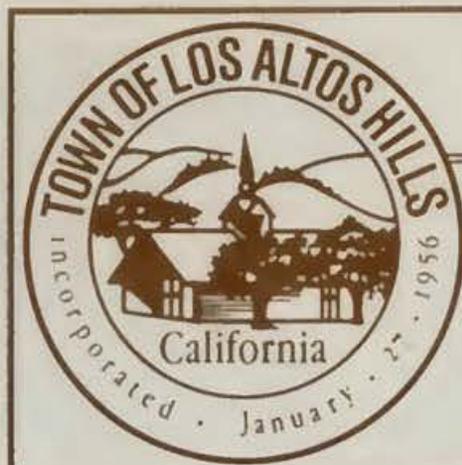


Los Altos Hills Town Newsletter - February 1987

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NEWSLETTER

Vol X, No. 1 FEBRUARY 1987

Town Tackles Drainage and Road Maintenance

Drainage Pipes Can Cause Erosion

Two major engineering studies underway in Los Altos Hills will make recommendations on drainage and road maintenance.

The drainage study is being done by Creegan & D'Angelo, Consulting Engineers. It consists of taking a complete inventory of all existing drainage facilities, with descriptions, photographs, notes on discharge to public or private property and notification of conditions warranting immediate actions.

The engineers are doing runoff computations and reviewing the adequacy of each facility. Where the pipes, bridges or ditches are inadequate, the engineers are to recommend alternative solutions and estimate the costs. Environmental concerns are to be given a high priority.

The study will evaluate in terms of benefits, costs and impacts all the projects in each drainage basin. It will rank priorities and identify projects needing immediate attention.

The long-established policy of the Town with regard to development on hillsides is to minimize the disturbance of natural topography and vegetation and to use natural swales for drainage. Extensive underground storm drain systems have been avoided as not appropriate to the rural, natural lifestyle.

and some improvements are necessary. The current study will indicate what steps need to be taken next.

The road system is being studied by Harris & Associates.

The Town's founding philosophy was low tax rates, minimal staff and low maintenance budget, and the Town intends to adhere to that philosophy as much as possible. The current systematic look at the road system is designed to develop the most efficient use of maintenance funds while protecting the infrastructure.

There are roughly 50 miles of public roads in Los Altos Hills, and all of them are included in this study. The engineering researchers are charged with pointing out weak areas and setting priorities for maintenance and repair.

Comments? Complaints?

The City Council appreciates hearing from residents before decisions are made, but understands not everyone has time to join advisory committees or attend Council meetings. Responding to the needs and concerns of individuals is a primary function of representative government, and your views are important to all of us.

Everyone in Los Altos Hills has a voice through the Council, and you may be very helpful to us when we face difficult issues. It



A drain causing erosion.

Each rainy season one of the important drainage and erosion problems the Town faces is improperly installed flexible plastic drain pipes. These plastic drain pipes are usually used by homeowners to drain water away from their residences during the rainy season.

The Town urges that in installing these plastic drain pipes, homeowners remember to do two very important things.

First, make sure the connecting joints between the segments are very well anchored so that they will not separate during heavy rains. Secondly, make sure that the place where these plastic pipes discharge will not be eroded by the drainage water.

To make sure the pipes don't discharge on a hillside, extend the pipe to the bottom of the hill. These pipes concentrate and increase the velocity of drainage water. If they are not installed carefully, they can disintegrate

However, bad storms have exposed various problem areas.

you have any ideas, suggestions, comments or complaints, letters to the Council are always welcome
Barbara Irvon
Mayor Pro Tem

carefully, they can do substantial erosion damage and create a significant landslide threat.

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TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS

NEWSLETTER

Community Relations Committee Prepares Party for Newcomers

People who have moved to Los Altos Hills since January 1, 1986, are invited to a Welcoming Party hosted by the Community Relations Committee.

The party will begin at 3 p.m. Sunday, February 15, at the Heritage House adjacent Town Hall, according to Committee Chairwoman Grace Allison. Cheese, wine and coffee will be served.

The party is one of several activities the committee has undertaken to welcome people to the Town.

The committee is mailing packets to new residents that contain letters from the committee and mayor, the Los Altos Hills booklet, lists of town committees

Los Altos Hills Residents, which was the first resource guide to all aspects of living in Los Altos Hills. She also served as chairman of the Environmental Design Committee and as a board member of several other organizations benefiting the community.



From left to right, Rosemary Meyerott, Joseph "Doc" Dochnahl, and Julie Burian.

For her dedication as the Town's historian, Rosemary Meyerott received a service award. For years, Rosemary has spent countless hours each week recording and maintaining the history of the Town. She was also instrumental in working on the Heritage House



James L. Plummer.

