

Los Altos Hills Town Newsletter - March 1979

Table of Contents:

- [Page 1](#) Mayor's Safety Awareness Run, Burglary Prevention, Spring Clean-up,
- [Page 2](#) Springtime notes from Little League, Planning Seminar on State Laws for Councilmembers and Commissioners
- [Page 3](#) Path News - policies adopted for pathway design & maintenance
- [Page 4](#) Trees - guidelines for successful tree planting
- [Page 5](#) LAH Disaster Council call for volunteers with specific skills, Changes at Town Hall, Noise & Noise Abatement Committee, Committee vacancies

Page 1



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Volume VI

March 1979

TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS

NEWSLETTER

MAYOR'S SAFETY AWARENESS RUN

Sunday, April 22nd is the day scheduled for the Mayor's Safety Awareness Run sponsored by the Town. Nancy Yeend, Chairman of the Traffic & Public Safety Committee has been working out the details of the race with the support of Jim Howells of "Runners World Magazine".

The focal point of the Run will be safety awareness with awards being given on the basis of conduct during the race. The route currently being considered will begin and end at Foothill College, keeping away from Moody Road and utilizing back roads and trails.

The Run will begin at 8:00 a.m. and last until approximately noon. Pre-registration fees are \$3.00 and \$4.00 after April 17, 1979. All residents are urged to participate to make this a community event.

BURGLARY PREVENTION

Burglaries increased 36% in Los Altos Hills last year. Most burglaries are not reported in the newspapers, so it is difficult for residents to know what is occurring in the Town. In February, the Traffic and Public Safety Committee began a postcard mailing program to alert residents to burglaries in their neighborhood.

Many burglaries are the result of unlocked doors. Always lock your home, garage and out-buildings. Keep valuables, including garden equipment in locked sheds. Do not hide keys outside your house. Report suspicious vehicles or solicitors to the Sheriff's Office immediately. These tips can help reduce our burglary statistics!

The Town still offers a burglary prevention inspection to be made of your home by the Town's Security Officer. Just call the Town Hall at 941-7222 for an appointment.

SPRING CLEAN-UP PROGRAM — SATURDAY, MAY 19, 1979

Along with nicer weather comes the cleaning urge! For their customers only, Los Altos Garbage Company has set aside another weekend day for the placement of large containers throughout the Town. The pick-up is scheduled for Saturday, May 19, between the hours of 7:30 A.M. and 3 P.M. (be there early as the trucks must leave by 3) at the following locations:

1. Town Hall Parking Lot
2. Magdalena at IS-280
3. Moody Road at Altamont
4. Altamont Road at Black Mountain
5. Page Mill Road at Arastradero (West)

This is a service provided **ONLY** for customers of Los Altos Garbage Company and coupons will be included in the April billing which you need to present at the pick-up locations before they will accept your debris! For further information, call the Los Altos Garbage Company - 961-8040.

Page 2

SPRINGTIME NOTES FROM THE HILLS LITTLE LEAGUE



Mayor Lucile Hillestad going over plans with contractor, Martin Taaffe, for re-construction of Hills Little League field.

The days are getting warmer and longer, and the 'cots are starting to bloom. That means one thing: Little League Baseball is almost here for '79.

This year Hills Little League has over 350 boys and girls signed up and getting ready for try-outs in early March. We have our first game in mid-April, and we've got a joint venture underway with the Town to get the field in good shape. We're looking forward to another fun season in that unique tradition that makes Hills Little

fields in good shape. We're looking forward to the season and to the League what it is.

Now what makes Hills Little League unique? Sure, it's one of thousands of Little Leagues around the world: the bats are the same, the balls are the same, we eat the same hot dogs and cheer the same way when some kid makes a good play (especially if it's the first one of the season).

But there's a difference. It all started back in 1960 when some parents cared enough about their kids and their community to do the work to get Hills Little League going.

The big thing was to compete and to win. But the bigger thing was to exercise:

- to exercise the body for health and stamina
- to exercise the mind in the discipline and technology of an organized sport
- to exercise the personality in the give and take of human interaction
- to exercise the character in how to do a good job in handling the glory of victory and the agony of defeat.

