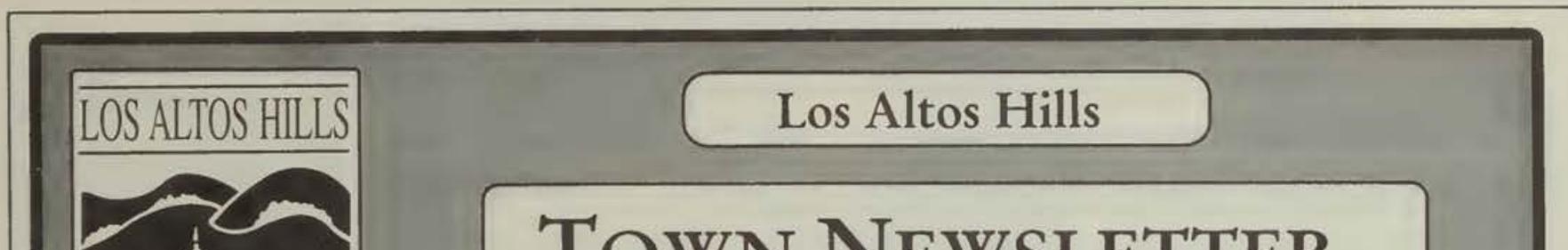


Los Altos Hills Town Newsletter - April 1997

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Art Exhibits at Town Hall

Once again, Ethel Blank, our Town's Curator of Exhibits has put together an outstanding art exhibit at Town Hall for April and May. Two local residents are featured whose work is of top quality. All Town residents and guests are invited to the artist's opening reception to be held at Town Hall Chambers on Sunday, April 6th from 2 to 4 P.M. The pieces are exceptional and provide an opportunity to collect art at the artist's discounted studio prices. The details are:

R.J. Truman

Sculpture Exhibit

Rebecca Truman had a pretty good indication that she was artistically inclined when she was discovered painting the kitchen wall with a combination of oatmeal, mustard, catsup and lard at the age of four. Although she now uses different materials, she enjoys it just as much. While in high school, Rebecca received the first of many art scholarships to the Art Center of Design in Los Angeles. She graduated from the University of California Santa Barbara with a degree in studio art. Although her first public commission was a mural in an orphanage in Italy, her shows have been primarily in Hawaii and California. Re-



Council to Review Master Path Plan for Off-Road Paths

Last year the Town Council adopted a new Pathway Element to the Town's General Plan. The Pathway Element sets policy for both roadside and off-road paths. This year the Council will review the Master Path Plan Map which was last adopted in 1981. This map shows future off-road paths that the Town hopes to acquire and open for public use as the opportunity arises.

The Master Path Map will be reviewed in sections. First the Pathway Committee will review the off-road paths in each section and make recommendations for changes in the 1981 map. These recommendations will be reviewed by the Council and then a public hearing will be held by the Council before final adoption of that section of the Master Path Plan. In this newsletter there is a map of the proposed new Master Path Map for the Page Mill Road section of the Town. This map shows existing off-road paths. The map also shows planned future off-road paths. Comments are now requested about these paths. Because the Town newsletter is published only two times per year, the Town will publish the notice of public hearings and a map showing the proposed Master Path Plan for each section that is being reviewed in the Los Altos Town Crier. It is expected that this process will take a approximately a year to complete.

More information on paths can be found on the Internet. You can read the Pathway Element of the General Plan and

becca's realistic figurative sculptures are made of clay or bronze. Her focus is to convey an attitude expressed through the language of the human body.

Jonathan Barnes

Collage/Painting Exhibit

Jonathan paints abstracts, employing both traditional painting techniques and the collage process. Many of his pieces contain recognizable forms "imbedded" within a larger, non-

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued on page 5)

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LOS ALTOS HILLS

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THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

Editor's Corner

Becoming Better Wired

Last issue we introduced our Town's new "WebPage" which can be found at "<http://losaltosonline.com/lah>" and requested constructive feedback and suggestions.

We are happy to report that your interest and ideas have resulted in a number of additions and improvements. Here is a



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

April 6 Sunday	Artist's Opening Reception; 2-4 P.M., Town Hall Chambers; Refreshments.
May 2, 3, 4	Friends of the Library Book Sale, Hillview Community Center, Sat. 10A.M.-3 P.M., Sunday, Noon-3 P.M.

summary of what you will now find on our Web site:

- A description of our Town, including a synopsis of its history, government, Council, Commissions, Staff, and Committees
- Town amenities such as pathways, parks and recreation
- A complete listing of our elected officials and volunteers
- Copies of all recent City Council agendas and meetings
- Copies of all recent Planning Commission agendas and meetings

Please visit us. We invite you to make additional suggestions. We want you . . . we need you . . . what's more, we ARE you!

