped' app that summarizes articles *page 4*



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Don't Be a Victim

With crime on the rise
in the West Valley, look
for ways to be safe

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY GEORGE SAKKESTAD

A :::::MediaNews Group NEWSPAPER

Auto thefts and home burglaries are on the rise in almost all West Valley and San Jose neighborhoods.

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

Continued from page 2

\$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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