Those pioneer parents felt it was worth the time and trouble to make this happen. They felt that on these playing fields the young people of our community were learning things that would make them better people, our community a better community and the world a better place to live.

The scores of people who do the work to continue this tradition think they were right. We welcome everyone to come out this year and participate. You'll be glad you did.

PLANNING SEMINAR

On Saturday, January 20, 1979, City Councilmembers, Planning Commissioners, various Committee members and representatives of the Town Hall Staff attended a Planning Seminar presented by Mr. George Mader of Wm. Spangle & Associates. The purpose of this all day seminar was to provide a training session on State laws as they relate to our planning process, including constraints placed upon the Town in controlling its future.

In the morning, Mr. Mader provided charts and reference materials while also thoroughly discussing State legislated impacts on Los Altos Hills, the housing/jobs imbalance issue which will soon be facing the Town, methods of applying reasonable limitations on development and the total effects of mandated General Plan requirements. In the afternoon, he delved further into these crucial issues and showed slides of adjacent communities, advising how they were resolving problems similar to those in Los Altos Hills.

The State laws that require updating of General Plans as well as the recent requirement to add a Housing Element to the Plan were the impetus of this training session which coincided with the beginning of the Town's General Plan revision study. Wm. Spangle & Associates has been engaged as the planning consulting firm to assist in preparing the technical data which is to be reviewed by both the Planning Commission and City Council and then submitted for public hearings. This review and hearing process is expected to take six to nine months.

Hopefully, the General Plan, following this revision, will provide an explicit statement outlining the goals of the Town including the philosophy of conserving the ecology of the Community while protecting individual rights.

PATH NEWS

The Town has adopted the following policy regarding its maintenance system on existing paths:

Clearance: Paths should be kept free from planting 2' to 5' in width and 12' in height for safety.

Mailboxes: Should not obstruct paths.

Obstructions: Utility poles, traffic signs, etc. should not be placed in any pathway.

Drainage: At no time should water be piped, pumped or diverted onto a path.

On new construction—

Header Boards: Will be standard on all gravel paths.

Access: Paths should be kept open to the public during construction and not used for building material storage.

Driveways: Surfaces should be roughened where path crosses any driveway for safety of path users.

With citizens' participation in the maintenance of our paths, the Town of Los Altos Hills Pathway System will continue to serve as an excellent recreational facility for us all.

