Los Altos Hills Town Newsletter - Early 1978

Table of Contents:

Page 1	Property Tax - limitations, Per capita expense breakdown
Page 2	Storm damage, Little League, Little League Field named Stan Troedson Field
Page 3	Watch Alert, Dirt Bike Heaven, Rules for vehicles using private property, Westwind Barn Open House, Dogs astray, Schedule of Town Meetings
Page 4	Building activity trends with graph, Revenue versus Expense graph over the years

Page 1

EARLY 1978 10

BULK RATE
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TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS
NEWSLETTER

PROPERTY TAX — LIMITATION

Property taxes have become unbearably high, with assessments soaring out of proportion. The State legislature has been unable to bite the bullet and reach an equitable solution regarding property tax reform.

Simple measures, such as removing education, health and welfare from the property tax rolls (which would also comply with Supreme Court decisions), are not considered by the legislature. This is probably due to the simplicity and the overall equity they would provide. Therefore, the people of California have placed an Initiative on the June ballot to accomplish what the legislature has not been able to.

In recognizing the strong demand for tax relief from its citizens, the Town is developing contingency plans for an eventual property tax revenue reduction. The chart depicts the Town's property tax as it relates to the total General Fund Revenue. The Town's share of your total property tax is less than three percent, but it amounts to about thirty percent of General Fund Revenue. An analysis of the proposed Initiative indicates the Town would receive about one third of present property tax revenue, if it passes.

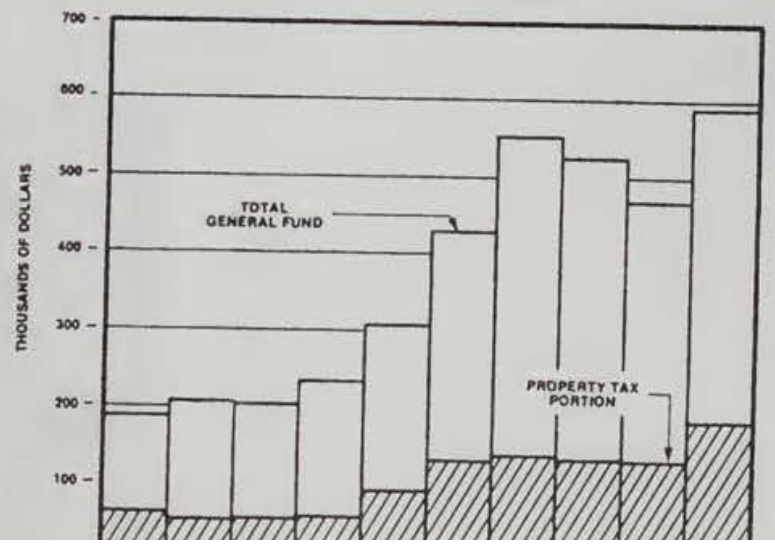
Because of the low property tax rate ($0.30) the relative impact of the Initiative is considerably less than on other communities approximately our size. This is shown by the following per capita revenue figures compiled by the University of California:

Los Altos Hills	$22.17	Corte Madera	$58.12
Woodside	32.75	Tiburon	58.23
Rolling Hills Estates	49.05	Carmel	81.11
Fairfax	52.28	Signal Hill	97.04
Morgan Hill	55.58	Sausalito	121.95

Additional evaluation of expense figures for the same ten cities as computed by the University of California for general government expense and total operating expense (not including capital expense) portrays the Town's per capita expense in a favorable light and further indicates the Initiative would have less impact on the Town's ability to function and provide service.

