# Los Altos Hills Town Newsletter - March 1993

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LOS ALTOS HILLS

Town of Los Altos Hills

NEWSLETTER

CALIFORNIA

NEWSLETTER

Volume XVI March 1993

# Coming Soon... S'Bring in the Hills '93!

Reserve the evening of Saturday, May 8th on your calendar! The Town of Los Altos Hills is pleased to announce the Second Annual "S'Bring in the Hills" dinner/dance on that date at the Fremont Hills Country Club. You *must* reserve early (your formal invitation is enclosed).

This is a festive get-together for all of our Town's residents and their guests, and includes a special welcome for all newcomers who have joined our community during the past year. According to Fran McIntyre, this year's Event Chair, space is limited to 300 reservations, so you *must* sign up early. (Last year's inaugural event was sold out three weeks in advance!)

Prepare yourself for an evening of relaxed socializing, champagne cocktails, catered buffet dinner, wine, dessert, games, awards, weekend giveaways, cash prizes and more.

Together with a professional jazz combo and dinner strings, this year's party features the incomparable "Full Faith and Credit Big Band" (13 pieces), recently called "sensational" by Herb Caen in the San Francisco Chronicle.

We hope you can join us. Ensure your ticket reservations by returning the enclosed application today!

# Garbage Rate Increase Necessary

Due to an increase in hauling and dumping fees and the need to meet additional costs for the Town's comprehensive recycling programs, the Council approved an increase for residential garbage rates on March 3rd. The decision was made after a seven month study by a Council subcommittee which conducted a thorough examination of rates, fee structures, and services. The new rates for garbage and recycling collection will appear on your next garbage bill.

Why must the rates go up? Your garbage bill includes charges for a number of separate solid waste services which have increased in cost since the last rate adjustment occurred, in 1987.

- The cost of hauling garbage and recyclables from your home to the disposal site has increased. The travel distance to the closest landfill in San Jose is now 50 miles round trip. Backyard service, low density development, and the lack of commercial accounts make collection more expensive in our Town.

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## Garbage Increase

*(Continued from page 1)*

- Garbage is hauled to Newby Island landfill. Last July the City of San Jose increased its tax on each ton dumped at this site from $3 to $13, in addition to the $20 fee per ton charged for landfill operation costs. Recyclables and yard waste are hauled to the Zanker Resource Recovery Center. Center charges have been increased by 171%, to $28 per ton.

The Town did not raise garbage rates when San Jose increased its fees. We have been paying the increase out of the general fund, with the hope that the exorbitant fees would be reversed by litigation. Now it is imperative to stop this drain on the general fund. Part of the rate increase in your garbage will cover these increased costs.

In addition to the weekly collection of garbage and the bi-monthly collection of recyclables, your garbage bill

### Monthly Solid Waste Services

**Rates Effective March 1, 1993**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1-Can Service | $24.05 |
| 2-Can Service | 32.15 |
| 3-Can Service | 40.25 |
| 4-Can Service | 48.35 |

These rates are for service at the street or within 100 feet thereof. For each additional 100 feet of driveway, or part thereof, add $5.00.

Your next bill from the Los Altos Garbage Company will reflect these rates for the months of March, April and May.

The Los Altos Garbage Company also offers additional special services such as debris boxes,

bi-monthly collection of recyclables, your garbage bill also pays for the following additional services:

1. Four Clean-Up Days a year when you can drop off almost anything at six locations in Town. Call the garbage company at 961-8040 for information on times and places.
2. Yard Waste Drop Off at the Town Corporation Yard on Purissima Road: The new hours will be Thursday through Sunday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and the site will remain open all year round.
3. Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off: This program is mandated by the State. You need an appointment. Call 1-408-299-7300.
4. Town costs for cleanup of illegal dumping to keep our creeks and roadsides free of debris.
5. State, County, and Town administration, and accountability of solid waste management programs mandated by the State.

The State of California has mandated that cities reduce, reuse, recycle, and compost to reduce waste going to the landfill by 25% by 1995 and 50% by the year 2000, or face stiff fines of up to $10,000 per day for non-compliance. Garbage collection, dumping and recycling have now become an essential government service.

