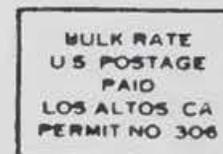


Los Altos Hills Town Newsletter - December 1983

Table of Contents:

- [Page 1](#) Christmas present of 2000 trees and shrubs for residents, Message from Mayor van Tamelen
- [Page 2](#) Wasting Away - Solid Waste Management Authority formed with Los Altos and Cupertino
- [Page 3](#) Recycling Center to close, Joint Awards Luncheon winners announced, Town Treasurer Pearl Croy passed away
- [Page 4](#) Christmas festivities at Westwind Barn, Prepare for winter storms
- [Page 5](#) New building official - David Linebarger, Drainage in Los Altos Hills, Financial Report - in good shape after sale of Matadero Creek building sites
- [Page 6](#) Photo of winners of Joint Awards, Thank You from Pathways Committee
- [Page 7](#) Call for volunteers to paint Town Hall, Subcommittee on Disaster Preparedness seeks volunteers, Community Relations Committee seeks volunteers - including for new Historical Preserve, Agricultural equipment a reminder of Town's past
- [Page 8](#) Horsemen's Association is alive and well, Historical Society Happenings

Page 1



CARRIER ROUTE PRESORT

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER LOS ALTOS HILLS, CA 94022

VOLUME VI, NO. 2

DECEMBER 1983



TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS NEWSLETTER



A CHRISTMAS PRESENT TO CITIZENS

Merry Christmas!

As a Christmas present to the Los Altos Hills residents, the Mayor and Council Members have approved the purchase of 2,000 Christmas tree/shrub seedlings, such as: Scotch pines and Christmas berry toyons.

Besides beautifying the Town, the plants will act as pollution barriers and prevent soil erosion. These plants may be placed anywhere on the resident's property at his discretion except near sewers, or in pathways or city rights of way.

The seedlings will be distributed at the Municipal Facilities Barn on Purissima on December 21st and 22nd from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM on a first-come-first-served basis. Please bring identification.

Walt Gregorwich
Pollution Control Chairman

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

As the holiday season approaches, there's a plethora of opportunities for giving. You don't need to ask what you can do for your community; a reading of this newsletter opens vistas in all directions for the public-spirited. Many already are giving; committees and com-

produced by last year's storms; and with the day-to-day crises Los Altos Hills generates just by being itself.

Town expenses are now at a minimum. The reserves used up by the Matadero Creek venture will be fully replaced, but all of the capital improvement funds, for instance, are

missioners are working vigorously, and they deserve the help and gratitude of us all.

Our City Manager, Ann Hinshaw, has been with us for nearly a year, grappling with the necessity for minimal government chosen by the people: with the uncertainties produced by the state legislature in cutting subventions (formerly providing 1/4 of our revenues) and then not deciding whether to release any of them until mid-September; with the damages

spoken for in road improvements. In spite of not receiving any bids for major road repairs, all jobs that the Town crew could do were done, and most major projects are underway, with negotiated contracts or with temporary improvements.

For the moment, we are getting along financially, but soon a decision will have to be made as to whether the Townspeople want
continued page 2

1

Page 2

MAYOR--to continue to be a minimum service community or to choose to pay for one or more improvements, such as increased police protection and traffic control, better roads, fully-maintained paths, supported recreational or social activities, an improved Town Hall, or engineered drainage systems.

Most of us are pleased and proud to live in a Town as beautiful and special as ours. We do have our disagreements; many citizens object to Council's position on the requirements for fire retardant roofing. But if we all investigate the matter factually and thoroughly before making a decision, it need not be a divisive issue.

generated through the year 2012 by the North County Region of Santa Clara County."

The Authority's governing board, which consists of one member appointed from each of the six member agencies, was originally scheduled to make its recommendations to the member agencies in November. This is now anticipated to occur in January. However, the Authority's staff has made its recommendation, namely, a process waste (which means shredded waste from which recyclables have been removed) landfill at Bryan Canyon, supplied from a transfer station in Sunnyvale, and perhaps another in Palo Alto, over a new access road to be constructed from I-280 into the Kaiser

Town Hall exists for the benefit of all its citizens. I'm in and available every Tuesday afternoon. Do come share your thoughts and concerns and bright ideas with me--I really would like to know how you feel and how we can work together to improve our Town.

