

# Los Altos Hills Town Newsletter - April 1985

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## TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS

Volume VIII, No. 1

## NEWSLETTER

April 1985

*TOWN COUNCIL CONSIDERING  
SITE DEVELOPMENT CHANGES*

*Mayor's Message  
EASIER TO FIGHT CITY HALL  
THAN IT IS TO RUN IT*

The Town's Site Development ordinance is currently being revised. The need to update this ordinance, which deals with grading, drainage, and landscaping, and potentially with siting and design, has long been perceived. Last April the Council retained a planning firm, Connerly and Associates, to begin work on the project. The Planning Commission and Council are also looking at the bulk and size of buildings and lot coverage, and their relation to the natural qualities of the community. These are zoning matters closely related to site development.

No changes have yet been made in any of these ordinances.

The Council has enacted an urgency ordinance (292) whereby all applications for structures over 15 feet in height are reviewed in light of a set of specific guidelines. These guidelines work with the existing Site Development ordinance to:

- Mitigate the visual impact of new structures.
- Preserve natural amenities of the site and the community as a whole.
- Protect views from off the site.
- Develop a functional relationship between site and building.
- Retain natural slope and topography.
- Provide compatibility with the immediate neighborhood.
- Preserve ridge lines and hilltops.
- Minimize paving.
- Channel drainage adequately, naturally if possible.

The urgency ordinance is an interim measure and gives the Council an opportunity to see and study specific cases, the effects of possible ordinance changes, and potential problems.

Site development is a very important matter affecting all residents and the environment as a whole. The Council needs to know now how people feel. Are we too restrictive already? Or are changes that further restrict development desired by residents? What kinds of controls are best for the community?

Please take the time to write a note to Town Hall, call an individual Council member, or come to a hearing

The duties of council members are time-consuming and complex. I have learned that it is easier to fight City Hall than it is to run City Hall. As your recently installed mayor, I would like to restate my objectives of one year ago when I stressed the importance of fair and responsible politics, sound fiscal management and working cooperatively with residents, committees and representatives of other jurisdictions. I now better understand that I cannot always please everyone, and I accept the responsibility to represent the majority. I invite you to communicate your concerns by calling me, or any of the other council members, or by coming to Town Hall during my regular Tuesday afternoon office hours.

**Louise L. Dronkert**  
Mayor

#### City Council of the Town of Los Altos Hills

LOUISE L. DRONKERT  
ANDREW ALLISON  
NAN FUHRMAN  
RICHARD RYDELL  
MARY VAN TAMELEN

#### *EDITH AVENUE BRIDGE NEARS COMPLETION*

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Due to unforeseen circumstances, the completion of the Edith Street Bridge project has been delayed until June. The Town Council is aware that the bridge's reconstruction has created an inconvenience for many members of the community, especially those who use Bullis Purissima School. The Council members appreciate the patience and understanding people have shown during the construction.

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#### *LOT OWNERS CAN GET NEWSLETTER*

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This newsletter, thanks to the diligence of a resident volunteer, is addressed to each residence. Owners of lots without residences, however, do not receive copies because we have no list that includes them.

and express your opinion.

**Mary van Tاملen**  
Council member

If you know of a lot owner who would like to get the town newsletter, please inform the town staff, 941-7222. Extra copies are available at Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road.

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### *City Manager's Message* **TOWN'S CITIZEN COMMITTEE STRUCTURE PROVIDES STRENGTH, EFFECTIVENESS**

I have been Town Manager seven months, which is too brief a time to develop an accurate impression about the nature of our community. However, I would like to make the following observations.

On the whole, I believe I have found the Town Government to be what I expected. However, there have been a few surprises. I have been pleasantly surprised by the strength and effectiveness of the Town's citizens committee structure. The committees have provided stability to the Town Government during the administrative staff turnover of recent years. I also have been impressed at the productivity of a few citizen volunteers. A few energetic volunteers have accomplished a large amount of work that would otherwise have required paid staff and taxpayers' money.

On the other hand, I did not expect the extent to which the town's finance and budgetary systems had deteriorated. We have made modifications and improvements, and, for the most part, our finance and budgetary systems are now in an acceptable form. Changes and improvements are still needed and will be made in the months to come.

Our administrative systems need to be designed to deliver the highest quality of services possible within our

### **HOW YOU SHOULD HANDLE LAW ENFORCEMENT PROBLEMS**

Under the terms of the town's contract with the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department, the department is responsible for the standards of law enforcement service provided and the actions of its employees.

If a town resident has a concern in either of these areas, he should contact:

- The supervisor on duty at the West Side Station in Cupertino, which covers Los Altos Hills, (408) 867-9715.
- If not satisfied with the response, the commander of the West Side Station, currently Lt. Robert Wilson.
- If still not satisfied, the town's city manager, George Scarborough, 941-7222.

