

The Mercury News

MercuryNews.com

Cupertino: Excitement builds for Cleo Avenue home build project

By Matt Wilson
mwilson@community-newspapers.com

Posted: 07/14/2011 08:04:06 PM PDT

A partnership among the city of Cupertino, Habitat for Humanity Silicon Valley and local volunteers is one step closer to being shovel-ready. The Cupertino City Council recently approved the subdivision of a one-third of an acre lot into four lots and two common areas for a single-family residential development.

The unanimous decision also grants a use permit to allow Habitat for Humanity to develop the four residences. The organization envisions a four-unit, single-family residential development on a vacant lot on the south side of Cleo Avenue. The triangle-shaped project site is surrounded by vacant land and Highway 85 on the north and east sides, townhouses on the south and a single-family residence to the west.

The city's vote of approval comes nearly six years after the land was first targeted for development. In August 2005, the city acquired the excess property on Cleo Avenue from the California Department of Transportation for \$615,000 for development of an affordable-housing project. The city used housing mitigation fees to purchase the property.

In late 2007, the city council agreed to transfer the property to Habitat for Humanity Silicon Valley for the construction of four single-family homes for low- to very low-income Cupertino households.

Home construction assistance will come from Cupertino service clubs such as Rotary, Lions and Kiwanis. Local faith-based organizations and congregations will assist on a second

home, and the other two homes will be spearheaded by Cisco Systems.

At the council's latest meeting July 5, members from service clubs and the faith-based groups came out

to boisterously voice support for the project and show their eagerness to grab hammers and start building.

"I think the community in general is very enthusiastic and looking forward to starting this project and working with Habitat for Humanity," said Wendell Stephens of Cupertino Rotary. "We're thrilled to have an organization of the prestige and caliber of Habitat to work with on this project. A good segment of the community is looking forward to bringing this to fruition."

In May, the Cleo Avenue project was the beneficiary of the Rotary Club's Golf Classic. Stephens said Rotary has \$25,000 to donate to the project.

Ed Ramage, who heads bingo activities at St. Joseph of Cupertino Parish, said the church and school has already started raising money.

"The response to it has been very, very positive. The school itself has contributed in different ways and is planning some activities to support it," he said. "We're very much in favor of this project and to see it go forward."

Dale Jones from Bethel Lutheran Church in Cupertino said his church has worked with Habitat for Humanity Silicon Valley for 20 years and has done home builds in San Jose, Santa Clara, Campbell and recently in Morgan Hill. This will be the first Cupertino project for the church.

"We are very excited about working on homes right here in our own neighborhood," Jones said.



HEARTLAND QUALITY
OMAHA STEAKS
SINCE 1917

SAVE
up to **64%**
to

Plus, get
3 FREE Gifts

Special Code: 45069ZWN

To order: www.OmahaSteaks.com/print71
or call 1-877-605-0496

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

The Mercury News

MercuryNews.com

Pastor Blake Busick of Good Samaritan United Methodist Church of Cupertino added that the volunteers will be building more than a house.

"There are a number of reasons why we are very excited about this project, both because of the need but also because of the chance it affords us to connect with other faith communities in our community to help them build this home and support it financially and in other ways," Busick said. "There has been a lot of work being done to get us connected together, and we really feel the relationships we are building here, aside from helping to build these homes, will be lasting for us."

The Cleo Avenue site is quite small and will be a tight fit. The council during the July 5 meeting asked city staff dozens of questions for over two hours about parking, garbage and living logistics on the site. The homes will be accessed by a 20-foot-wide driveway leading to an eight-car open parking lot.

Behind the parking lot and toward the rear of the site, there will be the four small two-story, wood frame single-family residences. The proposed homes will be clustered around a pedestrian pathway that connects the parking lot at one end to a community garden and play area at the other end.

Construction could begin in either October or November, according to Habitat officials. Families are currently being selected to live in the homes and future residents are expected to help with the construction of their homes.

Get a FREE ADT-Monitored Home Security System.*

(With \$99 customer installation and purchase of ADT alarm monitoring services. See important terms and conditions below.)

Call Now! 1-877-835-8373



*\$99.00 Customer Installation Charge. 36-Month Monitoring Agreement required at \$35.99 per month (\$1,295.64). Form of payment must be by credit card or electronic charge to your checking or savings account. Offer applies to homeowners only. Local permit fees may be required. Satisfactory credit history required. Certain restrictions apply. Offer valid for new Security Choice - An ADT Authorized Dealer customers only and not on purchases from ADT Security Services, Inc. Other rate plans available. Cannot be combined with any other offer. **\$100 VISA® Gift Card Offer: \$100 VISA Gift Card is provided by Security Choice and is not sponsored by ADT Security Services. Requires mail-in redemption. Call 1-888-407-2338 for complete restrictions and redemption requirements.

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™