

Los Altos Hills Town Newsletter - March 1995

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LOS ALTOS HILLS



CALIFORNIA

Los Altos Hills

TOWN NEWSLETTER

Volume XVIII

March 1995

LAH Secondary Dwelling Survey

Residents Respond in Record Numbers!

An impressive 49% of the Town's homeowners responded to the secondary dwelling survey. The survey results show that the Town has a far greater number of secondary units than was originally thought.

The Town is now in a strong position to deal with the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) in meeting its assigned responsibilities for affordable housing, since the State may allow those units which are rented at certain rent levels to be counted as affordable housing. Determination of the minimum number of units required in each city is made by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG).

PROJECTIONS FROM SURVEY RESULTS:

Income Level	Affordable Rent Level	No. of Units Required	No. of Units Projected by LAH Survey	LAH excess over Requirement
Very Low	under \$490	34	85	51
Low	\$490 - \$625	27	122	95
Moderate	\$626 - \$760	38	79	41
Moderate +	Over \$760	125	128	3
Totals		224	414	190

WESTWIND BARN . . .

. . . What's New ?

After the rainiest Winter in living memory, the soggy trails are finally drying out. Riders and hikers can enjoy a

superb display of wild flowers in Byrne Preserve located off of Altamont Road and beyond.

Horses, and their owners, are getting back in shape just in time for the show and clinic season. Boarders and facility users

of Westwind are eagerly anticipating our newly refurbished arena. Having worked closely with Town Hall to finalize plans, Westwind's remodeling permits are in process and work should commence this Spring.

Here is a partial calendar of new events planned. For further information, please call Barn Manager, Kelly Douglas, at 941-6113.

Date Event Contact

April 20-24 Dressage Clinic Erik Herbermann

May 19-20 Dressage Clinic Gwen Stockebrand



In addition to the statistical data shown in the table, other valuable information was obtained that has not yet been tabulated. Over 200 residents filled out the section asking for comments and suggestions (some rather candidly!).

The Mayor and members of the City Council expressed great admiration for the public-spirited effort made by the residents to help the Town deal with our affordable housing responsibilities. This matter potentially affects every resident, and it is obvious from the massive survey response that there is great concern about it in our Town.

June 18 Horse Show
June 22-26 Dressage Clinic Erik Herbermann
July 16 Horse Show

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THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

Improving Our Permit Process ...

Council Appoints New Subcommittee

The Los Altos Hills City Council recently appointed a sub-committee composed of two Council Members and two Planning Commissioners to identify problem areas within the current building permit process and to make recommendations to the Council which will streamline the process, making it more "user friendly" to Town residents.

Specific areas which will be studied include: confining in

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- April 22 Earth Day, Composters Distribution, Town Hall
- April 27 Los Altos Chamber of Commerce Spring EXPO; Trade Fair, 5-8 p.m., Hillview Community Center

Specific areas which will be studied include: confusion in the codes and ordinances, gray areas which are not easily understood, procedures that can be shortened, interpretation of the maximum floor and development areas, and the appropriate role of neighbor input.

The committee is seeking input from residents, architects, realtors, and builders regarding their experiences and suggestions. Please write Town Hall (Attention: Streamline Committee) with your suggestions and comments.



Bike Commute Day - May 4th

Get your gears in motion! The first statewide Bike-to-Work-Day is Thursday, May 4th. Pledge your personal commitment to bicycling. Call or Fax your name by March 15th to RIDES for Bay Area Commuter, Inc., (800) 755-7665; FAX (415) 543-5660. A complete California Bike Commute 1995 packet will be sent to you containing information on local events. So, pump up those tires! Get ready to ride! Promote good health and clean air.

Pak-It-In.

SOMEHOW HECTOR, I DON'T THINK THIS IS WHAT THEY MEANT BY REDUCING GARBAGE TO ONE CAN!



...by Nancy Fouquet



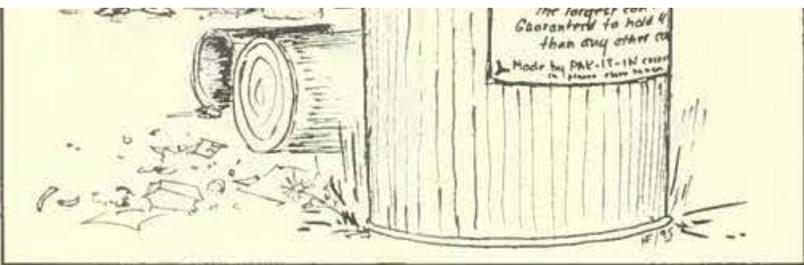
- | | |
|---------|---|
| May 4 | Bike-to-Work Day |
| May 6 | Town "Pathways Day," 10 a.m.
Meet at Town Ring Parking lot,
Purissima Road |
| May 6-7 | Friends of the Library Book Sale,
Hillview Community Center, Sat.
10 a.m.-3 p.m., Sunday, Noon-3 p.m. |
| May 21 | <i>Spring Greeting, '95</i>
Town Hall, 3 -5 p.m. |
| May 21 | 28th Annual Flea Market & Crafts
Fair; Los Altos Quota Club; 3rd St. &
San Antonio; 8 a.m-4 p.m. |
| June 3 | LAH Town Clean-up Day |
| June 18 | Westwind Barn Horse Show |

More Composters Available

Earth Day - April 22nd

The composting project that was piloted last year by 55 residents in Los Altos Hills was such a success that now the Town is preparing to offer a composter to additional residents. Participants expressed delight that not only was their household waste substantially reduced, but that the composter was very easy to use. Using a composter about the size of two garbage cans to collect kitchen waste and yard clippings, even shredded paper (but not plastics, bones or animal fat), allowed some people to produce mulch to spread in their yards and gardens within three months.