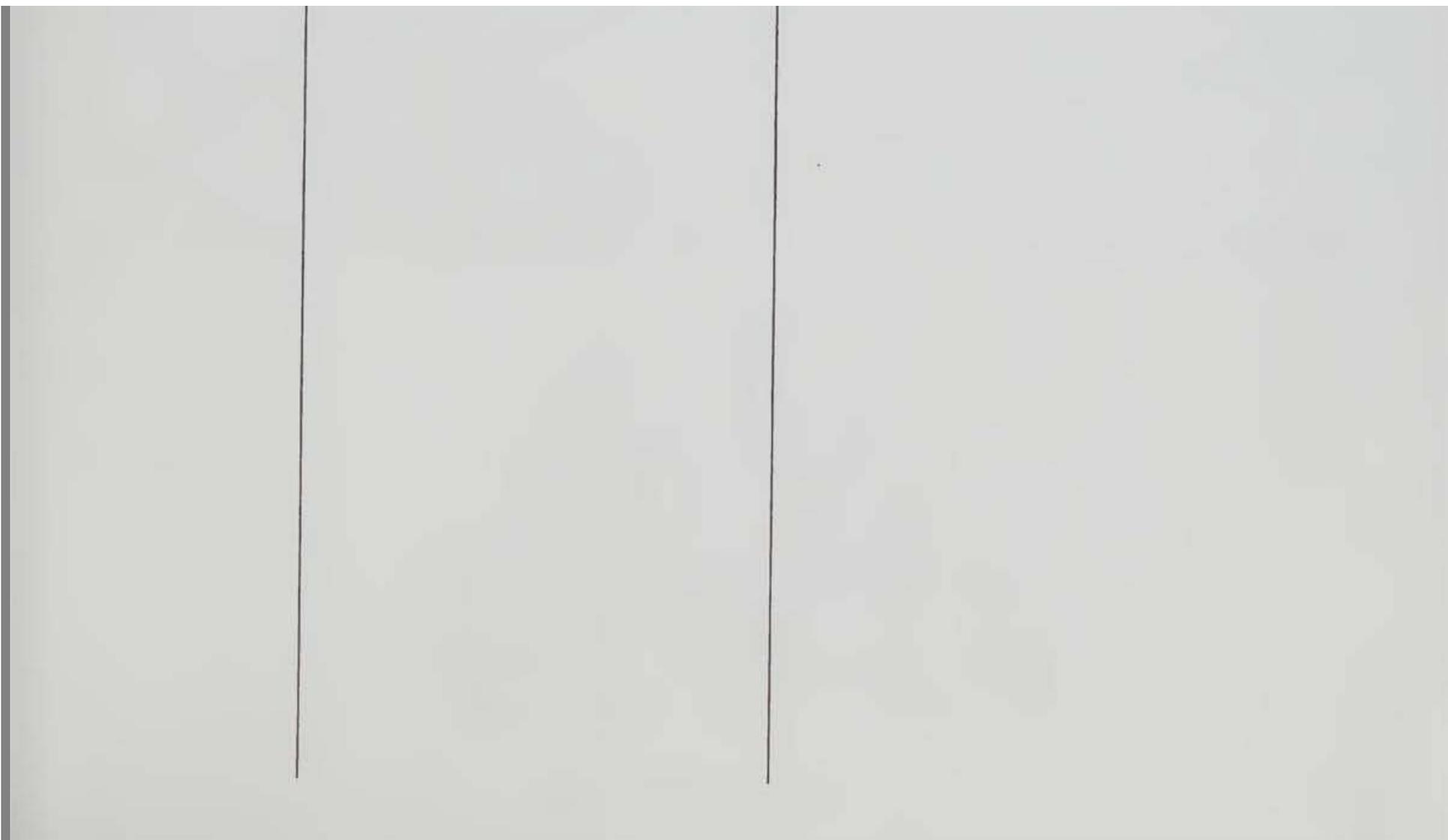
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TO: LOS ALTOS HILLS PATH USERS (RIDERS, WALKERS & BIKERS)

The Pathway Committee would appreciate help in overseeing pathways within the Town; therefore, after using a path, please fill in the log with the date, path location, general condition (good, fair or poor) and any obstructions or conditions which might curtail the use of the trail. If rating a path along the roadway, name the road and any identifying features, crossroads, house numbers, etc. If the path is off-road, name the roads at the beginning and end of the path. Please be as specific as possible.

When you have finished, please turn in the log to the Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road (941-7222) or to a member of the Pathway Committee. Thank you for your help!

DATE	LOCATION	RATING (Problem)



Page 4

TREES AND TREE PLANTING

The chief factors governing successful tree planting are:

1) Following agreed upon design concepts and principles—

“The natural topography of hills and valleys is a strong, vigorous kind of beauty as opposed to the quiet beauty of flatlands. Whereas in a flat city trees become the dominant design element, in a hilly city the shape of the land is the dominant element and trees are supplementary. That is not to say that trees are unimportant, but rather that they should be used in a different way. They should strengthen the shape of the land by delineating even more sharply its hills and valleys.

“To preserve the rural character of the city, it would be better to plant trees in random arrangements rather than in formal, evenly spaced rows. This also becomes a distinct advantage in maintenance and design in that a removed tree does not demand the immediate replacement by another of equal size and shape.

“Some of the natural beauty of this city would be lost if it were completely covered with trees. Open spaces are part of the foothills character and they should be respected. A random arrangement of trees along a road can leave occasional, even rhythmical gaps through which motorists can see the hills beyond.

“The end result of these design concepts should be to present strength and enhance the natural beauty and character of the community and not to make it over into something different”—Daniel Rolfs—Landscaping Architect.