If the concern is of a general nature about crime, traffic or disaster preparedness, residents should contact the town's Safety Committee, which is charged with studying problems in these areas and making recommendations to the City Council. Inquiries or comments to the committee may be made through the Town Hall, 941-7222, or directly to Safety Committee Chairman Andrew Cochran, 493-6795.

Residents who have questions or comments regarding the scope of the town's police services agreement should feel free to contact the Safety Committee and/or members of the Town Council in order to assure that their concerns are addressed in future contract negotiations.

financial constraints. With the goal of improving the quality of service we provide to the resident, we have made changes and improvements in our administrative systems. We have been particularly interested in improving the efficiency of our response to residents' requests. We will continue to work on improving the quality of the services we provide our residents.

When I accepted the appointment, I was also aware of the major emphasis the town places on land use planning. A primary goal of the town has always been to protect the rural quality of our community, and land use planning has been the tool used to accomplish that goal.

The town has a very complex and unique set of land use regulations and policies. However, the type of development that is now occurring in the community is quite different from what was expected at the time that most of our land use regulations were adopted. In addition, state laws require that local governments periodically revise land use regulations, and our required revisions are overdue. Recognizing the discrepancies in our land use laws, the Town Council initiated the process of long needed revisions. The site development ordinance and various critical elements of our community's General Plan will be revised in the next year or so.

The land use regulations and policies that result from these revisions will influence what our community will be like in the future. You, as a resident of our community, have a vested interest in the outcome of the revisions.

In the months to come, there will be a series of public hearings regarding the land use regulations and policy revisions. The success of the revisions will depend upon your participation in the public hearings.

Your elected officials and the town staff need to know what you want.

George Scarborough  
City Manager

## 911 IS FOR EMERGENCIES

### SPRING CLEANUP DAY

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For its customers only, the Los Altos Garbage Co. will place trucks and large containers at five places in the town **May 11** for the discarding of castoffs, debris and clippings. The hours will be 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The locations will be:

- o Town Hall parking lot, 26379 Fremont Road
- o Magdalena at Freeway 280
- o Moody Road at Altamont
- o Altamont Road at Black Mountain
- o Page Mill Road at Arastradero (West)

The trucks will accept only debris that is boxed, bagged or bundled and easy to handle and cuttings that are bundled no larger than 3 feet by 4 feet. Appliances, wood, furniture and large loads of cuttings or debris must be unloaded by the resident into the large debris containers.

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### COMMUNITY SERVICE LUNCHEON

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The social services agency of Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, and Mountain View, Community Services Agency, reports to the community as a whole on a yearly basis at a luncheon. This year the luncheon will be held at Dinah's Shack, Thursday, **May 23**, at 12:00 noon. The cost is \$12.00 per person, and reservations can be made by calling 968-0836.

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## 4-H RIDING PROGRAM AT WESTWIND BARN GIVES HANDICAPPED CHILDREN CONFIDENCE

It's Monday afternoon, and several young horseback riders can be seen in the lovely canyon below the ridge off Altamont Road. The wind carries their laughter, and only when the riders are closer do you see the others who are leading and "side-walking" the horses.

You're at a session of Westwind Barn's 4-H Riding for the Handicapped program. The children and young people go on trail rides out into the hills, getting a feeling of freedom and independence they get nowhere else. No one drove them there; no one carried them or pushed them in a wheelchair. They rode there themselves, and their spirits are soaring.

The Westwind brochure states, "Westwind 4-H is a non-profit organization offering a free program of therapeutic horseback riding to children with physical handicaps, especially the orthopedically handicapped." But it is so much more than that! A handicapped young boy who spends most of his day in a stroller-like wheelchair can learn to control a thousand-pound horse and hopefully gain enough self-confidence to take that control out into the world. A handicapped young girl may, often for the first time in her life, compete on an equal level, learning to win and lose while being a genuine contender in a charity horse show.

Many young people who dread standard physical therapy will eagerly stretch, bend and turn the same muscles when astride a horse, feeling only the fun, excitement and companionship.

Westwind 4-H riders range in age from 5 to 20 and come from several communities. The classes are held weekly, with riders and volunteers assigned to come on either Mondays or Thursday from 4 to 6 pm. Westwind Barn, where the 4-H program was established in 1978, is located at 27210 Altamont Road.

The 4-H group owns its own horses and a fully equipped four-stall horse barn. As the handicapped are not charged a fee, volunteers are invaluable to the program. These volunteers range in age from 14 to senior and may care for the horses, assist in leading



*Shirin Miri of Los Altos gets ready for a ride as part of the 4-H program at Westwind Barn.*

### DOCTORS AND NURSES NEEDED

The Disaster Preparedness Subcommittee of the Los Altos Hills Safety Committee is compiling a list of doctors and nurses in the town, including retired people, who would be available to offer aid during an emergency. They are asked to

citizens and may care for the horses, assist in leading or side-walking horses during lessons, ride with a child or simply make themselves useful any way they can.