Mary van Tamelen

WASTING AWAY

Since 1977 the Town has been participating with other local agencies in efforts to develop long-term solutions to the problem of disposing of our garbage (solid waste). The problem is that the traditional landfills, located adjacent to San Francisco Bay, are filling up, and increasing development and environmental pressures mitigate against their expansion.

After several years of study that produced little in the way of concrete results, the four local agencies served by Los Altos Garbage Company (Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Cupertino and areas of the County) joined last year with Sunnyvale and Palo Alto, to form the North Santa Clara County Solid Waste Management Authority--SWMA for short. The purpose of the SWMA is: "the conservation of natural resources, acquisition, construction, maintenance or operation of a solid waste transfer station, processing facility or landfill sites, and to generally provide for the safe, reliable, environmentally sound, technically, institutionally, politically and economically feasible collection, treatment, and disposal of solid waste

site at Bryan Canyon.

Your City Council has voted to oppose the construction of a new access road on the following grounds:

It would double the cost of transporting processed garbage from the transfer station.

It would transfer a long-standing nuisance, one that predates the development of housing in the area, from Cupertino to Los Altos.

It would almost certainly result in the development of one of the few remaining parcels of undeveloped foothills property in the area.

Given the need for a long-term solution, the recommendation for a process landfill, which would have to satisfy stringent environmental criteria before it could be approved, appears to be supportable if accompanied by immediate action to initiate major recycling and waste processing.

Although there is little direct impact other than cost on Los Altos Hills, the impact on the surrounding area of many of the alternatives being considered will be great, and we urge you to become informed on this issue and communicate your views to the Council.

Andrew Allison
Council Representative on SWMA

Page 3

RECYCLING CENTER TO CLOSE

Because Mountain View voted to close the processing center operated by People Who Care, the recycling center at Foothill College will be forced to close at the end of December.

People Who Care will be able to continue at a later date, probably April, if they obtain a new processing center. In the meantime, the Town is exploring other options, and has asked the Solid Waste Management Authority for help. The Town feels strongly that recycling should be encouraged.

It has been distressing, however, that the Foothill location has, by a few people, been misused. The center is manned only from 10 to 4 on Saturdays; material left during other hours causes disorder, extra work for Foothill staff, and sometimes a real mess. Any continuation of recycling, if it does become possible, will have to be dependent upon cooperation of all the users.

JOINT AWARDS LUNCHEON

Arthur Lachenbruch for his contribution toward a vision of an environment with harmony between man and nature.

Nancy Marston for her enthusiasm, knowledge, research, and continued effort to keep arts basic to our children's education.

Los Altos Hills Pathway Committee, Antonio Ginzton, First Chairman, **Mary Stutz**, Present Chairman, for preserving, through the years, open space and access to our naturally beautiful environment.

Pinkey Whelan for her love of the city, and her valuable contributions to historical preservation.

Louise Dronkert for bringing a positive cohesive force to town government in a time of crisis.

Joyce van Tuyl for her tireless services to the visually handicapped, in and beyond our community.

Walter Chronert, a driving force in helping the poor, the young, and the handicapped.

Dodie Alexander whose tireless efforts beyond the call of duty have made CHAC a valuable asset to the community.

Tom Gibbs in the dugout, on the field, behind the desk, leading and directing young people in athletics.

Janie Kellerman whose realistic approach.

Los Altos and Los Altos Hills worked harmoniously together this year toward a goal of honoring people who have been of service to the common community. The awards were made at a luncheon November 18. Eleanor Cranston Fowle, daughter, daughter-in-law, sister, and wife of volunteers in the area, and active herself as a volunteer, was the featured speaker.

A joint committee--Grace Allison, Ed Barnes, Judith Carico, Chet Frankenfield, Penny Lave, Jane Reed, Mary Lynne Schoenbeck, and Mary van Tamelen--planned the luncheon, chose the recipients, and took steps toward making the event an annual affair.

