

## Los Altos Hills Town Newsletter - June 1999

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LOS ALTOS HILLS



CALIFORNIA

Los Altos Hills

TOWN NEWSLETTER

Volume XXIII No. 2

June 1999

## Community Calendar

**June 4 - Farewell Reception for Jeff Peterson, 4 - 7 PM,**  
Town Hall. All residents invited.

**June 5 - Saturday 7:30 AM to 2 PM.**  
Clean Up Day in Los Altos Hills, Town Hall.

**July 4 - Sunday,**  
Shoup Park, 11 AM-1 PM, Glorious 4th Family Picnic, Los Altos/Los Altos Hills Family Picnic, Includes parade, Music by Air Force Band.  
Information: 949-5234

**July 10 - Sat. & Sun.**  
Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival, 10 AM-6PM,  
Information: 949-52282

**October 9, Saturday, 10 AM - 12 noon.**  
**Pathways Walk, Dedication of the Mary Stutz Path-**

## CITY MANAGER RESIGNS

Is Los Altos Hills better off today than it was four years ago? Yes, it is—due in no small part to the leadership of our departing City Manager, Jeff Peterson.

One always has ambivalent feelings when a leader of the caliber of Jeff, decides to make a career change. On the one hand, you are happy for his opportunity for advancement, but on the other saddened to lose such a valuable member of your team. That is how the city council, staff, and volunteers feel about Jeff's decision to resign his position as City Manager, effective June 11<sup>th</sup>.

Jeff will be joining Wilsey Ham consulting engineers of Foster City as executive vice president. "It's an opportunity I hadn't sought, but a wonderful new career challenge," Jeff said.

Jeff has served the town in official capacity for the past 7 years—first as the Director of Public Works for three years and then as City Manager and City Engineer for the past 4 years. Prior to that he worked for Wilsey Ham as a consulting civil engineer for six years.

It is rewarding to look back at the goals established four years ago and to see all that has been accomplished. Among Jeff's top priorities when he assumed the city manager's position was to make Town Hall a more user friendly environment and responsive to the residents. He has selected top professionals to be part of his team. From the reception area to the public works area he has achieved his goal. Mayor Bob Johnson says, "In my



Jeff has accomplished many of his original goals that he set in 1995. For example high on his list was Site Development and Public Works policy changes, implementing a town-wide engineering benchmark datum, and developing a pavement management system to assess and prioritize street repairs. Additional accomplishments include the modernization of the town's systems and functions—such as a new integrated computer systems that contain the parcel data base, a new financial system and soon to be implemented a digital GIS system, a digital map of the town than can provide overlay maps for sewer, storm drains, pathways, and streets.

When asked what his biggest accomplishment was, Jeff responded "The increased efficiency of Town Hall through the introduction and utilization of technology. For example: the public versus private streets was a major undertaking. That is now accomplished. Additionally, we have improved our finance system, which has features such as "Electronic Cash Box." When payments are made they are automatically posted to the general ledger, eliminating many steps in the process and increasing the accuracy of the transactions. Of course, none of this could have been accomplished without the hard work of highly professional staff at Town Hall and a dedicated supportive city council."

Lastly, but certainly not least - Jeff has very kind words to say about the contributions of the many volunteers who serve the town. "They are the soldiers who make the town work. Without them, the town could not possibly achieve its goals and maintain its spirit." Jeff said.

ways. Pay tribute to memory of Mary Stutz, who was a dedicated community volunteer. Meet at South of Prospect Avenue near Quarry Subdivision. Mark your calendars today!

11 years on the council, the past four years have seen a wonderfully well-tuned staff be more productive and efficient than at any other time."

"If I had to decide which was the best single decision I made in my 7 years on city council, it was to hire Jeff as city manager. Under Jeff's leadership Los Altos Hills has had excellent staff growth, solid financial planning, and great improvement in the Town's infrastructure," Mayor Pro Tem, Elayne Dauber said.

maintain its spirit, Jeff said.

You can see why Jeff is held in such high esteem and affection. We shall all miss him and wish him the best of luck. Thanks Jeff, for the past seven years of outstanding accomplishments and service to Los Altos Hills.