2) Selecting the right trees and following the specifications for the best materials and methods for planting them.

A list of trees meeting aesthetic and climatic requirements for LAH and drawings and staking detail recommendations can be obtained from the Environmental Design Committee upon request.

3) Choosing correct locations for planting—

On some streets existing conditions—lack of space, overhead power lines, paths, etc. will seriously limit, if not altogether prevent, the planting of trees.

Existing conditions determining location for tree planting are:

Power lines—tall growing trees should not be planted under them.

Equestrian Paths—low branching, spreading trees should not be planted next to them, as the equestrian needs eight feet clearance.

Streets where traffic moves fast—trees should be held back six to eight feet from the edge of the paving if no vertical curb exists.

Light Fixtures—trees should be kept about 25 feet from them.

Intersections—to prevent interference with motorists' vision, trees should be kept about 30 feet from them.

Driveways—motorists' vision at these should be considered.

Underground utilities—

trees should not be planted directly over water, gas, or sewer lines, nor should trees with invasive root systems be planted near sewer lines.

Paved areas—trees having roots that tend to rise with age should not be planted near paving.

4) Maintaining the trees to assure healthy growth and beauty of appearance.

If the right trees are selected, maintenance problems can be kept minimal.

All trees require maintenance until they are established, and even the most drought-resistant trees require water until the roots are deep enough to find it unaided.



Page 5

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT PROGRAM

The Town of Los Altos Hills Disaster Council has recommended an Emergency Service Volunteer Work Recruitment Program be implemented to support the Town's emergency services organizations.

A volunteer worker (or disaster service worker) is defined as any person who is registered with a Disaster Council for the purpose of engaging in disaster service pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act without pay or other consideration. It also includes public employees and any unregistered person called into service during any state of emergency by a person having authority to command the aid of citizens in the execution of his/her duties.

The California State Legislature has provided a state-funded program of workers' compensation benefits for disaster service workers who contribute their services for the protection of the public health, safety and welfare in order to protect such volunteers from financial loss as a result of injuries sustained while engaged in disaster activities. The following classes of disaster service workers are needed to support the Town's emergency services:

organizations:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| (1) Administrative Staff | (5) Engineers | (9) Radiological | (13) Transportation |
| (2) Area Leaders | (6) Fire Services | (10) Rescue | (14) Utilities |
| (3) Communications | (7) Law Enforcement | (11) Supply | |
| (4) Emergency Welfare | (8) Medical and Health | (12) Traffic Control | |

Interested persons may register at the Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road, by contacting Susan Buttler, phone 941-7222 and complete Form #99 which contains the following information: name and address of registrant, date of enrollment, class of disaster service selected and loyalty oath. You will then be notified of training or instruction courses for your selected class in the near future.

CHANGES AT TOWN HALL



The new look at Town Hall as seen from the front of the building.

Modifications made to the original floor plan of Town Hall have proven not to be designed for present day needs. Therefore, in order to increase Staff efficiency and to better serve the public, minor modifications are being made which will place the entrance in the center of the building.

This should provide a central location for the heavy public contact functions such as Building, Engineering and Planning, with the other activities being served from this central location. These minor adjustments will reduce disruptive traffic considerably and allow the same size of Staff to serve an increasing demand for services.

NOISE

Noise is the subject of one focused study being made in Los Altos Hills. Currently, we have an active Noise Abatement Committee and are considering tightening the Noise Ordinance. Is this enough?

Are any sounds you hear—human, animal or mechanical— inconsistent with the rural atmosphere of our Town?

And, just as important, have you any suggestions for measures as a means of abatement? If you want to sound off on this subject, please call Planning Commissioner Mary vanTamelen, 941-2356 (Chairman of the Noise Study) or Walt Gregorwich, Chairman of the Noise Abatement Committee at 941-5563.

COMMITTEE VACANCIES

There is currently one vacancy each on the Noise Abatement Committee, Environmental Design Committee and Traffic & Public Safety Committee. All residents who are interested in volunteering their time and efforts in active community involvement are encouraged to fill out an application at the Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road.