Winners were:

Los Altos Board of Realtors for leading the way in the important area of volunteer recognition.

Tuck Shepherd, in her career as reporter for our communities, endeavoring always to be fair and open-minded.

Peter Bjorkland for coordinating and promoting recreation, stressing cooperation between city, school, and community organizations.

unfailing encouragement and unwavering commitment have educated both adults & children.

Irma Goldsmith for her long-standing dedication to the preservation of the history of our community.

Alma Wood for watching, and caring, and working behind the scenes.

Marie and Walter Singer, Mr. and Mrs. Los Altos, for their charitable activities.

Blondina Fistor, always willing, always smiling, cheerfully helping the elderly and handicapped in every way she can.

Penny Lave, innovative, creative, colorful, untiring, organizer behind the scenes.

The Town of Los Altos Hills is saddened by the death of **Pearl Croy** who passed away on Friday, November 25, 1983 after a lengthy illness.

Pearl had been City Treasurer with the Town for the past 10 years. Her contributions to the Town have been many and she will be missed.

An Old Fashioned Christmas



Sunday
December 11
1 - 4:30

Westwind Barn
Los Altos Hills

Caroling
Refreshments
Petting Zoo
Pony Rides

Concert by the
Peninsula Senior Chorus at 3:00

Benefit for the 26th Annual Santa Claus Exchange
a Christmas giving program of Community Services Agency
Admission: one new toy, new book, or cash donation

Sponsored by Westwind Barn
Los Altos Hills Horsemen's Assn.

Drawing courtesy of the artist Dick Thomas
Photostat courtesy of The Art Works, Ltd. Alt
Typesetting by LARE Computing



PREPARE FOR WINTER STORMS

Look at slopes. Cuts and fills should have

PREPARE FOR WINTER STORMS

The following items are suggestions that may help you protect your property this winter. A licensed engineer or contractor should be consulted to solve specific problems that you may have.

Clear out all drainage facilities, such as downspouts, pipes, catch basins, and ditches.

Look at your drainage--by ordinance all downspouts must extend at least ten feet from the house.

Check drainage facilities for damage, loose connections, etc., and make repairs.

Upgrade any facilities that could not carry the runoff during last winter's rain.

Look at slopes. Cuts and fills should have water diverted around them.

Keep water away from all foundations.

Look downhill. It is the property owner's responsibility to ensure that his runoffs do not affect downhill properties.

Plant native vegetation on slopes.

Investigate eroded areas. Erosion does not fix itself, and problems will continue to get worse. Advice from a professional is advisable if the erosion is endangering a structure.

Take garden and yard clippings and tree trimmings out of ditches, swales, channels, or creeks. This material will clog any drainage facility and should be taken to the dump or contained for the garbage company to pick up.

NEW BUILDING OFFICIAL

After some months of contracting with the County for building services, the Town chose to return to having its own building official. Not only is this considerably more economical, but it also enables the integration

FINANCIAL REPORT \$

With the sale of all Matadero Creek building sites, only four of which are not fully paid off, Town finances are once again in black ink. The recent audit of the Matadero Creek project indicates that, when outstanding notes are paid, all money taken from Town resources

of plan checking, building, landscaping, and
pathway functions.

David Linebarger is the new building official, a licensed building contractor, formerly a field inspector in the City of San Carlos. He's a native Californian, a graduate (Phi Beta Kappa) of San Jose State, and has worked in the construction field since high school, running his father's business for many years. He has also worked with Indian leaders and in low income neighborhoods on remodeling projects.

In his spare time, David teaches house construction at the Owner-Builder Center in Berkeley, serves as an arbiter for fire damage, and works with handicapped children. He likes working in Los Altos Hills, the people he's met, and the variety of his duties.



DRAINAGE IN LOS ALTOS HILLS

Drainage in Los Altos Hills is a natural system. Our General Plan calls for the use of natural swales whenever possible, as befits a hillside development, bounded by open space. With increased development the problems grow. Townspeople can expect during 25 year storms more water passing through the natural system.