*(Ed. Note: Residents & friends are invited to attend a Farewell Reception for Jeff Peterson on Friday, June 4th 4-7 P.M. at Town Hall.)*



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**THE TOWN NEWSLETTER**

**City Manager's Report**

**LeFevre/Eshner Subdivision Construction**

Construction has begun on the LeFevre and Eshner Subdivisions on Altamont Road. One of the first items of work is a 1400-foot extension of the sanitary sewer in Altamont Road from Altamont Court to just south of Julietta Lane. As mentioned in a previous memo to you, Altamont Road will be closed from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays through mid-June to expedite the installation of the sewer. Normally the Town does not approve road closures. However, since the sewer line meanders between both lanes to avoid conflicts with the existing waterline, keeping one lane open for traffic was not practical. Only one driveway access is located

**Packard Property**

The City Manager, City Attorney and Planning Director continue to communicate with the attorney and other representatives for the Packard Trust, although no application has been submitted yet. Trust representatives have discussed conservation easement language with the City Attorney, and the City Manager has walked potential trail alignments on a couple of occasions.

Staff expects the Trust representatives to begin neighborhood outreach in the near future, prior to submitting an application.

**Matadero Creek Subdivision Conditions**

On March 23, 1999, staff mailed a letter to all property owners in the Matadero Creek subdivision, informing them of the pending review of the subdivision conditions. In particular, the letter



practical. Only one driveway access is located along the closed portion of Altamont. Traffic detour signage is in place to guide drivers who are unfamiliar with the area around the construction.

### **Sun Country Cable Notice of Sale**

The Town's cable T.V. consultant, Telecommunications Management Corp., is currently reviewing Sun Country Cable's application for transfer of franchise. TMC has indicated that they will have their comments to the Town in late May. As a result, this item should be back in front of the Council for consideration at the first meeting in June. Since Sun Country Cable's application was not complete until this past month, this schedule is well within the 120 day review period allowed by Federal law.

### **Council Chambers Upgrades**

A computer will be placed at the end of the Council dais for public access to the parcel database. Residents will be able to use the computer during business hours to research any property in Los Altos Hills. The installation and wiring for the computer will occur the week of May 10, with the system available to public by May 17th. Staff will prepare user instructions and will also provide assistance to the public to acquaint them with the procedures for locating information. The system will also be demonstrated at the Town picnic on May 23rd.

A suggestion was made to move the public podium to a new location near the presentation screen at the end of the partition that separates staff and the public. This would allow speakers to face the Council and the public when speaking and making presentations using the overhead screen. Staff will make a recommendation to the Council regarding this idea.

### **General Plan Update**

A contract to initiate work on the next phase of the General Plan update (Land Use Element) was approved by the Council on November 4th, and the consultant has been working on a background report for that element, pending direction from the Council. Staff expects to bring an item to the Council on June 3rd to request appointment of a Land Use Element Committee and to discuss an outline of the element with the consultant. Staff has not



outlined a proposal which would: 1) delete the "building coverage" requirement of the initial approval; 2) retain the height limitations specified originally; and 3) use today's development area calculations and definition to determine MDA, based on the "unencumbered area" of each lot. The letter mentions that options might also be considered to address inconsistencies in the application of the rules in the past. A handful of property owners' responded to the letter prior to the April 16th deadline, mostly supportive, but a couple of them have detailed questions about development potential which they will meet with staff to discuss. Staff expects to schedule review of this item for a Planning Commission meeting in early June.

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### **Project Reviews**

The following major project applications are pending to be scheduled for Planning Commission and/or City Council review in the coming weeks or months:

a) New residences - 17 applications pending for new residences at: 12950 Brendel Drive (Olcott), 12780 Camino Medio (Windy Hill), 25691 Chapin Road (Quinn), 25706 Elena Road (Driscoll), 27400 Elena Road (Gheyri), 12150 El Monte Ave. (Boyd), 11890 Francemont Court (Kerns), 12180 Kate Drive (Chase/Arnold), 25721 La Lanne Court (Fong), 14350 Manuella Road (Barth), 27168 Moody Court (Green Earth), 27161 Moody Road (Garrett), 27371 Moody Road (Rocchetti/Herdell), 13828 Moon Lane (Wythe/Vitu), 13620 Roble Alto Court (Hsu), 26870 Taaffe Road (Lo), and 13737 Wildflower Lane (Seufferlein); and 2 major addition/remodel projects; projects that are cleared for review will be scheduled for subsequent Commission (or Site Development) meetings.

b) Lot line adjustment for LeFevre subdivision to alter lot lines between three of the lots; to be scheduled for Commission meeting in May or June.