The volunteers, who have gained an enviable knowledge of horses, find themselves in the desirable situation of being appreciated for something they enjoy doing very much. No experience is necessary. New people are paired with experienced volunteers. Volunteer horse sponsors make a tax deductible donation of \$20 to \$25 per month to help cover feed and veterinarian fees.

Whether you choose to sponsor a horse, volunteer in another capacity, or offer financial support, you are most welcome at Westwind. Your tax deductible donation of cash, veterinarian services or a check can be sent directly to the barn. The Westwind 4-H program also accepts donations of horses, which are assured of an excellent home with abundant love and kindness. If for some reason you cannot keep the horse, the donor has the right to reclaim it.

If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Cooperus, program coordinator, 941-4808; Betty Chandik, stable manager, 965-2698; or Fran Hogan, 4-H advisor, 941-1645.

Shari Emling  
Staff Writer

aid during an emergency. They are asked to contact Safety Committee Chairman Andrew Cochran, 493-6795.

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### PATHWAY PICNIC PLANNED

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The Los Altos Hills Pathway and Community Relations committees plan to have a "Walk-A-Path" gathering on Saturday, **June 15**. Town residents are invited to meet at 11 a.m. in the town park at Edith Street and Fremont Road for this "get-acquainted" walk. People are asked to bring their own bag lunches for a picnic in the park after exploring some of the town's off-road paths.

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## FOOTHILL COLLEGE PLANS CULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA

Being a good neighbor is something Foothill College has taken seriously for more than 25 years.

Like any good neighbor, Foothill works hard to maintain its property and to play an active role in

### Foothill Performing Arts Alliance Summer Festival 1985

Nearly nightly, June through August.

More than a dozen of the Peninsula's finest music, theatre and dance companies will come to Los Altos Hills this summer as part of the only performing arts festival of its kind in California.

Through the Foothill-based Alliance, these groups share resources and talent throughout the year, capping their programs with a Festival of 70 gala performances including:

- One-man shows by A.C.T.'s Peter Donat, Roy

community affairs.

Although nearly 50,000 students come and go from the Los Altos Hills campus each year, the college's well-kept buildings and grounds continue to garner awards and praise.

The San Francisco Chronicle's architecture critic recently called Foothill "the most beautiful community college ever built."

But staff and students feel that making the campus a lively center of community activity is as important as making it a beautiful place to be. While everyone is welcome, Los Altos Hills neighbors are most welcome of all to these coming events:

### **Foothill Community Festival**

Saturday, May 11, 10 am to 4 pm

The fourth annual festival will feature activities for kids and adults alike, including . . .

- Music - madrigal singers, jazz and rock combos, jazz choirs
- Dancing - breakers, strutters, and "Street Corner Talent Contest"
- Arts and Crafts Sale and Book Sale
- Free health checks, petting zoo, sports competitions, international foods, games for young and old. Free admission.

### **The Drama Department Presents**

Shakespeare's "As You Like It" May 10-11 and 16-18 in the Foothill Theatre, and "Favorite One-Act Plays" May 23-26 in the smaller Studio theatre. Tickets at Theatre Box Office.

*Town of Los Altos Hills  
26379 Fremont Road  
Los Altos Hills, CA 94022*

● One-man shows by A.C.T.'s Peter Donat, Ray Reinhardt, Sydney Walker.

● "Music by Leonard Bernstein" - California Youth Symphony and Foothill Choir.

● Gilbert & Sullivan's "H.M.S. Pinafore" - Saratoga Chamber Theatre.

● Big Band Jazz - Foothill's Fanfares Jazz Choir, Jazz Ensembles and Phil Mattson Singers.

● A Community Sing with the Baroque Choral Guild.

● Foothill Summer Stock, Los Altos Conservatory Theatre, Palo Alto Children's Theatre, Master Sinfonia, Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra, El Camino Youth Symphony concerts.

Other performing groups will include the Valley Institute of Theatre Arts (VITA), Schola Cantorum, Santa Clara Ballet and Nova Vista Symphony.

A free schedule of all events and tickets for all performances are available through the Foothill Theatre Box Office, 948-4444 (open Monday through Thursday, 11 am - 1:30 pm).

**Joan Green**

Foothill College, Public Information Office

### ***TOWN COMMITTEES NEED VOLUNTEERS***

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The Los Altos Hills Pathways and Community Relations committees have vacancies. Members are appointed by the Town Council. People interested in volunteering may pick up applications from Town Clerk Pat Dowd, 941-7222.

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