Plummer has a bachelor of arts degree and a master's degree in business administration, both from the University of Southern California, and he received a doctorate in economics from Cornell University.

Plummer, his wife, Janice, and their three children have lived in Los Altos Hills since 1979.

Reception Planned for Duveneck Exhibit

A reception will be held from

and organizations and a community reference booklet published by the Los Altos Chamber of Commerce. In addition, individual committee members have contacted new residents to tell them what the Town has to offer and have held parties in their homes for new neighbors.

Additional information can be obtained from Mrs. Allison at 949-0356.

Three Hills Residents Win Service Awards

Three Los Altos Hills residents were honored at the fourth annual Los Altos-Los Altos Hills Volunteer Awards luncheon.

Joseph "Doc" Dochnahl received the service award for his many years of service to both the Town's Pathway Committee and the Planning Commission, as well as his extensive participation with the Hills Horsemen's Association. He was also instrumental in the formation of the Westwind Barn Board of Directors, which helped to preserve the barn for generations to come. Many will remember him as a member of the De Anza Trek in 1976.

Julie Burian was honored for her diligent work on the *Handbook for*

Committee.

Other winners were Lee Cullinan, Elaine Dornig, William Fimbres, Kenneth Kaye, Cecelia Keehan, Carol and Ralph Kuiper, Jim Long, Pat Osborne, and Don and JoAnn Terhune.

Jim Plummer Joins Town Council

James L. Plummer, president of QED Research Inc. in Palo Alto, has been appointed to the Los Altos Hills Town Council.

Plummer replaced Richard Rydell, who resigned.

Plummer, 46, has been a member of the Town's Finance Committee for two years. He was selected from among 10 applicants.

Plummer has been president of QED Research for four years. From 1979 until he founded QED Research, he was director of energy analysis for the Electric Power Research Institute in Palo Alto.

He previously was chief of economic evaluation for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and manager of energy studies for the National Science Foundation, both in Washington, D.C.

2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, February 28 in the Town Council Chambers to mark an exhibit there commemorating the late Frank Duvenceck.



Frank Duvenceck opening his 98th birthday mail on December 18, 1984.

Duvenceck, a long-time hills resident whose Hidden Villa Ranch on Moody Road has been available for public use for 60 years, was born 100 years ago. He died two years ago.

The reception will feature a slide show documenting Duvenceck's life and times, according to Marjorie Kellog, Town Curator. Refreshments will be served. Among the exhibits are a handmade christening gown, 19th century toys and photographs Duvenceck took of the Panama canal during its construction.

The Town Council Chambers are located adjacent Town Hall at 26379 Fremont Road.

Sheriff Increases Drunk Driving Enforcement

Los Altos Hills is among four cities benefiting from a state grant to increase enforcement of laws prohibiting driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs.

A team of four Santa Clara County Sheriff's Deputies, specially trained in drunken driving detection and apprehension, began operating last November in Los Altos Hills, Cupertino, Saratoga and Monte Sereno.

A grant of just over \$100,000 from the State Office of Traffic Safety covers all costs of the program for the first year. The state will pay for half the costs in the second year. The county and cities must pay for continuation of the program after that.

The deputies plan to spend time in each city generally in proportion to their populations. They spent 40 hours in Los Altos Hills in November and made three arrests. In December they patrolled for 16 hours and made three more arrests.

No arrests were made for drunken driving in Los Altos Hills during those months last year, according to City Manager George

One playground will be for primary grades and the other for grades four through six.

The PTA has appropriated an initial \$10,000 for the playgrounds. The remaining funds will be obtained from corporate and community donations and fund-raising events.

The playgrounds at Bullis-Purissima, on Fremont Road east of Town Hall, will be available for the entire Town, and the PTA is urging all residents to become involved in the playground fund-raising effort.

Bullis-Purissima has 233 students and continues to grow. The Los Altos School District has purchased for Bullis a portable building containing two classrooms. The portable building soon will be moved to the school site, and Bullis parents and staff members will be involved in facilitating the move, decorating the interior and landscaping the exterior.

Bullis-Purissima has a new principal this year, Charlene Luks. She came to Bullis from the San Leandro School District, where she was a teacher, school psychologist and summer school principal.

Motorcycles, of course, must follow the normal motor vehicle laws, and so must moped drivers and cyclists. Particularly important, cyclists must ride on the right-hand side of the road. Bicycles are by law required to remain on the right, and that is where motorists can expect to encounter them.

