



**RSVP
NOW**

DRINK WINE AND WIN PRIZES

by Nancy Radcliffe

CityTrees is once again gathering for their annual Fundraiser at **Savvy Cellars**. The third annual fund-raising event will be on **Sunday, May 3rd, from 7:00 to 10:00**. The first 50 guests to RSVP will join *Jennifer Ayer* of Savvy Cellars www.savvycellar.com as she guides us through a flight of wine. We will be raffling off several cool prizes and one lucky raffle ticket will win someone a tree planted in their yard by CityTrees. The cost per person is only \$50.00, which includes a flight of wine, appetizers and a raffle ticket. Feeling lucky? More raffle tickets can be purchased throughout the night. Members of CityTrees will lead a brief discussion on Redwood City's Urban Forest. So please join us for an evening of great wine and good company, and help us raise money for a great cause.

SAVE THE DATE! RSVP now by calling (650) 556-9380 ext. 4, provide your name, address, telephone number and the number of tickets you want. Checks can be mailed to P.O. Box 984, Redwood City, CA 94064.

For more information:
www.citytrees.org
P.O. Box 984
Redwood City, CA 94064
Tel: (650) 556-9380 ext. 4
Fax: (650) 556-9385

**TREE
CARE**

6TH ANNUAL PRUNING WORKSHOP

by Dan Beeder

Twenty-four local residents learned how to prune and care for young trees at our tree-pruning workshop on February 21st. This was the 6th-annual, free public workshop sponsored by CityTrees in collaboration with the Redwood City Public Works Services Department. The workshops are integral to CityTrees' mission to provide education and outreach for tree planting, maintenance, and preservation.

The latest workshop was the most successful so far, providing a greater focus on hands-on learning by shortening classroom time and extending time spent pruning trees outside. The workshop began with 45 minutes of classroom training on proper tree care, pruning, and maintenance. This training was led by *Maria D'Agostino*, Urban Forestry Expert for the Redwood City Public Works Dept., and included the reasons for pruning, tree growth patterns, making proper cuts, and establishing good tree structure.

After the classroom training, the class moved immediately to a nearby site, John Gill Elementary School. Here participants saw first-hand how pruning decisions are made and observed proper pruning techniques in action. The class then broke into smaller groups, each led by an experienced pruning captain, and were encouraged to practice their new knowledge on trees that CityTrees planted on campus 6 years ago.

Workshop participants can also apply their newly-gained skills at our next tree pruning outing on **Saturday, March 21st, starting 9:00 am, at Jeter St. and Katherine Ave.** in Redwood City. Seven more pruning outings are also planned for this year, once a month from May-November. If you would like to attend future tree care workshops, or are interested in joining the CityTrees volunteers in future pruning outings, please go to www.citytrees.org and add yourself to our notification list via the "Contact Us" link.



Pruning at John Gill Elementary School

CDF GRANT

STATE BUDGET CRISIS HITS CITYTREES

By Tom Cronin

All of us I'm sure have seen the headlines about the California State Budget that was just recently passed (many months late). But when reading the paper did you realize that the budget crisis also impacted the work that we do at CityTrees? In 2007, CityTrees applied for and received a Green Trees for the Golden State grant from the California Department of Forestry (CDF). The grant supported CityTrees planting and pruning trees in Redwood City through 2008. As we were preparing to submit our final invoice for our last planting of the year, we received a 'stop work notice' from CDF. Essentially what the notice informed us of was that due to the budget crisis and uncertainty in the funding for CDF they would not accept any more invoices against the grant. Much to our surprise we had to now wait until the budget crisis was resolved to know if we could receive payment for our last planting of the year. The moral of the story is that we at CityTrees need to be able to generate funding from many sources and we need to be flexible in how we apply those funds to our various programs. We continue to be grateful to all of the organizations and individuals who have supported us over the past nine years. *We look forward to your continued support of our work--with or without a state budget!*

RWC & CITYTREES

A SUPPORTIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH REDWOOD CITY

By Karen Fine

Since CityTrees began in May 2000, we have worked very closely with the City of Redwood City. Hard-working personnel from the Public Works Department have provided logistical and financial support in many ways: selecting and coordinating planting sites, selecting the types of trees to be planted and buying them from their preferred nurseries, pre-digging planting holes, providing personnel to work along with us at our selected planting and pruning events, providing bins to collect compostable greens cut during prunings, use of their tools and trucks, teaching at our pruning workshops, and providing advice on best planting practices, and regularly attending our board meetings. We have also benefited greatly from the ongoing support of the mayor and city council. They attend our fundraisers, donate money, encourage our growth and development, and support us publicly at many local events. Without the enthusiastic support and help of Redwood City government, CityTrees would have had a very difficult time fulfilling its mission of increasing the urban forest of Redwood City. We both have the same focus. With our volunteer labor and our outside funding from grants and individuals, Redwood City comes nearer to its goal of planting more trees in Redwood City. For both organizations, it is a beneficial relationship.

Open Volunteer Positions

CityTrees is currently looking for a number of volunteers to work with us. *You can help shape the direction of CityTrees' work in the future by becoming an active **Board Member**.* Board meetings are on the first Thursday of each month, 7-9 p.m. at the downtown public library. They are open to prospective members.