Please do your part by following suggestions provided by our Town Engineer elsewhere in this newsletter. It is also important for all

are paid, all monies taken from town reserves can be restored to Funds from which they were borrowed.

The operating budget of \$1,110,591, and the capital improvement budget of \$449,007, adopted in mid-November is in balance. Storm damage and road drainage improvements are paid for from the Capital Improvement Fund to which more than the \$500,000 needed now has been returned from Matadero Creek income.

Should the Town experience another year of storm damage this winter, monies owed to the Town from Matadero Creek should be enough to cover costs. However, the Finance Committee is examining the problem of long-range financing of capital improvement and will have a report for the Town Council in the spring of next year.

More than 20% of revenues consist of subventions channeled through the state. The Town is now joining with other local officials in an effort to stabilize the flow of tax monies back to local government. Local property taxes provide but 20% of the Town's revenues.

The Finance Committee has recommended to the Town Council that streamlining and improving the accounting and financial reporting system of the Town is now its highest priority. A new audit firm, George P. Delucchi and Associates, is completing the audit and will be asked to assist in developing an im-

citizens to realize that the Town does not do work on private property, nor advise private citizens on particular problems.

proved accounting system.

Nan Fuhrman
Chairman, Finance Committee

The **Newsletter** is a very important source of information for residents of our Town; but we do need your help. In order to increase its effectiveness and possibly its frequency we are searching for volunteers interested in reporting, editing and publishing the Newsletter. If you have an interest or experience in any of these areas won't you please consider joining us? Please phone Town Hall (941-7222) or write for an application.

Page 6





FRONT ROW. Louise Dronkert, Alma Wood, Eleanor Cranston Fowle, Irma Goldsmith, Arthur Lachenbruch, Artemas Ginzton, Janie Killerman, Walter Chronert.

BACK ROW. Blondina Fistor, Walt Singer, Tom Gibbs, Marie Singer, Peter Bjorkland, Tuck Shepherd, Mary Stutz, Pinky Whelan, Penny Lave, Nancy Marston, Dodie Alexander.

FROM THE PATHWAYS COMMITTEE



Thanks to those of you who have cleared the paths on your property and to the Los Altos Hills' Horsemen's Association for their monthly path clearing parties. We appreciate your concern and cooperation.

We are endeavoring to locate planting violations and are sending letters asking for removal of these plantings. Response has been good. When necessary, the Town will do the work and

of those prunings. Response has been good. When necessary the Town will do the work and bill the owner. Letters will be going out to residents when pruning is necessary to keep our paths usable. With our maintenance crew tied up on road and drainage work, we all need to help out.

Please phone Town Hall, 941-7222, and ask that a "request for pathway maintenance form" be sent to you if you know of an area greatly in need of attention.

6

Page 7

HAVE YOUR ARTISTIC TALENTS GONE UNRECOGNIZED?

Then come to Town Hall! We promise you instant opportunity, recognition and gratitude. If you've got the time, we've got the paint! Inspired? Read on!

An Ode to Volunteer Painters

If you pant when you paint,
Or faint when you paint,
No matter.
We have jobs that are small--
You can adopt-a-wall
Or adopt-a-hall,
Then call it quits--
We're doing this job in little bits.
But if you like to climb a ladder,
Would rather be fit than fatter,
Then we plead with you to join our crew.
YOUR TALENTS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED

A LASTING GIFT TO THE COMMUNITY

By now we have all probably started to compile a holiday gift list for those near and dear to us and to those people and organizations who have helped make our life a little more pleasant this past year. Won't you please join the Community Relations Committee and add one more name to your list?

The Town of Los Altos Hills has several projects in the planning stages: the refurbishing of Town Hall, the new Historical Preserve and a new Annual Town Celebration Day, all of which would benefit from your gift of time, material, or funds. What a marvelous way to show pride in our community and what a sense of satisfaction just knowing that we helped create these projects which make this a better community in which to live!

YOUR TALENTS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED.

Whether you come for half a day
Or a longer stay
You'll have a ball
Painting Town Hall!!!!!!