As an environmental leader, our Town was one of the first cities in Santa Clara County to offer a yard waste program. Our recycling program has been a resounding success. New additional programs to be offered in the very near future include drop-off recycling for cardboard and plastics as well as a program to bring compost back to the community. Residents do have the option to reduce their garbage rates by taking advantage of recycling and yard waste programs. It will take a community-wide effort with participation from all residents to meet state mandated goals and to continue reducing the amount of waste going to the landfill.

manure removal, and special pick-ups for bulky items. Call 961-8040 for more information.

## Plant Your Plants and Show Your Flowers

A Native Plant Sale and Wildflower Show will be held April 17 & 18 at the Foothill College Campus Center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. The event is free, but the college now collects parking fees on weekends. Plants are sold on a "first come" basis, so plan to arrive early. This is the 22nd annual show and sale sponsored by the Ornamental Horticulture Department at Foothill College and the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. It is a very educational event with over 400 different flowers, shrubs and ferns all labeled with their botanical and common names. The plants all come from this area. Don't miss this one!

## Coming Soon — A Dry Garden Contest

Even though we have had ample rain this season, it is not time to forget water conservation. This year a contest for the best "dry" garden in Los Altos Hills will be co-sponsored by the Town's Environmental Design Protection Committee and our two water companies, Purissima Hills and California Water Service. Judging will address well designed gardens, large or small, which use drought tolerant plants and water conserving irrigation methods. Further information about contest rules and prizes will arrive in your water bill. Judging will probably occur in late fall, so get busy now.

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# Support Our Supportive Supporters

## Meet City Engineer/Public Works Director, Jeff Peterson

Jeff received his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from The University of New Mexico. He undertook additional studies in Arctic Engineering at the University of Alaska in Anchorage (Brr…rr!). Prior to joining the Town full-time in 1992, Jeff was with the Consulting Engineering firm of Wilsey & Ham.

When asked why he prefers working in our Town, Jeff replied: "I enjoy working in Los Altos Hills because the job offers a diversity of challenges, the ability to work with a wide variety of interesting people, and the chance to be an integral part of shaping the Town's future.

## Volunteer Committee Openings

The Town currently has openings for formal membership on the Community Relations Committee. This committee publishes our newsletter, coordinates town communications, and produces a number of special events — including the upcoming *S'Bring in the Hills* dinner party.

You may contact the City Clerk at Town Hall, 941-7222, for more information or to obtain an application to participate and serve your local community.

## Los Altos Hills Needs Volunteers

Los Altos Hills needs volunteers to act as Neighborhood Coordinators, Assistant Neighborhood Coordinators, or Block Captains.

The Hills has been divided into 35 neighborhoods, each headed by a Neighborhood Coordinator to work with neighbors and officials in case of emergencies such as fire, earthquake, etc.

If you can help in any way or need more information, please call 941-7222. Thank you.

## 1992 Town Pathways Day

On Sunday, October 4, 1992, the Town celebrated its

## Meet City Planner, Linda Niles

Linda received her B.S. in Public Administration and Behavioral Science. She joined us in 1992 from the City of Encinitas, where she spent the previous five years in charge of all current planning for three separate areas within the City.

In her own words: "I enjoy working in Los Altos Hills for several reasons. The Staff is like a new family for me, the Town is so beautiful(!), and the community is so diversified and so involved in its own development. It is a challenge and privilege to help the community re-evaluate its codes, and to review projects for determination of proper compliance with 'the historic and envisioned' character of the Town."

annual Pathways Day. Many local residents came out with their family members to take docent-led tours along several of our most beautiful off-road Pathways. The Pathways Committee was delighted to unveil its recently-installed Pathway marker posts, which were installed by The Town's Maintenance Crew in recent months. With refreshments served upon completion, the event was fun for all who participated. Carol Gottlieb (Pathways) and Gail Solomon (Community Relations) invite everybody to watch for this year's event in the Fall. Each year, different Pathways will be featured.

Also watch for your own Pathways Map, to be included in the new Town Handbook which will be mailed to all residents this Spring.

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## Your Assistance is Needed

## Our New Parade Float

## The Town of Los Altos Hills is Updating the General Plan Housing Element

A point of information: The Town of Los Altos Hills is required by State Law to provide our fair share of housing for the region. The Town is currently in the process of updating our General Plan Housing Element as directed by the State. The Housing Element is required to include an identification and analysis of existing and projected housing needs. Additionally, the Town is required to make a statement of goals, policies, quantified objectives, and scheduled programs for the preservation, improvement, and development of housing in the Town. The Housing Element is required to identify adequate sites for housing, including rental housing, and make adequate provision for existing and projected needs of all economic segments of the community.