— Editor



Spring Greeting Party All Residents Invited!

Do you like free ice cream, music, games? We all do, right?

Well, join the fun! You are invited to the *1997 Spring Greeting at the Town Hall on Sunday, May 18th, 3-5 P.M.* Enjoy the opportunity of meeting Town newcomers, your Town Council members, volunteers, and staff.

Once every other year the Town residents join together at the Spring Greeting Party. The purpose of the event is to welcome newcomers, but it really is much more. The Town Council is available to discuss issues, and the volunteers present information regarding their committees (just in case you would like to join). There will be games for the kids. The police can answer questions regarding safety issues. The fire department discusses fire safety and always brings a fire truck for the kids to learn about the basics of fire-

May 5
Monday

The Community Services Agency & Bank of Los Altos 2nd Annual Golf Tournament; Los Altos Golf & Country Club; Info: 948-2846

May 18
Sunday

Spring Greeting '97, Town Hall Lawn, Ice cream social. Bring the whole family. Music, Entertainment; Time: 3:00 P.M.

June 7
Sunday

Pathways Day, National Trails Day Hike; Meet: Corner of Moody Road and Rhus Ridge Road, Time: 10 A.M. Refreshments. Info: Call: 941-3984

August 25
Monday

Los Altos Chamber Golf Tournament. Los Altos Golf & Country Club; Info: Call 948-1455

NEWS FROM WESTWIND BARN

Did you know that 1997 is the twentieth anniversary of the Friends of Westwind Barn? Look for celebrations this year! Last year we all enjoyed some very successful events sponsored by different community groups such as the Pony Club, the Los Altos Hills Horseman's Association, and Tiedown. We hope to do so again this year. A number of dates have already been decided. Mark these on your calendar. For more information, call Westwind Barn Manager, Kelly Douglas, at 941-6113.



April 21 - 25

Dressage Clinic with Erik Herbermann

April 26

POK event (tentative)

fighting.

**Mark your calendar for:
Sunday, March 18th, 3-5 P.M.
See you there!**



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LOS ALTOS HILLS

April 20
May 2 - 4
June 8
September 6
October 12

BOK event (tentative)
Clinic with Charles Wilhem
Tiedown Horse Show
Hoedown
Pacific Ridge Pony Club Halloween
Schooling Show

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Volume XX

April 1997

Improved Fire and Medical Emergency Services

Since January 1st of this year our emergency fire and medical services have been greatly increased. The Los Altos Hills County Fire District that serves our Town now contracts with the Santa Clara County Fire Department to provide fire service. The City of Los Altos also made this change. Here are some of the improvements:

At the District's El Monte station on the Foothill campus there is now a ladder truck and an off-road vehicle designed for grass fires. There are also four firemen instead of three on duty around the clock. Training is underway so that each station and each



Home Composting Course

A University of California Cooperative Extension program, Home Composting Education Program (HCEP), is soliciting candidates from Los Altos Hills for their August Master Composting Class. Seventy-five Master Compostors have been certified in Santa Clara County to teach home composting. One hundred workshops were taught by these individuals in our county in 1996, attracting 1,346 attendees.

We are also looking into having a workshop in Los Altos Hills because of the interest exhibited when 125 composting bins were sold at the town hall.

— *Environmental Design & Protection Committee*





shift will have a paramedic on duty. Fire departments respond faster to emergencies than do paramedic ambulances, so soon our fire engines will be staffed with firefighter paramedics.

There were 340 medical emergency calls in the District last year. The Santa Clara County paramedic ambulance is now stationed in Los Altos during the busy day shift. (It was previously located in Mountain View.) It will continue to transport you to the hospital if that is needed.

Our emergency communications are now faster and safer. We are contracting with County Communications so that all 911 calls will go to this large modern center which dispatches police, fire and ambulances. In the past, 911 was first answered by Los Altos police, and then the call was transferred to the County.

The District is now working on a contract with Palo Alto Fire to share the cost of operating Station 8 in Foothill Park during the summer fire season.