—Jeff Peterson, City Manager

discuss an outline of the element with the consultant. Staff has not been able to begin implementation ordinances and programs for the Housing Element and Circulation Element, given other recent Council priorities.

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### PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT FAST TRACK PROCESS PROPOSED

On March 18th, a subcommittee of the City Council proposed an outline for a "fast-track" review process for new homes and major additions to existing homes. The subcommittee also proposed "enhancements" to the current site development review process, to minimize the discretion of the Planning Commission and staff to modify proposed projects. On April 15th, the Council considered a draft ordinance including the proposed "fast-track" process and "enhancements." The ordinance was then forwarded to the Planning Commission for public hearing and recommendation before it will return to the Council for final action.

The "fast-track" review process as proposed would be available for projects which are determined to meet all of the Town codes, policies, and guidelines, and which have little or no neighborhood opposition. The Planning Director would provide notice of a public hearing for such projects to all neighbors within 500 feet and, if no substantive issues arise, would forward the project directly to the City Council on a "consent" agenda for approval (no public hearing would be required at the Council). Notice of the Planning Director's decision would be mailed to the same neighbors, and appeal of the

### *BEAUTIFY LAH* ~ GOAL OF THE NEW UTILITIES AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS COMMITTEE

The new Utilities and Information Systems Committee is off to a strong start, meeting twice since its inception in April, and will meet again in mid May. The 9 newly appointed members of the committee are: Marshall Bauer, Andrew Colman, Raymond Egan, Richard Ellinger, Robert Fenwick, George Knight (Vice Chairman), Robert Lefkowitz, Amir Rosenbaum (Chairman), Evan Wythe (Secretary). Some of the goals of this committee are to beautify the natural rural character of Los Altos Hills by under-grounding utilities (power, phone and cable lines), make high speed information access lines available to Hills residents, televise Town Council Meetings, and facilitate direct resident information dissemination.

The committee's current tasks are to gather all pertinent information regarding these subject matters with respect to cost, funding, long range policies and possible implementations, and present these to the City Council for review. The members of the Utility Committee represent a wide range

project could be made to the City Council. If staff determines that the project does not comply with the Town's codes or policies, or that substantive neighborhood opposition exists, or that there are unique planning issues that need discussion, the Planning Director will schedule the project for review by the Planning Commission.

"Enhancements" to the current review process are intended to clarify the scope of Planning Commission and staff review and to minimize the extent of "subjective" review. The suggested refinements include: 1) a policy limiting the scope of review to siting of structures relative to slopes, trees, and neighbors, more so than design features of the home; and 2) findings required to justify reductions in height, floor area, development area, or increases in setbacks.

The draft ordinance is scheduled for hearing and discussion at the Planning Commission on May 12th, and is tentatively scheduled for hearing and action at the City Council on June 3rd. If you have any questions regarding the ordinance or meeting dates, please contact Curtis Williams, the Town's Planning Director, at (650) 941-7222.

—Curtis Williams, Planning Director



### Town Newsletter - Statement of Purpose

To communicate Los Altos Hills current issues, services, and activities to the residents of the Town and to facilitate, encourage and improve interaction between the residents and Town government.

The 1999 Newsletter will be published quarterly in the months of March, June, September, and December.

Deadline for the next issue is July 31, 1999.

Internet Address: [www.losaltosonline.com/lah](http://www.losaltosonline.com/lah)

#### About Our Publication

The Town Newsletter is published with assistance from our Town Volunteer Committees.

Editor: Dorothy Duffy Price

Associate Editors: Barbara Lamparter, Linda Seidel

#### Los Altos Hills City Council

• Bob Johnson, Mayor • Elayne Dauber, Mayor Pro Tem  
• Toni Casey • Steve Finn • Bill Seigel



Recycled Paper

Members of the City Council represent a wide range of skills and talents; many are high tech professionals with access to the latest and future technologies available. This is a fun and exciting committee charged with goals that may significantly improve the quality of life for all residents of Los Altos Hills.

### NEW STAFF AT TOWN HALL

#### MEET OUR NEW CIVIL ENGINEER

Ola Balogun, Ph.D. recently joined the Town Hall staff as the Associate Civil Engineer, replacing Sheryl Proft who moved to Dublin, CA.