(author unknown), but

YOU CAN BE DISCOVERED
PAINTING TOWN HALL

Phone Doni Hubbard 948-4118 or Pat Dowd
941-7222 for details.

Earthquake Preparedness

Do you know where to find some of
the best information on earthquake
preparedness? IN YOUR TELEPHONE
BOOK, on pages A12 and A13!

Disaster Preparedness Volunteers Needed!

The Los Altos Hills Subcommittee on
Disaster Preparedness seeks LAH res-
idents who have the time and interest
to assist.

Please contact Andy Cochran (493-
6795) for more information.

The Community Relations Committee
thanks you for your help and participation this
year and wishes each of you a joyous and
happy Holiday Season.

Ed Barnes
Community Relations Chairman

A REMINDER OF THE TOWN'S PAST

Under the stern and vigilant eye of Mayor
van Tamelen an ad hoc committee of ten
is planning a display of antique and historical
agricultural equipment to recall the days when
our Town was an area of farms and orchards.
The display site is the three-quarter acre open
field just north of Town Hall--a part of the
property donated to the Town by the Fowle
family at the time of incorporation.

Several plans for the display are under
study by a committee headed by Ed Barnes
with assistance from Rosemary Meyerott, our
Town Historian. Irma Goldsmith is committee
secretary with many years of background re-
garding Town history.

Several pieces of equipment have already
been received including a vintage hay baler
donated by Arlene Taaffe Reed. The com-
mittee actively seeks additional historical farm
equipment for display on either a gift or loan
basis. Residents who know of such equipment
are urged to contact the committee through
Town Hall.

William Perkins, Marianne Beck
Ad Hoc Committee Co-Chairmen

LOS ALTOS HILLS HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Hearsay has it that Los Altos Hills Horsemen's Association is alive and well.

This past year has been busy and fun for all those horsemen who got involved. Clinics were held in January and February with guest speakers, Debbie Serini, popular trainer at Fremont Stables and Walter Wright, well known stock horse trainer from San Juan Bautista. A great potluck/clinic was held in April with Duncan Peters from Peninsula Equine. In May LAHHA took part in the Los Altos Hills Town Parade with pony rides later in the Town Ring.

June/July/Aug--Summer Fun was held in the Town Ring, a popular, practice time for the BIG shows, with ribbons up to 6th place. September brought the 46th annual Hidden Villa Horseplay where everyone helps, and this year the benefits went to Hidden Villa, Westwind 4H Handicapped Program, and the University of Georgia College of Vet. Medicine.

October and the last "Maxi" show for 1983 in the Town Ring and later in the month the Annual Meeting with Blair Miller and Nancy van Zwol to increase your knowledge of horse "know how." In December LAHHA will be part of the Community Service Xmas collection of tovs. with a party at Westwind Barn.

LOS ALTOS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Los Altos Hills Historical Society has enjoyed a wonderful 1983 of activities, trips, and parties, each one seasoned with historical education made more palatable by friendship and fun.

All officers and the Board of Directors agreed to carry on for 1984 as follows:

Irma C. Goldsmith	President
Peg Alexander	Vice President & Registrar
Mary Stutz	Secretary
Joseph Dochnahl	Treasurer

Proposed programs for 1984 include: D. Warburn, renowned historian of Northern California, particularly the gold country 1840's; a joint potluck dinner with the Historical Committee of Hidden Villa and a viewing of the old agricultural machinery and tools once used on the ranch; an overnight trip to Murphy and Colombia, famous renovated towns in Sonora; sponsor a program by Kay Peterson and docents on California on the 1900s for the Bullis School students; a luncheon at a new restaurant in San Jose by an Indian chef featuring Indian menus.

Family memberships in the Society is only \$5 and dues for 1984 may be sent to Peg

Come join us, we have a lot of fun. We meet the 2nd Tuesday of every month (except December) at Town Hall, 8 PM. All members or prospective members get a warm welcome.

Alexander at 27200 Elena or Irma Goldsmith at 27330 Elena Road. Do share 1984 with us historically as we turn the pages of the past. Happy Holidays from all of us in the LAH Historical Society.

 HAPPY 
HOLIDAYS!