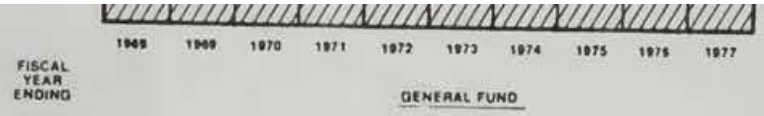
PER CAPITA EXPENSE

General Government		*Total Operating*	
Los Altos Hills	$17.64	Los Altos Hills	$ 76.48
Corte Madera	19.43	Corte Madera	169.81
Fairfax	21.72	Fairfax	124.68
Morgan Hill	22.23	Morgan Hill	188.12
Rolling Hills Estates	24.48	Rolling Hills Estates	173.57
Woodside	28.88	Woodside	85.14
Carmel	40.09	Carmel	351.17
Signal Hill	46.17	Signal Hill	413.92
Sausalito	52.48	Sausalito	380.53



Reminder:

VOTE ON MARCH 7!



Page 2

STORM DAMAGE

During the recent heavy rain storms, substantial damage to both public and private property was averted by prompt, effective response to emergencies by the Town's Street Maintenance crew.

These responses included: middle of the night clearing of mud slides on Page Mill Road; unplugging of hundreds of storm drains that, if not taken care of, would have caused severe property damage; filling and placing sandbags to protect many private properties from flooding; clearing roads of trees that had been blown down by the storm (many roads had been completely blocked); removing trees on private property that were endangering utility lines and structures; and, clearing debris and mud from Town streets.

Without the active response of the Town's dedicated Street Maintenance crew, there would have been tens of thousands of dollars of property damage, including both public and private. Several streets would have remained impassable for days, however, this was prevented by crew members being on call twenty-four hours and on weekends.

During some of the heaviest part of the storm, the Town attempted to supplement its crew with private contractors, but due to weekends, etc., none were immediately available so the entire burden rested on the crew. The brief respites between storms permitted time for the small work force to catch up and stay ahead of the slides and run-off.

HILLS LITTLE LEAGUE

Little League signups for boys and girls were held February 4, 7, and 11. For those who missed the advance publicity and may be interested in playing on a team, call one of the following for more information:

BOYS BASEBALL —

Minor League — Ages 8–10	Call B. J. Cassin	941-1839
Major League — Ages 11–12	Call Jim Imbernon	941-5280
Senior League — Ages 13–15	Call Fred O'Such	948-4166

GIRLS SOFTBALL —

Major League — Ages 9–12	Call Carol Penn	948-1891
Senior League — Ages 13–16	Call Katy Jo Taylor	948-7284
Big League — Ages 16–18	Call Pearl DuHamel	941-2585

They will be drafting teams very soon so call as soon as possible to make sure you get on a team. With the exception of the Girls Big League, games will be scheduled between April 15 and June 24. Girls Big League games will run between May 20 and July 20 so as not to conflict with the high school schedules.

All residents are urged to come and join Little League participants for what is one of the Town's most fun activities. It's also a great way to get acquainted with many Town neighbors and enjoy other activities that are interspersed with game schedules to make it well worth your "time-out!"

LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD RENAMED STAN TROEDSON FIELD

Acting on a suggestion by the Little League Board, the City Council recently renamed the Little League field.

Stan Troedson was a founder of the Hills Little League and a tireless and dedicated worker for the youth of our Town. He was a talented, compassionate, fun-loving coach and a friend who loved children and who now leaves a legacy for all the children who become involved in the sports at the field.

The City Council desired, in some measure, to continue Stan Troedson's spirit of good will and generosity so that many of our Town's families can enjoy the good fellowship he worked so hard and devotedly to achieve. The Resolution that was adopted by the City Council was presented at the Little League Awards Dinner to the Troedson family. Mrs. Troedson was recognized and presented with an engraved plaque of the Resolution naming the field the Stan Troedson Field.

WATCH ALERT

On Thursday, February 9, 1978 a "Watch Alert" program was presented at Town Hall by the Sheriff's Department and the following points were made relative to burglary prevention.

In Los Altos Hills burglaries are committed by using unlocked doors and windows. One sound of breaking glass or the tampering with a lock is a deterrent. All outside doors should have a dead bolt.

If you see a suspicious act or person or automobile call the Sheriff's Department. Too many residents hesitate to call when they see something thinking that it will be treated lightly — it will not be — the Sheriff's Department encourages calls reporting incidents of a suspicious nature.