The District is also developing a pilot program to assist residents in brush removal. Remember, fire safety in the vulnerable hillside areas is everyone's responsibility.



Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

Get ready for Spring! Clean out your cupboards and garages. The next countywide Household Hazardous Waste Collection program for residents of Los Altos Hills will be on:

Saturday, April 5th

Call for an appointment:

(408) 299-7300

Home Rehabilitation Low-Interest Loans Available



Is your house in need of basic repairs, such as foundation work or other structural upgrades, or plumbing or electrical improvements? Is your annual household income less than \$34,800 for a family of two or \$43,500 for a family of four? Los Altos Hills residents who are on fixed incomes or who otherwise meet the income limitations may be eligible for low-interest loans to rehabilitate existing owner-occupied homes. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds are allocated by Santa Clara County to qualifying Town residents for this purpose. If you think the program may apply to you, please call either the Housing and Community Development Program at the County at (408) 441-0365, or contact Curtis Williams, the Town's Planning Director, at (415) 941-7222.



Old Car Disposal

Do you have an old vehicle that you are storing on your property? An easy way to dispose of it is to call: 1-800-559-5458 (Donation Program) or 1-800-727-2708 (Buy Back Program).



About Our Publication

The Town Newsletter is published in April and October with assistance from our Town Volunteer Committees.

Editor: Roger W. Burnell

Associate Editor: Dorothy Duffy Price

Los Altos Hills City Council

- Sid Hubbard, Mayor • Toni Casey, Mayor Pro Tem
- Elayne Dauber • Bob Johnson • Bill Siegel

THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

Pathways Day - Plan Ahead!

Join members of the Town Pathways Committee on Saturday, June 7th, National Trails Day, for a hike along the Adobe Creek Lodge Loop. This is a chance to see a beautiful part of our community with recently renovated pathways and to join in the collective spirit of a national event.



Town Financial Report

Our Town's finances are managed by our Finance Officer, Carol Ferrell under the direction of City Manager Jeff Peterson. A six member Finance Committee composed of volunteer citizens provides a review and oversight function and makes financial recommendations to the City Council. One such issue was the recent purchase of a new Financial Software System to replace an obsolete accounting system.

The primary assignments for the Finance Committee are the review of both the Operating Budget and the Capital Budget during their preparation cycle, as well as the review of periodic financial status reports. Recently, the Finance Committee has been tasked to provide recommendations to the City Council on the establishment of a formal monetary reserves policy, and to review the Town's fee structures for providing paid services (usually related to planning, building and construction).



Last June the City Council adopted a 1996-1997 Budget that anticipated revenues of \$2,941,924 to the General Fund

The walk will begin from the corner of Moody Road and Rhus Ridge Road. Included in this route will be some hilly sections and wooded areas.

The outing will begin at 10 A.M., returning to the starting point before noon. Bring water for the walk, but refreshments will be provided by the Community Relations Committee afterwards. If you are in reasonable physical shape, you will enjoy this opportunity to exercise, learn and meet new people.

The Pathways Committee is cooperating with the Digital Trails project in designing maps of hiking, biking, and horseback riding trails. The maps will be accessible on a Web site in the near future. Learn more about this on the June 7th hike.



Pathway's Day October 6th. Pictured are members of the Pathways Committee: Katy Stella (with her Arabian horse, Dansarra), Les Earnest, Chairman, Pathways Committee, and Diane Barrager joined with walkers who enjoyed the beautiful Lupine Path hike on a very warm Fall day.

that anticipated revenues of \$2,741,724 to the General Fund with corresponding expenditures of \$3,389,966. The General Fund includes all major items except Solid Waste (Garbage) and Sewers, which are self-funding, (e.g. through direct billing and bonds or parcel taxes.) You will find that this year our expenses exceed our revenues as we are spending some reserves to bring our streets up to par. We normally strive to keep a balanced budget.

Have you ever wondered where your property tax dollars go? Most of those dollars go to the county, to school districts and to special assessment districts. **Less than 4% of your property tax dollars come to the Town of Los Altos Hills!** For example, in 1996-1997 we expect to receive \$682,200 from property taxes which supports only about 23% of our General Fund budget.



Our Town is in good financial health, with enough reserves to meet all but the most dire of emergencies. Your City Council, Finance Committee and town staff are all dedicated to keeping it that way. If you have any questions, our Committee Chairman, Jim Steiner, will be happy to address them. He may be reached by phone at 948-0750 or by E-mail: Jim_Steiner@CompuServe.com.