One way residents can help the Town in our attempt to meet the State requirements and correctly identify the existing rental stock is for residents to notify the Town of existing secondary units on their property, whether attached or detached. These secondary units are permitted uses. However, Town Hall is not aware of many of the units that currently exist. It makes no difference if the units are being rented for money, or for services, or if no rent is charged. Any information on existing rental units would be very useful to the Town.

*Please call town hall or complete the resident's reply card on page 8, and send it to Linda Niles, Town Planner, with any additional questions or information that you feel would be useful in updating the housing element. We thank you in advance for your help!*

# Real Estate Directional Signs Come Down

## New Entry Rolls Out at Festival of Lights Parade

During this past holiday season, our Town unveiled its new parade float at the annual "Festival of Lights" Parade, held in downtown Los Altos on the first Sunday evening following Thanksgiving.

Designed by Roger Burnell, and built by the Community Relations Committee using many donated materials and countless local volunteers, the final result was acclaimed to be a top entry in the parade.

Animating its theme of "The Hills are Alive," with the familiar Julie Andrews title song from "The Sound of Music," the float was conceived to depict family life amidst the ambiance and natural hillside setting unique to Los Altos Hills.

The lead singing role was played by Valerie Sanderson — one of eighteen Bullis School third and fourth graders who auditioned for the part. Four other local children adorned the float in a fully orchestrated, rolling production featuring state-of-the-art technology — all automatically controlled by an on-board computer.

The Town Council recently adopted a new ordinance that prohibits directional signs advertising homes or lots for sale. Page Mill Road and El Monte were becoming cluttered with such signs. Properties for sale may still exhibit one sign and real estate agents or owners may still place small "Open House" directional signs, but only during the Open House. Los Altos Hills allows no other outdoor advertising signs. This policy keeps our town free from unnecessary clutter.

The final product was invited to appear at several local parades, including two which are televised. If you missed it, plan on experiencing this exciting production in November of '93!



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# Meeting our Neighbors

## Mel and Sally Hawley

It was 1947 when Melvin and Sally Hawley went looking for land south of Stanford on which to build a house. They found and bought ten beautiful acres up in the hills, slightly more than a mile west of the railroad station near Main Street, in a little unincorporated town known locally as "Los Altos." This charming young couple was

# Addressing our Addresses

City Manager Les Jones requests that all residents take a few minutes to examine the entries to their driveways and residences to ensure that their addresses are clearly posted and easily visible. If not, please make arrangements to ensure that repairs and/or improvements are taken care of this Spring. Local law enforcement and emergency officials have experienced some difficulty in finding some of our homes. In the event of an emergency, we all need immediate locatability. Let's work together and not over-challenge the emergency drivers, who may not be familiar with your street

locally as "Los Altos." This charming young couple was ready to settle down, having recently completed a "tour" in the Air Force which followed their days at Yale and at Smith College. To them, "settling down" meant going to Stanford Law School, raising two little kids (the third one came a couple of years later), and building their own house with their own hands — and all at the same time.

Since they had never built anything even as large as an outhouse, one presumes that the occasional itinerant carpenter (and a few friends out in the hills who gave them a hand now and then) knew something about construction, for their lovely house is still standing firmly after nearly 50 years of infrequent earthquakes.

By choosing the highest part of their land for the house, the views from their windows include the South Bay to the East and a closer vista down below of Robleda Road as it climbs up westward toward Black Mountain.

In 1952, Mel passed the Bar Exam on the first try and promptly went to work in San Jose as a deputy district attorney. Within three years he ran for Sheriff of Santa Clara County and won, which became most convenient for the founders of Los Altos Hills who were then trying to put a new town together. (Would he continue to have his deputies patrol the area? Yes, he would.)

After two terms as Sheriff (during which he spent weekends on the beach in Aptos pounding nails again, building a summer home that is still there despite mud slides from behind and high water out front) he tried politics in Sacramento for a while, but soon returned to Los Altos.

He began his law practice in an office on the second floor of a building at 2nd and Main which had a history of having been a post office, school, and grocery store. It is now Eureka Federal Savings. He soon joined forces with Paul Myers and moved to 166 Main Street where he still works.

or house.

