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Green youth bonded by common concern

On Dec. 6, Los Altos High School's Green Team set up a table in the quad and waited. Over the course of a short 40-minute lunch period, we collected more than 165 signatures for the Cool Cities petition.

How are young Los Altans showing their concern about global warming? For her senior project, Leila Thomas is hosting "Beat the Heat," a dance show whose profits will benefit the Alliance for Climate Protection. The Dec. 14 issue of our school newspaper featured green tips and environment-related articles. Once at marching band practice, I was emptying and crushing bottles and cans in the band room and was surprised when other kids jumped in to help! The E Cubed Youth Philanthropy Board made environmental projects a preference for their funding criteria. And representatives from the Green Team spoke about global warming at the Jan. 22 city council meeting.

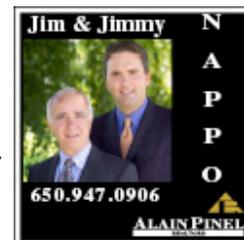
We have a lot to be proud of. PG&E ranked LAHS in the top 10 most energy-efficient schools in the state. No matter what you believe about climate change, reducing our town's greenhouse gas emissions will do only good – less

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dependence on foreign oil, less pollutants and a stronger community, bonded by a common concern.

Kira Labuda, sophomore,

Los Altos High School

Stevens Creek Trail would harm habitat

Thank you for publishing Mr. Otto Sterba's letter (Town Crier, Jan. 30). I hope our paper can continue the dialogue to educate the residents of the south Los Altos area and those who travel through the area daily.

Stevens Creek in Los Altos is aligned with Sunnyvale on one side and Los Altos homes on the other side for the most part. The creek location in Los Altos and Sunnyvale compared to Mountain View is like night and day. From El Camino Real at Highway 85 (Mountain View), the Stevens Creek Trail to Shoreline Business Park is aligned with Highway 85, PG&E power poles and commercial properties all along the way.

That is not the case in Los Altos, unless you ruin the banks of the creek with asphalt trails and challenge the existing habitat of the land and waterways.

I'm all for safe trails through our city, but I believe we can do better by using the existing streets that can be improved upon and benefit those who choose to walk and bike through the area as I do daily.

The trail supporters want to route the trail from Mountain View High School to Rancho San Antonio Park. The existing streets of Grant Road and Foothill Expressway (Frontage Road) could be used.

The most people would benefit by these improvements with the least harm to the creek and risks to the security of the Los Altos homeowners for the least amount of money. Or does this make too much sense?

Connie Mariottini

Los Altos

Creek trail an undeniable asset

The Town Crier recently published an opinion from Otto Sterba (Jan. 30) opposing a Stevens Creek Trail connector through Los Altos, citing potential crime, traffic congestion and a decrease in property values.

I'm dismayed by Mr. Sterba's largely misinformed viewpoint. Studies have repeatedly shown that recreational trails both lower crime (due to increased area vigilance by



In Our Opinion

Editorial

The scene at the Feb. 28 Los Altos Hills City Council meeting was touching: Dozens of workers from the Los Altos Garbage Company (LAGCo), dressed in their fluorescent

trail users) and increase property values (due to recreational, health and environmental benefits of trail proximity). Further, facilitating a viable north-south bicycle route will lower congestion, especially given the forthcoming increase in traffic due to dense office developments under construction in the Moffett Field area. Finally, Mr. Sterba's suggestion that Los Altos has "enough parks and recreational areas" is a curious viewpoint, one that I doubt is shared by many of his fellow Los Altos.

Failure to establish an optimal connector between the Mountain View and Cupertino trail portions via available Los Altos public right-of-way would be a truly unfortunate missed opportunity.

While Mr. Sterba finds little appeal in the trail, to deny the larger community its undeniable benefits would be tragic. I urge the citizens and elected officials of Los Altos to enthusiastically support the extension of the Stevens Creek Trail through our city.

Bill Sheppard

Los Altos

their fluorescent uniforms, pleaded with council members to renew the town's contract and continue a relationship going back 30 years.

The council is seriously considering a staff recommendation to sign with a new company, Green Waste Recovery Services of San Jose, which is offering expanded service at a lower cost.

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