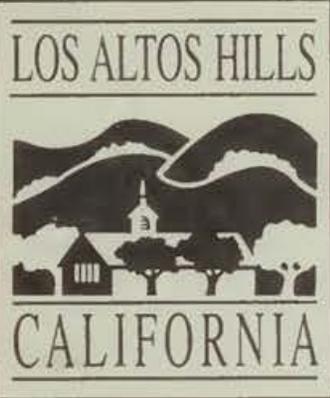
— Finance Committee



Notification To All Residents: *SITE DEVELOPMENT POLICY STATEMENT*

The following Policy was revised and re-adopted by our City Council on February 19, 1997. It replaces the previous policy which had been in effect since 1991.

“The standards set forth in the Zoning and Site Development Codes for maximum floor area, maximum development



area, and height are **maximum** standards, and those for setbacks are **minimum** standards. The City Council and the Planning Commission have the discretion to apply stricter standards to reduce floor area, development area, and/or height, or to increase setbacks, where site specific constraints dictate further limitations, such that the purposes of the ordinances and Design Guidelines are complied with. Some examples of site constraints include, but are not limited to, the shape or natural features of the lot, easements which restrict development, or high site visibility.

The Town will assure — by means of landscape requirements, siting, grading limitations, choice of exterior materials and colors and outdoor lighting, limiting size and/or height,

Recognize Your Volunteers ?

Los Altos Hills depends on volunteers to increase the Town’s effectiveness. Pictured below are four active volunteers who contribute to our Town. Do you recognize them? Next time you see them, give them a “pat on the back” and say, “Thanks for your efforts!”

1



2



3



4



Answer: 1) Les Earnest, Chair, Pathways; 2) Bertin Fank, Chair, Safety; 3) Roger Burnell, Chair Community Relations; 4) Dexter Hake, Chair, Environmental Design & Protection

increasing setbacks, and the possible requirement for one-story homes or homes of low-profile or horizontal design — that buildings and other development are as unobtrusive as reasonably possible when viewed from off the site and that impacts on neighboring residents are minimized. Where sites are limited to less than the level of development requested and below the maximum allowable, the basis for such action will be articulated by the Commission or Council.

The Town will make every effort to see that buildings do not dominate the natural landscape. The Town considers that all prominent or highly visible sites are hilltops and ridgelines from some angles, and that hilltop and ridgeline restrictions may be applicable to any such site.

The Town will take into consideration impacts of a project on neighbors. Public notice and hearings are a critical part of the review process.

Inconsistencies in permitted site development of the past are not to be considered as reasons or precedents for allowing exceptions to the purposes of the ordinances in the future.”



(Master Path Plan - continued from page 1)

obtain notice of Public Hearings through our Website: <http://www.losaltosonline.com>.

The City Council will hold the public hearing for off-road paths in the northwest part of town on May 21, 1997 at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Chambers, 26379 Fremont Road. In the coming months, a series of hearings covering other neighborhoods will be announced.

(Please see the special map insert in this newsletter. Note that the map shows existing and planned paths as striped (solid) and dotted lines, respectively, and uses arrows to indicate possible connections when property is subdivided or developed.)



Community Volunteers Openings

Presently there are several vacancies on the Town's Standing Committees, Planning Commission and Youth Commissioner. The openings are for:



- Planning Commission (4 year term beginning 7/1/97)
- Youth Commissioner
- Town Standing Committees (2 year Terms): Community Relations, Pathways Recreation and Parks, Safety, and Technology Improvement

For additional information concerning the goals and charges of these positions, please contact City Clerk Pat Dowd at 941-7222. Applicants for the Technology Improvement Committee should have a broad technical hardware and/or software background as well as being e-mail accessible.

Applications are available in the City Clerk's Office at Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022 during regular office hours (8:00 A.M. to noon; 1:00 to 5:00 P.M.).



(Art Exhibits - continued from page 1)

objective image. The techniques Jonathan uses lend themselves to experimentation and spontaneity. This method of working inspires him, providing an element of anticipation and surprise during the creative process. By incorporating



Rudolf --- A Personality for All Seasons

Driving along Fremont Road near the Bullis School in



Los Altos Hills, you would hardly notice the stump of an old apricot tree at the edge of the road; that is, unless you knew it as the remains of Rudolf. As you approach the curve in the road it suddenly looms up at you, and you think "My heavens is it a deer?" Then, you quickly realize, how clever - someone has made the old stump into an icon of Rudolf.