# Town Driveway Roughening Project at Pathway Crossings

The Town of Los Altos Hills will be undertaking a pilot project this spring to roughen a five foot wide pathway crossing 25 driveways in Town that have been determined to be slippery for pathway users. Typical driveway materials that are often slippery include exposed aggregate, smooth finished concrete and new or sealed asphalt. This slippery condition is exacerbated when the driveway is wet.

The Town's project will roughen driveways by two methods. Asphalt driveway crossings will be heated with torches and roughened with an "asphalt rake." The roughening will be done only within the Town's right-of-way or pathway easements, and will be contained within a five foot wide strip. Examples of this roughening may be seen on driveways along the east side of Taaffe Road.

Concrete, exposed aggregate, or other non-asphalt driveways will receive a non-skid epoxy adhesive similar to that used for handicap ramps or pedestrian ramps on public facilities, such as stadiums or other outdoor facilities. All work will be administered and inspected by the City Engineer. Residents affected by this project were notified by a mailing sent out on February 18th of this year.

The Town's Municipal Code requires residents to maintain pathway crossings in a manner which minimizes the danger of slipping to pedestrians or horses, satisfactory to the City Engineer. The Town encourages residents to voluntarily comply with the code to improve the safety of our paths as well as to reduce their own potential liability exposure. Residents

I shall always remember the day back in 1956 when he came jeeping through the orchards with a bottle of wine and some papers to be signed — some petition to create "a new town" in the hills. God Bless people with vision.

—*George Pfeiffer*

interested in roughening the pathway crossing of their own driveway may call Town Hall for more information on acceptable methods of roughening.



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# Kiss'n Cousins

## (aka: "What's New in Neighboring Los Altos?")

### *Library Dedication*

The newly expanded and remodeled Los Altos Library, which serves residents of Los Altos and Los Altos Hills, will be formally dedicated at a Dedication Program on April 18th at 12:00 noon. The program will be held at the library which is located in the Los Altos Civic Center on San Antonio.

The main speaker at the dedication is Dr. David Riggs, Professor and Chairman of the Stanford University Commission on Libraries. Other speakers will include Barbara Tryon, Mayor of Los Altos Hills, and Penny Lave, Mayor of Los Altos. Following the dedication, there will be tours of the library lead by library staff, Library Commissioners, and volunteer docents.

The library will be dedicated to the citizens of Los Altos and Los Altos Hills, whose continuing support through

### *Community Plaza*

Watch for further announcements in mid-'93. A new Communty Plaza is now being planned for the intersection of State and Main Streets in downtown Los Altos.

### *Downtown Events*

| | |
|---|---|
| April 3 | Easter Egg Hunt and Children's Show, 10 a.m. sharp |
| May 8 | Mother's Day in Downtown Los Altos |
| April 22 | Expo '93, 5–8 p.m., Hillview Community Center, Chamber of Commerce |
| May 15 | Armed Forces Day, celebration commemorating 60 years of the U.S. Navy at Moffett Field; look for details in the media |
| May 15–16 | Mayfest Weekend Rotary Art Show and Kiwanis Pet Parade, Quota Flea Market |
| May 21 | Mayfest Fashions, Los Altos Golf and Country Club, 12–1:30 p.m. |
| July 10–11 | Los Altos Arts and Wine Festival, |

a supplementary $52 per year tax has made the project possible. The library has been expanded from 14,000 sqare feet to 28,000 sqare feet and extensive remodeling has opened up the library to a feeling of light and to a greater enjoyment of the historic apricot orchard in which it is located. Seating space has doubled, a program room has been added, and space for books has been greatly increased. All residents are encouraged to visit the new library and attend the dedication ceremony.

### *Improvements on Main Street*

The City of Los Altos is currently planning a project that will improve safety conditions for pedestrians and motorists at the intersections of Main Street and Second Street, and Main and Third. The goal is to extend the curbs and sidewalk on all four corners of the two intersections. The project will also include beautification improvements (planters, landscaping, surface treatment, street furniture, etc.) consistent with the recently adopted Gates Urban Design Study.

The City is planning to resurface all of Main Street from Foothill Expressway to San Antonio Road, along with the intersection improvements, in order to accomplish a complete and finished product. The work is tentatively scheduled for the latter half of July and August, 1993.