Bill Bliss, an adviser to the Santa Clara County Intergovernmental Council's Trails Advisory Committee, reports that about half of the accidents involving bicycles and automobiles are the fault of the bicycle rider and about half are the fault of the motorist. Of the accidents caused by the cyclists, about 40 percent are due to their riding on the wrong side of the street.

Pedestrians should use pathways whenever possible. If there is no pathway, they should walk on the left side of the road, facing oncoming cars.

The state has exempted regulation of who uses the roads, Bliss says. A city could not prohibit cyclists even if it wanted to. Cities can regulate parking and use of sidewalks, and they may control such things as organized massing of joggers on roads.

In the final analysis, good sense should rule the roads.

Hills Roads Have

Scarborough.

In the third year, the county and cities must decide if they want to continue the program on their own. One of the criteria for judging the program's success, Scarborough said, is whether enough fines are levied on drunken drivers to pay for much or all of the enforcement program.

Bullis-Purissima School Raising Funds for Playgrounds

The Parent Teacher Association at Bullis-Purissima School, which is the only public school in Los Altos Hills, has taken on as its major project this year the planning, funding and construction of two new playgrounds.

Many Users

By law, custom and good sense, roads and streets are not for exclusive use by automobiles.

Motorcycles, mopeds, bicycles, joggers and pedestrians also have rights to use the Town's roads. Horses and pets under the control of their owners may also use them.

There is, however, one class of vehicles expressly forbidden from Town roads — roller skates and skate boards. A municipal ordinance bans all skates and skate devices from any public street or road, pathway or pathway space or any Town-owned property. Violators face confiscation of their skates or boards and a \$50 fine for first offense.

People with the right to use the streets and roads also have the responsibility to use them lawfully and safely.

Motorists should travel at safe speeds and stay within their lanes on turns.

Pedestrians and cyclists should stay on the proper sides of the roads.

All users should respect the rights of others and expect to encounter someone just around the next corner.

STUDENTS ADDRESS NEWSLETTERS

Handicapped students from the Morgan Center in Los Altos affixed the address labels for this issue of the newsletter. The students seek similar jobs from other governmental agencies, businesses or individuals

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TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS

NEWSLETTER

Building Permits Needed for Home Improvements

California law now requires

on the number of homes it would agree to serve if granted a franchise by the City.

Of the four companies vying for the franchise, City staff and the ad

detailed information on the number of homes it would guarantee to serve. United is a large cable operator that serves Los Altos and Cupertino locally. United had previously proposed a 60-foot

sellers of residential property to deliver a written statement to buyers concerning whether alterations were made under appropriate permits.

The seller must list any structural additions or alterations or replacements of significant components of the structure made during his ownership and state if the proper permit had been obtained for the construction.

Sellers who willfully violate this law will be liable in the amount of actual damages suffered by the buyer, including any attorney fees.

The law is contained in Sections 1134.5 of the State Civil Code.

Cable TV Offered to Los Altos Hills

After months of discussion, the City Council recently voted to postpone for a second time the decision on which cable television company, if any, it would allow to offer services to Los Altos Hills residents. The vote was 3 to 2 in favor of permitting one of the companies, United Cable Television, 45 days to gather information

hoc cable TV committee recommended that the Council select Hearst Cablevision. The Council was advised to begin non-binding negotiations with Hearst, based on Hearst's proposal, its responses to a questionnaire prepared by the committee and its qualifications and experience. Hearst presently serves Mountain View, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Saratoga, Santa Clara, Milpitas and portions of unincorporated Santa Clara County.

Hearst would provide 44 channels from its station in Mountain View to a presently existing receiver in Los Altos Hills and local access programming facilities to residents. Hearst was the only company willing to guarantee a minimum coverage of 85% of homes in Los Altos Hills, plus any underground utility areas containing more than 30 homes per mile. Other issues, such as signal quality, addressable converters ("pay for view" special programming) and availability of Foothill College courses on cable, were all factors considered by the Town.

However, United Cable addressed the Council and requested a 45-day delay to obtain more

previously proposed a 60-foot tower on a site within the Town to receive its signal from Hayward, but this option was considered unacceptable by residents and officials and was withdrawn. An alternate receiver location for United has not been decided.

The granting of a cable TV franchise would not involve any direct costs to the Town and could provide many benefits to those who would choose to subscribe. Many residents have indicated a strong interest in having such service, and the City Council will be considering the issue further in February. Anyone who has questions or comments should direct them to the Council before January 30th.

MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Mary van Tamelen, *Mayor*
Barbara Tryon, *Mayor Pro Tem*
Louise Dronkert
William Siegel
James L. Plummer

City Manager,
George Scarborough

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