We could also use the talents of someone interested in doing **Public Relations/Community Outreach** which involves cultivating and maintaining strong relationships with print and media professionals, drafting and disseminating press releases and support material, advising on strategies to increase involvement and awareness of CityTrees throughout the community.

CityTrees is also looking for tree enthusiasts in these positions: **Education Coordinator, Volunteer Outreach, Photographer, Tree Planters and Pruners**. To inquire, please call CityTrees at 650-556-9380, ext. 4.

PLANTING TIPS

PLANTING TIPS

By Maria D'Agostino

Planting a tree is a simple process – choose wisely and plant correctly. Good decisions and proper techniques are critical for avoiding heartache and future maintenance costs.

When folks ask me what tree they should plant, I always suggest that they take a walk to familiarize themselves with what is doing well in their neighborhood. Do you see something you like? Is it thriving? Find out what it is and do some research.

Once you know the plant's sun, soil, and space requirements, you can decide where to plant. A large evergreen tree might be better off on the north side of your home, rather than in front of the picture window that lets in winter light. A redwood would be a lovely addition to the CENTER of your front or backyard, not near your fence line or under the high voltage lines. Make sure there is room for the tree to thrive, not just grow.

After you choose your site, dig the hole wide, not deep. A good ratio is two times wider than the root ball, and a few inches deeper. In our clay soil and bay mud, it is a good idea to loosen the soil, especially the sides of the hole that can become impermeable to water and root penetration if smooth. Avoid the temptation to add any soil amendments. If you want to add something, after planting, place a layer of mulch in a foot wide circle around the base of the tree. Mulch breaks down and becomes organic matter and it will keep moisture in, weeds out.

Before you plant, locate the root crown. The plants have been in containers of planting mix, not soil, and on daily doses of 'fertigation'. As a result, fine and dense adventitious roots can develop on the stem above the root crown, and should be trimmed. In addition to adventitious roots, circling roots can form while growing in containers. Straighten and stretch them out into the planting hole before backfilling with soil. Cut them if they are too woody to straighten - a small cut will heal quickly and well, but a circling root left to grow into a girdling root might mean death to your tree. After any necessary root pruning, tamp down the loosened soil and place the tree in the hole. As you backfill, continue to gently tamp down the soil to prevent air pockets.

When finished, the top of the rootball should be visible and at the same level as the ground or sidewalk. Plant too high and the roots can dry out; plant too low and water can collect and rot the root crown. Lastly, make a watering berm and fill it up! Even native and drought tolerant plants need water to become established. Again, the trees are transitioning from a very regular water and fertilizer regime at the nursery. Initial deep watering is crucial to the long-term success of your tree. *Remember when it comes to trees, we are planting for future generations – make a good choice, and give your trees a good start.*

SIDE-WALKS

POURED IN PLACE SIDEWALKS

By Mike Gibbons

As another option to provide safe, accessible and tree friendly sidewalks, the City of Redwood City has been using Poured in Place (PIP) resilient Paving as a part of their Tree Preservation and Sidewalk Replacement Program in the Adelante School neighborhood recently. The PIP is an ADA approved surfacing frequently used in parks and playgrounds to provide an accessible surface for wheelchairs to access park areas. The City uses it at certain tree locations because it reduces the amount of excavation around tree roots and limits the amount of root pruning which may otherwise be required to install concrete. The product is colored gray, closely matching the color of new concrete, and it feels a little more flexible under foot than the traditional concrete. A grant from the State of California helps pay for this Tire Derived Product, diverting at least 2,500 passenger car tires from the landfill. For more information, contact Mike Gibbons, Public Works Superintendent at 780.7464.

CITYTREES EVENTS FOR 2009

CityTrees has **five** planting events and **eight** pruning/maintenance events planned for 2009. Volunteers from community groups will assist at each of these events to help reach the City Trees goal of enhancing the urban canopy in Redwood City.

We still need volunteers to join in the work for each of these events. We start working at 9 a.m. and finish by 12 noon. City Trees will provide the tools and the snacks, including water.

Children under the age of 16 need to be accompanied by a parent or other adult and the adult must sign a waiver of liability. Parents/guardians must provide transportation for minors to and from the planting site.

All volunteers should provide evidence of their health insurance.

See the schedule at right for upcoming events. The schedule will be updated as the information for dates and locations are finalized in conjunction with the City of Redwood City. Please visit us on the web at www.citytrees.org for the most current event schedule.

Upcoming Events:

March 21

Pruning Trees,
Katherine and Jeter Streets

April 18

Planting Trees, Hudson Avenue,
between Madison and Redwood

May 2

Pruning Trees, location TBA

May 16

Planting Trees, location TBA

June 20

Planting Trees, location TBA

June 27

Pruning Trees, location TBA

July 18

Pruning Trees, location TBA

August 13

Pruning Trees, location TBA

Proud Sponsors

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California ReLeaf

City of Redwood City

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Peninsula Sunrise Rotary

Peter & Paula Uccelli Foundation

Redwood Shores Community Assoc.

San Bruno Garbage Co.

Wegman's Nursery

Interested in becoming a sponsor? Contact Georgi LaBerge via e-mail: GLaBerge@aol.com