Who is Rudolf? Well, as the old orchard died, one of the trees broke so that its top resembled the head of Rudolf of reindeer fame, thus the name bestowed on it by the neighborhood. For a long time it stood unadorned. Then spontaneously, a few years ago, nearby residents began decorating it for all the holidays or special occasions. At Christmas it wore a wreath or garlands; at Easter it sprouted rabbit ears and an Easter bonnet; on the Fourth of July it displayed the American flag. Valentine's Day, Thanksgiving, St. Patrick's and Halloween inspired the appropriate attire. Someone even donated a set of antlers.

Vandals broke off Rudolf's head a few years ago. A vase of white lilies and condolences were placed at the base of the jagged stump. However, a devoted nearby resident repaired it, and again the local school children and passersby enjoyed the seasonal changes



recognizable imagery into some of his pieces, he is able to convey an idea or emotion within the context of a larger, abstract framework. Jonathan considers a work complete when it can be interpreted on several levels, allowing each viewer to appreciate and enjoy it in his or her own special way.



Opening Reception: Sunday, April 6, 1997 from 2 - 4 P.M., at Los Altos Hills Town Hall Chambers, 26379 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills, Exhibit Hours: Monday - Friday, 1- 5 P.M. Call 415/ 941-7222 .

or costume.

Driving by two years ago, I noticed that Rudolf was beheaded again. Only a ragged, splinted top remained tied with a dangling black cloth. Someone had placed flowers by its side.

The person who had repaired Rudolf before did not think it was an act of vandalism. She blamed it on the ravage of dry rot and termites. She took the head and antlers home to repair them, using a can to hold the neck and head together. A coat of plaster and paint helped to conceal the damage.

Now Rudolf stands proudly again! The school children and passersby who have enjoyed Rudolf for several years hope that it will remain intact for many more years for their pleasure, serving as a special icon to remind Los Altos Hills of seasons and holidays.

— Carol B. Hughes

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LOS ALTOS HILLS

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Volume XX

April 1997

FACTOID:

**How Much Do You Know
About Los Altos Hills ?**



Explore and Help Maintain Pathways!

Have you explored the Town's Pathway System?
This unique network, which includes both roadsides and off-

Number of street lights:	6
Number of traffic lights:	3
Miles of paved roads:	92
Miles of sidewalks:	0
Miles of Pathways:	95
Miles of sanitary sewers:	48
Miles of storm drains:	5



Recreation:

Number of baseball fields:	4
Number of horse rings and barns:	211
Acres of open space:	
Town parks:	55
Mid-peninsula Open Space District	28,000

Source: State Board of Equalization



New Ultrasonic Device Saves Animals

Residents recently have reported that using a new device that is attached to your auto and the airflow produces ultrasonic sound, saves deer, dogs, cats and other wild life from being struck by cars. Don't expect animals to tap dance or stampede when you approach. Instead of reacting, they will continue to graze when the saver system is working and will not panic.



This is a great idea for saving animals when driving in the Hills! Information? Contact Ralph Vetterlein: 941-8185

Underground Tank Owners Alert!

This unique network, which includes both roadside and off-road paths, enables children to get to school safely, residents to visit neighbors, equestrians and hikers to reach open space areas and runners to get some enjoyable exercise. Copies of the Town Pathway Map were distributed to all residents two years ago in the back of the Town Handbook. Additional copies are available at Town Hall for \$2 each.

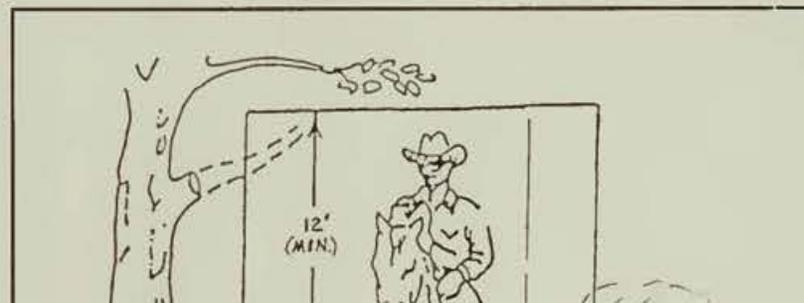
In order to keep the paths open, continued maintenance is needed. Residents are encouraged to clear paths on or along their property, especially during the Spring growing season. As shown in the *illustration*, bushes or trees should be cleared to a distance of one foot on either side of the path and to a height of 12 feet above the tread.

