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Redwood City 2020 Tuesday Tidbits

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Safe Routes to School Infrastructure, Staff Update, Welcoming Stars

Welcoming Redwood City 2020's New Family Engagement Program Coordinator

Redwood City 2020 is very pleased to welcome Jacqueline Contreras as Redwood City 2020's Family Engagement Program Coordinator. Jackie has a wealth of community-based experience to contribute to Redwood City 2020 and we are very fortunate to welcome her on our team.



Jackie comes to Redwood City 2020 after working at FLY, a Bay Area nonprofit, where she supported high school students in accomplishing their goals by providing one-on-one mentoring and facilitating law related education. Her interest in family engagement comes from recognizing the need to not only empower students but also committing to the overall success of a family. With close ties to Spanish-speaking communities, Jackie also brings a passion for engaging and supporting primarily Spanish speaking families.

Jackie is excited to be a part of the Redwood City 2020 team and looks forward to being a reliable community partner as the Family Engagement Program Coordinator



Safe Routes to School/Green Infrastructure Projects Making Progress

Two Safe Routes to School infrastructure projects are making major progress near school sites in Redwood City and North Fair Oaks. These projects were funded through a pilot grant program from the City/County Association of Governments (C/CAG) to combine Safe Routes to School improvements with more sustainable stormwater infrastructure. These

projects, informed by Redwood City 2020 Safe Routes to School Walk Audits, help shorten the length of crosswalks so students spend less time in the street while also helping to divert stormwater into basins that absorb the water rather than simply drain into the bay.

The two projects are located near Taft Community School and the Fair Oaks school campus. While Fair Oaks Community School has been consolidated with other nearby schools, hundreds

of students attending two charter schools (Connect and KIPP Excelencia) at the Fair Oaks campus will benefit from the improvements. The project at Fair Oaks includes a former patch of asphalt turned into a "bio-retention area" to absorb rainwater runoff and the project near Taft includes upgraded crosswalks, extended curbs to shorten the time students are in the street, and bio-retention areas to capture rainwater. These sites were awarded the funding not only due to the need for improved infrastructure, but also because of the involvement of the schools, students, and families in Safe Routes to School encouragement and education events throughout the year.

Additionally, the area is seeing progress on other safety-related infrastructure projects through the Livable Neighborhood Streets project, which is making improvements in several neighborhoods of Redwood City and North Fair Oaks.

Welcoming Star Awarded to Multicultural Institute

On January 27th, at Redwood City's Council meeting, Councilmembers and Redwood City Together celebrated the latest Welcoming Stars award recipient, Multicultural Institute.



Founder and Executive Director Father Rigoberto Calocarivas, staff members, and day laborers and domestic workers of Multicultural Institute were present to receive the award on behalf of Multicultural Institute. For over 13 years, [Multicultural Institute](#) has walked alongside the day laborer community in North Fair Oaks and accompanied them in their transition from poverty and isolation to workforce participation and prosperity. Within this time period, Multicultural Institute has served over 1,200 day laborers and domestic workers with wraparound services such as job placement, housing, legal aid, education, and healthcare. By conducting outreach directly out on the streets, Multicultural Institute staff build trust within the day laborer community and continue to help the immigrant community reach economic stability.

Community members can take action and support the Multicultural Institute by hiring day laborers and domestic workers through the Multicultural Institute and/or donate your time and financial support. Additionally, you can attend the [Multicultural Institute 13th Anniversary Dinner](#), a fundraising event, on March 5th at Synapse School (3375 Edison Way, Menlo Park).

Redwood City Together is a Redwood City 2020 initiative that builds empathy, understanding, and supportive action to bridge social divides such as race, class, and immigration status in order to create a welcoming environment for all. To honor local pioneers which help build an inclusive community, Redwood City Together gives a quarterly [Welcoming Stars award](#). Do you know a Welcoming Star in your community? Send in a nomination [here](#).

Missed a previous edition? Find it on our [Resources page](#).

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