Ola possesses impressive academic credentials. After earning his baccalaureate degree in his native country of Nigeria, he came to the University of California, Davis to receive both his Masters Degree and his doctorate in civil engineering with a specialization in hydraulics and hydrology. Ola has written computer code for automatic control of water releases in canal systems such as the California Aqueduct. His career path has included engineering work in Nigeria,



Ola Balogun

private firms in California, and working on projects such as the San Francisco Bay-Delta systems, Oakland arena, Oakland Army Base, and the new Cypress roadway where he did environmental and civil design work.

Ola had always aspired to work in public service, so when the opportunity arose in Los Altos Hills, he immediately applied. He was very impressed with the team interview and the city council. Ola states that he hopes to "stay with the town, grow with the town and help residents in solving engineering related issues."

Ola commutes each day from Oakland where he resides with his wife, Bisi and their four children (age's 11-16 years).

## THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

### EDITOR'S MESSAGE

At long last summer has arrived in Los Altos Hills and we can begin to enjoy the beauty of our Hills and our outdoor lifestyle.

It was a pleasure receiving so many responses to our March newsletter. We heard from **William Antonioli, Evangeline Benson, Barrett Bruch, Helen Bucholz, Betty & Alan Dale, Rosemary Damon, Berin Fank, John & Laney Harney, Mr. & Mrs. Christian Horn, Mark & Kathy Scheible, and Linda Swan.** The reply cards are reviewed by the city council and suggestions often result in changes. For example, the idea that neighbors adopt a road and collect the litter is a thoughtful suggestion from Betty and Alan Dale. The Dale's actually have adopted their neighborhood along La Loma Drive and Prospect Road. No doubt there are many streets in Los Altos Hills that need adopting. We would be very happy to highlight the endeavors of neighborhood groups that engage in such excellent community service. Believe me you do not have to be "Robin Williams" to have your efforts recognized. (Note: RW sponsors the litter collection along Hwy 101 near Candlestick Park.)

It was surprising that only three out of the eleven residents who responded indicated that they had attended our Town Hall Art Reception. I encourage you to do so. You are missing a real treat. **Ethel Blank**, the Town's Exhibit Curator hosts a wonderful art reception with spectacular hors d'oeuvres at each art opening. The next reception is on June 6th, Sunday afternoon 2-4 P.M. Stroll down to Town Hall and enjoy a little culture right in your own back yard.

### PREVENTION IS THE NAME OF THE GAME

The Los Altos Hills County Fire Protection District believes prevention is the best fire protection. Every resident is responsible for his own property but the District wants to help you. So again this year every residence west and south of 280 is being offered free brush chipping on site. McClenahan is the district's contractor.

Work continues on the firebreak being built in Byrne Preserve. Last year goats were used to start the project and now the San Jose Conservation Group is on the ground working to widen the break.

The District is funding the Saturday Yard Waste Drop-Off program at Foothill College on Saturdays. Everyone has received a letter from Los Altos Garbage telling the dates and times of this service.

The Fire Department has been checking the water flow pressures at each fire hydrant in the area and finding which ones are below standard. The District is working with the Purissima Hills Water District and Cal Water Company to determine ways to upgrade deficient areas. The Town enforces a strict fire code and most new homes as well as many remodels are required to install sprinkler systems because adequate water supply may not be available.

This District is governed by a Board of Commissioners appointed by the Santa Clara Board of Supervisors. Regular

At long last we have a Youth Commissioner. **Patrick Neal** was recently appointed to the position by the city council. Patrick is a junior at Los Altos High School and the new Editor of The Talon, the Los Altos High School monthly newspaper. At the recent National Convention for Junior Editors of America, The Talon received a national award by placing 9th in the Best of Show Category. Patrick will also serve on the Community Relations Committee. Because of Patrick's special interests and insights, Patrick will contribute articles to our Town Newsletter on subjects related to the youth of our community. Please join us in welcoming Patrick to his new leadership position.



*Patrick Neal, Youth Commissioner*

Our next Town Newsletter will be in September. In the interim, have a great summer, enjoy our beautiful Los Altos Hills and our wonderful community. We are truly fortunate!

—Duffy Price

## IN MEMORIAM

Tom Griffiths, 57, a 16-year resident of the Hills and a long time member of the Pathways Committee died April 20. He was an active sportsman, who loved biking on the pathways of hills, playing golf, and cross-country skiing. His wife, Evelyn, son Shaun, and a daughter Kara survive him. As an active volunteer for the town, Tom will be missed.

meetings are held at 7:30 P.M. on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the fire station on the Foothill campus. You are welcome to attend.