When disking property, avoid disking the path surface. This renders the surface unsuitable for walking for a substantial period and in some cases promotes erosion. To prevent erosion, areas within 5 feet of paths should not be disked.

Please keep sprinklers at least 5 feet away from all paths and protect the path contact from water runoff. If you wish to screen the path with shrubbery, please refrain from planting fast growing bushes, such as oleander, too close to a path because they require frequent cutting.

If severe erosion occurs on a path or any unsafe condition exists, such as fallen trees, please contact Town Hall (941-7222). With your help, the Town's unique Pathway System can continue to safely meet the needs of all residents.

— Pathways Committee

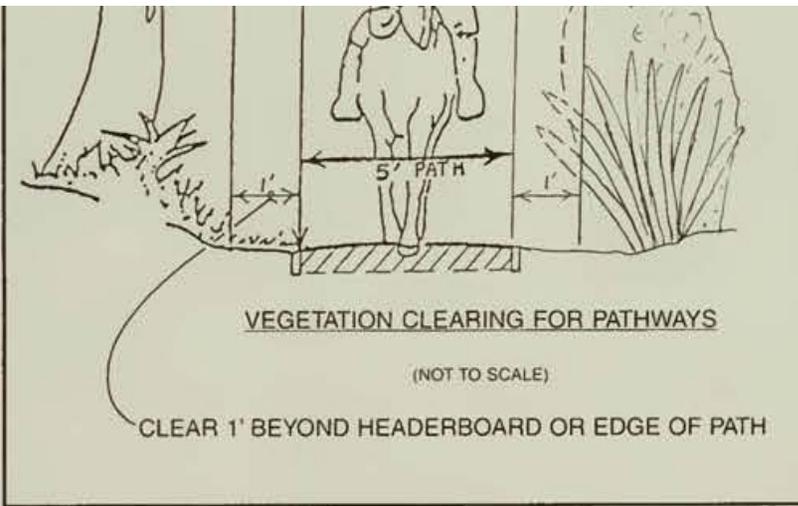


Deadline to upgrade underground tanks that contain hazardous materials (most of which contain petroleum products) is fast approaching.

December 22, 1998, marks the deadline to upgrade existing underground storage tanks. To "upgrade" means to retrofit an existing tank and piping with internal lining, corrosion protection, spill containment, overfill prevention equipment, striker plates and automatic pump shutdown capability.

Call County Fire Department for more information.

408-378-4015



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LOS ALTOS HILLS

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THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

Residents' Reply Card

We'd love to hear from you. Please let us know what you think and how we might better meet your needs.

1. Volunteer Committees and Appointments: (Note: If there are no current openings, we will gladly notify you when one becomes available.) I'm interested in:
- Planning Commission
 - Community Relations
 - Finance
 - Pathways
 - Technology Improvement
 - Safety
 - Environmental Design & Protec-

5. Do you have any questions or helpful comments? _____

- tion Town Historian Joint Volunteer Awards
- Youth Commissioner
- Exhibit Curator Senior Coordinating Council

2. Spring Greeting: I would like to help with planning, food, and/or entertainment. _____

3. I have special skills/talents, i.e., accounting, cartooning, computer skills, and would be pleased to help the Town. _____

4. What topics would you like to see in future Town Newsletters? _____

We thank you very much!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

(Please cut form along the dotted line, and return to Town Hall: 26379 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills CA 94022)

Spring Greeting 1997

Mark your calendars!

You are invited to the fun-filled

Spring Greeting!

Meet new neighbors and families.

Day: Sunday

Date: May 18th

Time: 3-5 P.M.

Location: Town Hall Lawn



Enjoy free ice cream sundaes, refreshments, music, games, and camaraderie.

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

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Los Altos, CA
Permit No. 306

Meet your Town Council members.

Exchange ideas

See you there!

Information: 941-7222

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LOS ALTOS HILLS

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**PAGE MILL CORRIDOR OFFROAD
PATHWAY MASTER PLAN
WORKING MAP**

LEGEND

 EXISTING OFFROAD PATH

 PLANNED OFFROAD PATH

 PATH CONNECTION TO BE PLANNED
AT TIME OF DEVELOPMENT

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION — SEE APRIL 1997
TOWN NEWSLETTER, PAGE 1.