10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

August 23 4th Annual Chamber Golf Tournament, $30

## Safeguarding Your Home

With regard to the recent rash of burglaries occurring in our town, the Los Altos Hills City Council and the Safety Committee strongly urge all residents to attend a meeting at Bullis-Purissima School at 25890 Fremont Road on Tuesday, April 20th, at 7:00 p.m.

Representatives from the Santa Clara Sheriff's Department will give a current update on the existing burglary situation, explain methods of burglary prevention, describe the advantages of a Neighborhood Watch Program, and conduct a question and answer session to address common problems in our community.

## Improving Street Names

Do you live on Jarvis, Old Page Mill Lane, Lupine, Gerth, Three Forks Lane, Moon Lane, or Via Ventana *and* have a Page Mill Road house number?

Emergency services have requested the Town Council to consider changing your street address to reflect the street upon which your residence faces, as an aid to faster location during an emergency. Public hearings will be held by the Council this Spring on this proposal. Each resident will be receiving written notice of the time and location.

FROM:
(Family Name) _____
(Address) _____
Los Altos Hills, CA 94022

Please place 29¢ postage here.

Community Relations Committee
THE TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS
26379 Fremont Road
Los Altos Hills CA 94022

*fold here (please cut on spine, fold on dotted line, and staple before mailing)*

## Lots and Building Permits

Here is a comparative summary of the number of lots and building permits issued in our Town last year:

## State Budget Effect on Local Revenues

One way that the State balanced its budget in 1992–1993

| CATEGORY | 1991 | 1992 |
|---|---|---|
| **Lots Created:** | 0 | 6 |
| **Permits Issued:** | | |
| New Residences | 19 | 15 |
| Secondary Dwellings | 3 | 2 |
| Additions | 76 | 66 |
| Interior Remodels | 84 | 89 |
| Swimming Pools | 12 | 23 |
| Tennis Courts | 4 | 3 |
| Solar Systems | 2 | 1 |
| Re-Roofing | 55 | 82 |
| Earthquake Repairs | 29 | 6 |

was to transfer local property taxes from cities and special districts to the schools. This reduced the amount of state support given to schools. The Town of Los Altos Hills saw $57,994 shifted to schools, while the Los Altos Fire Protection District (which serves Los Altos Hills) lost $174,217.

### Our Editors and Publishers:

The Town Newsletter, the official publication of the Town of Los Altos Hills, is designed to serve our neighbors through promoting community awareness and encouraging diversified participation. It is published semi-annually, in March and September, by the local volunteers of your Community Relations Committee, and is edited by its Chairman, Roger Burnell. If you have any comments or suggestions for improving our publication please feel free to include them on the residents reply card on page 7.



# Residents' Reply Card

All members of the Los Altos Hills community are encouraged to participate in local government as members of our various volunteer committees, and to express themselves as interested friends and neighbors. Please use this card to keep in communication with us about your interests and concerns:

1. Which of the following Volunteer Committees would be of interest to you for future participation?

4. What Town resident(s) do you recommend be interviewed for our new "Meet your Neighbor" human interest column?

   _____

   _____

5. What suggestions or recommendations do you have for any member or department of our Town government?

interest to you for future participation?

- Community Relations
- Pathways, Recreation and Parks
- Environmental Design and Protection
- Finance
- Safety

2. Which of the following volunteer appointments might interest you?
   - Citizen's Advisory Committees
   - Joint Volunteer Awards
   - Los Altos Senior Coordinating Council
   - Exhibit Curator
   - Youth Commissioner

3. What topics would you like to see covered in general, or in future issues of the Town Newsletter?

_____

_____

_____

_____

6. Any other comments?

_____

_____

_____

**IMPORTANT: Reply to Linda Niles, Town Planner:**

My property ___ has ___ does not have a secondary unit.

**THANK YOU !!**

Your Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____

## Los Altos Hills Little League and Bobby Sox

### Anniversary Year?

Does anyone know whether 1993 is an anniversary year for Los Altos Little League? Debra Chauvel, this year's Little League President would like to hear from anyone who might know the answer. She and others think that this year or next might be Little League's 25th anniversary in the Hills.

For those who would like to volunteer or who need information concerning Little League or Bobby Sox, please call Debra at 948-1868.

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

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## Los Altos Hills City Council

◆ Barbara Tryon, Mayor ◆

◆ Bob Johnson, Mayor Pro Tem ◆

◆ Elayne Dauber ◆ Sid Hubbard ◆ Bill Siegel ◆