## Get SMART – Slow Down!

While merrily driving down a street, have you ever been suddenly surprised to see a radar speed trailer looming in front of you and realized, OOPS! I better SLOW down.... Well the SMART Trailer is coming to Los Altos Hills. SMART stands for Speed Monitoring Awareness Radar Trailer.

At the April 15, 1999 meeting, the City Council approved a recommendation for the purchase of a radar trailer using the AB 3229 grant funds. The radar trailers are useful for making drivers aware of their speed, especially in areas where speed limits are often being abused. The Council voted to purchase one of the radar trailers with recommended options at a cost of approximately \$14,425.



The trailers also provide additional information that is useful in assessing speed patterns, time of day, and volume of cars. The data is recorded digitally, so can be used develop a database of information. SMART brings results. As speed awareness goes up, motorists slow down, even after SMART moves on to another problem location. Voluntary speed compliance. That's SMART!"

## THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

### ART SHOW INVITE

THE TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS  
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU  
TO ATTEND THE FOLLOWING OPENING RECEPTION AT TOWN HALL  
TO VIEW THE ARTWORK,  
SOCIALIZE WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS,  
MEET OUR LOCAL ARTISTS,  
AND ENJOY GOURMET REFRESHMENTS.

RECEPTION  
SUNDAY, JUNE 6  
2 - 4 PM  
AMELIA KROLL SOLOMON  
SCULPTURE CAST IN BRONZE AND  
MONOPRINTS ON HAND MADE PAPER

EXHIBITION DATES  
JUNE 6 - AUGUST 27  
MON.-FRIDAY 1 - 5 PM



### NEW LANDSCAPE GUIDE

The Environmental Design Committee has developed a recommended landscape guide for Los Altos Hills. Robin Robison, ED committee member is recognized for her efforts and work on this project. The guide is full of information and suggestions. There is a list of native plants, information about living with California oaks, coping with wildlife and water conservaiton. Copies of the useful guide wwere handed out at the



### SISTER CITY AWARD

At the April 15th City Council meeting, Mayor Bob Johnson accepted a commemorative award from Bill Sun, Ph.D., LAH resident. Dr. Sun was instrumental in developing the sister-city program for Los Altos in 1992. The porcelain plaque depicts a running horse with the words "Godspeed Around the World," commemorating 7 years of Sister Cities relationship between



Spring Family Picnic and will soon be posted on the Town's web site.

## SHOULD THE TOWN REGULATE EXTERIOR COLOR OF NEW HOMES?

Current Town regulation requires the exterior color of a new home to be a paint color with a light reflectivity of 50 or less. Roofs must be a light reflectivity of 40 or less. Should the color board be eliminated? Is the color of roofs important? Or should the property owner decide the house color? The Town Council will soon debate these issues. At the May 6 Council meeting, a subcommittee of Mayor Johnson and council member Toni Casey was designated to bring a proposal regarding exterior color regulation back to the Council. When this proposal is ready it will be widely circulated to the residents and posted on the Town web site. Meanwhile let's hear your comments. *Use the Resident Reply Card on page 6 to share your thoughts.*

**For Council Agenda and Minutes,  
See our Website:  
[www.losaltosonline.com/lah](http://www.losaltosonline.com/lah)**

Los Altos/ Los Altos Hills and the city of Shih Lin, Taipei, Taiwan, the Republic of China.

## MEDICAL INFORMATION VIALS — WHAT ARE THEY?

When paramedics are called to a home for an emergency, often they do not know the patient's medical history or what medications the patient is taking. The information is invaluable for instituting proper treatment.

Medical Information Vials contain a form listing all of the important medications that the resident is taking. The vials are stored inside your refrigerator. A small sticker on the outside of the refrigerator is a signal to the paramedic to look inside the refrigerator for the information.



The Town Safety Committee has sponsored the project distributing vials each household in the past. The City Council recently approved funds to purchase Medical Information Vials from the El Camino Hospital Senior Center at a cost of 40 cents per vial. The vials were distributed to residents at the Town sponsored Spring Family Picnic. Any resident, who would like an informational vial, should stop by Town Hall to pick one up.