If you return home and surprise a burglar — do not try and stop him — give him an escape route — your responsibility is to protect yourself and your family. Immediately write down a complete description of the person and call the Sheriff's Department.

Residents should acquaint themselves with their neighbors and their cars. Keep in touch with one another letting each other know when they will be away and request that the Sheriff be called in event of problems.

DIRT BIKE HEAVEN??

With the coming of Spring is heard not only the melodic chirping of birds returning to nest, but also the loud buzzing of motorcycles and/or dirt bikes. Judging by calls to Town Hall, this problem has become a serious matter.

What appears to be one instigator of this activity is the lack of knowledge by persons involved of Town laws. Section 4-3.810 of the Municipal Code reads as follows:

VEHICLES USING PRIVATE PROPERTY

(a) Driver's license required. No person shall drive a motorcycle, motor-driven cycle, or motor vehicle (other than an implement of husbandry, a farm tractor, or a motor-assisted bicycle), upon *any* private property within the Town or upon any private road or driveway in the Town (unless such private road is then subject to the regulatory provisions of the Vehicle Code) unless he holds in his possession a *valid driver's license*.

(b) Vehicle registration required. No person, whether he is *licensed* or *not*, shall drive any motorcyle, motor-driven cycle, or motor vehicle (other than an implement of husbandry, a farm tractor, or a motor-assisted bicycle) upon any private property within the Town or upon any private road or driveway in the Town (unless such private road is then subject to the regulatory provisions of the Vehicle Code) unless such motorcycle, motor-driven cycle, or motor vehicle is duly *registered* with the Department of Motor Vehicles of the State pursuant to the provisions of the Vehicle Code, and evidence of such registration is displayed pursuant to the provisions of the Vehicle Code applicable to public highways.

The Sheriff's Department urges full compliance with this law with the penalty for violation a fine of not to exceed $500.00 or imprisonment in the County Jail not to exceed six (6) months, or both. Vehicles on private property, Town paths and in park areas should be reported to the Sheriff, including time, place, vehicle description and license number. It is hoped that all Residents will cooperate with Town Hall and the Sheriff's Department to work for stricter enforcement of this law.

WESTWIND BARN OPEN HOUSE

Westwind Barn is happy to announce its first Open House to be held on Sunday, March 5th, from 12 Noon to 4 P.M. Westwind is located on

Old Crow Road at the intersection of Black Mountain and Altamont. All interested residents of Los Altos Hills are welcome. Membership cards will be available to interested parties and refreshments will be offered.

Westwind is a non-profit corporation formed in May of 1977, which operates as a cooperative stabling facility available to all residents of Los Altos Hills and qualified non-resident members. The co-op provides long term stabling facilities to its members, short term use of stalls by horses of Town residents and day facilities to non-boarding members and Town residents. They also have facilities for 4-H and similar local youth organizations and, at least one youth program will be underway by Spring when the weather clears.

Everyone in the community is welcome to visit the Barn at any time. In fact, the purpose of this Open House is to acquaint Los Altos Hills' residents with the current members and the facilities there. Questions concerning the Barn or the Open House are being answered at 941-9952.

'DOGS ASTRAY'

Your neighbors are unhappy, they often call to say,
Because your family dog has somehow gone astray.
We want to keep it open, as rural as can be.
But, yet not endanger life, limb or property.

The law is on the books and quite simple to relate.
A *leash* must be on your dog when he's outside your gate!
Let us all work together in trimming these complaints,
And resolve this problem without more legal restraints.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

City Council	— 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 7:30 P.M.
Planning Commission	— 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 7:30 P.M.
Environmental Design Committee	— 1st Tuesday, 7:30 P.M.
Legislative Review Committee	— 4th Wednesday, 9:15 A.M.
Pathway Committee	— 2nd and 4th Mondays, 8:00 P.M.
Noise Abatement Committee	— Quarterly, 2nd Thursday, 8:00 P.M.
Traffic & Public Safety Committee	— Quarterly, 2nd Tuesday, 7:30 P.M.

