

Humane Society's new Animal Community Center on track

Humane Society Silicon Valley's new Animal Community Center in Milpitas is on track and expected to open to the public in spring 2009. On Sunday, Mayor Jose Esteves joined charter members for a behind-the-scenes tour of the 48,000-square-foot center, which the Humane Society broke ground on last October. The Animal Community Center is being built on 4.8 acres of land in Milpitas near the GreatMall and will be able to accommodate up to 10,000 animal adoptions a year.

The \$25-million project will be the first animal welfare agency to combine an adoption program with a full spectrum of services to address each pet's emotional, medical, behavioral and nutritional needs. The center will fea-

ture an adoption galleria with home-like habitats for dogs, cats and rabbits. It will also feature affordable spay/neuter services, a veterinary hospital with educational public viewing rooms, an indoor presentation area, innovative education programs, a pet supply store, dog grooming, doggie day care, pet boarding, a community dog park and a pet-friendly café.

The center will be a "green" building that meets Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design standards set by the national Green Building Council — a level of sustainability never before achieved in an animal welfare facility.

"We want to build a sustainable, environmentally friendly center that will not only promote animals but promote water sav-

ings and energy efficiency," said Christine Benninger, Humane Society Silicon Valley president.

During the hardhat tour, Benninger pointed out where a photovoltaic system would be built on the building's roof and over a portion of the community dog park, walkway and parking areas. The system is expected to generate up to 40 percent of the Humane Society's power needs.

Mayor Esteves, who attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the new center last October, said the Animal Community Center "will be a destination point for people who love animals."

For more information about the new center and to view photos of the building progress, visit <http://giving.hssv.org/campaign>.



Milpitas Mayor Jose Esteves (center) tours Humane Society Silicon Valley's new Animal Community Center with President Christine Benninger and board member Michael "Mickey" Bonasera in the new Education Center.

Photo courtesy of Humane Society Silicon Valley

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