Page 4

BUILDING ACTIVITY

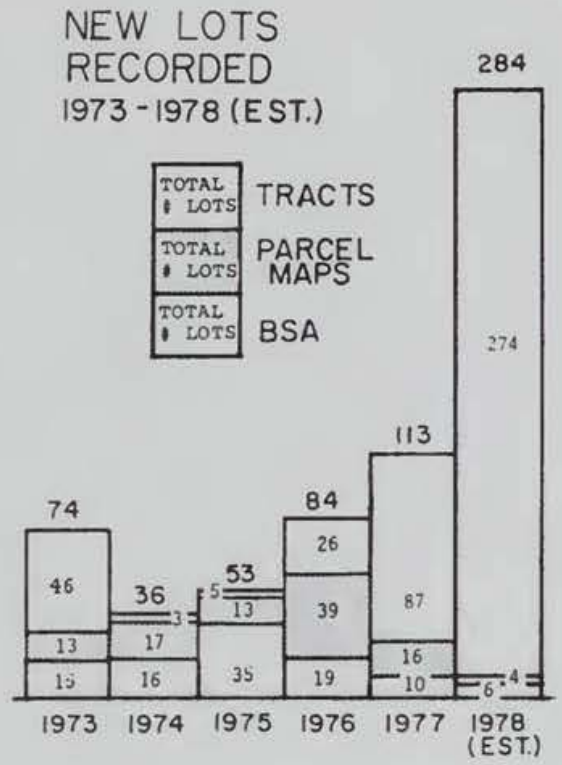
A substantial increase in building starts has occurred in the Town of Los Altos Hills. Greatly increased subdivision activity over the last two years kept the Planning Commission very busy. As a result, a record number of buildable lots will be considered by the City Council for final approval in 1978.

An increased inventory of lots, as many as 280, will be available in 1978 and 1979. This contrasts with annual building starts in Los Altos Hills numbering 36 in 1974, 55 in 1975, 66 in 1976 and 93 in 1977.

The increased subdivision and building activity results from pent-up demand from the 1974 recession, from our moratorium during 1974-1976 and, in the main, from substantial economic growth in the industries of the Santa Clara Valley.

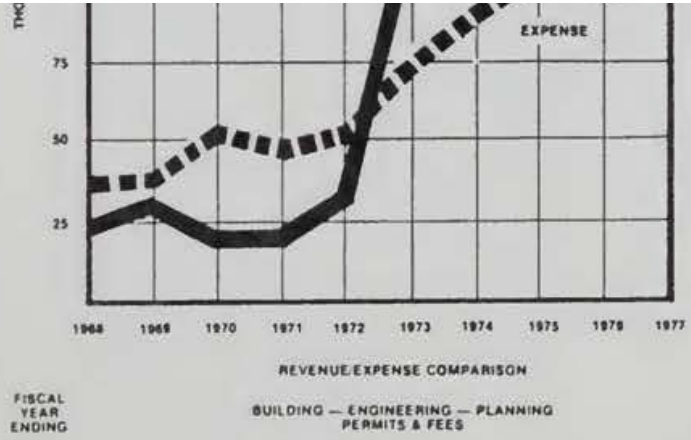
Future building activity is highly dependent on the stability and growth of the Santa Clara Valley economy. In its long range fiscal planning program, the Town has estimated, in addition to the above, a total of approximately 300 building sites remain available from all sources,

excluding Williamson Act properties and institutional or government owned properties.



REVENUE/EXPENSE COMPARISON

Historical analysis is sometimes needed to put data into the proper perspective. The Revenue/Expense comparison chart for the past ten years, comparing the expense for Building, Engineering and Planning activities against fees generated by those activities is informative. In spite of a CPI inflation of eighty-seven percent during this same period, the expense which ran a deficit during 1968-1972 became a substantial profit during 1973-1977.


EXPENSE
75
50
25
1968
1969
1970
1971
1972
1973
1974
1975
1976
1977
REVENUE/EXPENSE COMPARISON
FISCAL YEAR ENDING
BUILDING — ENGINEERING — PLANNING
PERMITS & FEES