With the backing and support of Santa Clara County and the Los Altos Garbage Company, the Town is now making preparations to offer the composter to all residents. On Sunday, April 22nd, representatives of the manufacturer of the composter, as well as members of the Santa Clara County Home Composting Program will be on hand to distribute



composters and demonstrate composting techniques.

If you would like to order a composter, send a check for \$40 (made out to "Envirocare") to Town Hall Composter Offering. Only a limited number of composters will be available, so it is necessary to order in advance.

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**Wildflowers and Mowing
Fight Erosion**

- A Personal Perspective



When I moved to town 20 years ago, I had no idea how much work it would be to keep the weeds from taking over the whole yard. The first year they were tall before we knew it, but we used a small tractor to mow down the wild oats and star thistle. I think we mowed two or three times. Mowing kept the grasses down but it was work. So the following year, with the idea of conquering the job with one sweep, we tried rototilling the back field. The results were poor. The soil was lumpy and impossible to walk on, and as it dried, wind picked up the dirt, and the dust swirled in the air.

I'd read about the "Dust Bowl" of Oklahoma, and learned that even today there continues to be 8% loss of the top soil. Where we tilled, the star thistle grew thicker, and the next

**Mountain Lions On The
"Guest List"**



There have been several recent sightings of mountain lions in Los Altos Hills. In 1990 California voters approved a proposition which gave special protection to this predator. Now their population is growing. Mountain lions live on deer and small animals, and usually seek their prey between dusk and dawn. If you have deer on your property you also may have mountain lions.

Residents should take the following precautions:

- Do not feed any animals outside your home;
- Do not let children play in creeks or densely covered areas;
- If you encounter a mountain lion, do not turn and run. They attack from behind. Stand as tall and big as possible;

where we mowed, the star thistle grew thicker, and the next year the non-native annual grasses were taller than ever. We went back to mowing. Lately, I've been trying to restore my field with native bunch grass and wildflowers. Someday I hope wild flower beauty will eliminate the need for mowing.

One of the techniques I've learned is that mowing grasses preserves the grasses' root systems, thereby reducing erosion. For example, along my road, where discing has taken place at the top of the bank, little landslides are now occurring leaving raw scars where nothing is growing. Before discing there were fewer slides. When it is weedy, the Town Maintenance Crew scrapes the road several times during the year. Now where the soil has been disturbed, there are no more native plants such as coyote bush or sticky monkey flower. The poppies are gone. Up the road a little farther, is a place which is quite steep, where no tractors have ever gone. Last Spring this spot displayed a wildflower bouquet of annual lupine and clarkia --- a lovely pink, with blue bulb flowers of brodiaea laxa here and there. There was also soap plant which is a Native American favorite. On occasion sunflowers are there too. I lament over all the disced places thinking how our entire town must have been covered with wildflowers each Spring before we "improved" the land.

- Jean Struthers
Environmental Design Committee

The Bell Rings At Town Hall

Alexander Graham Bell would be proud. After providing many years of excellent service, the aging telephone system at Town Hall was recently replaced with a new, user friendly system which allows the Town Hall staff to handle calls more professionally.

During office hours, the Town Hall staff answers the phone. If the caller's party is not available, the caller can leave a message or be connected to voice mail. During

as possible,

- They are as frightened of you as you are of them!
Let them find a way to avoid you.

If you encounter a mountain lion, contact the Santa Clara County Vector Control at (408) 299-2050 or after hours the Sheriff's Office at (408) 294-1334. In Emergency Call 911. A brochure entitled, "Living with California Mountain Lions," is now available at Town Hall.

Dog Vaccination Clinics Held Each Wednesday

A public vaccination clinic is held every Wednesday between noon and 1 p.m. at the Palo Alto Animal Services Division, 3281 E. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto. A non-profit clinic offers vaccinations at their cost of \$4.00.



Call (415) 329-2671 the Wednesday you plan to attend, to be sure that the clinic will be held that day. Los Altos Hills contracts with Palo Alto for this and other animal services. Since owners need proof of a rabies vaccination before their dog can be licensed, the clinic is a convenient place to get your dog protected and a license. During 1994 there were 20 dog bites reported, 12 of these dogs were not licensed and may not have been vaccinated. There are 650 dogs properly licensed. Is yours?

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Household Hazardous Waste

Drop-Off Schedule

When hazardous waste is discarded on the ground, in the garbage, or in gutters and sewer systems it can be harmful to you and to the environment. Safely dispose of your old paints, pesticides, automotive fluids, pool chemicals, and other toxic products. Bring unwanted household toxic wastes to a collection event. The cost is covered by our garbage rates. Take advantage of this service! Dates: March 25, April 8, April 29, May 13, May 20, June 3, June 24, 1995.

Appointments are necessary. Call (415) 941-0993 for drop-off times and location.



LAH Recognizes Commissioners and Committee Members at Dinner

The City Council and the Staff of Los Altos Hills have long felt a desire to show their appreciation and gratitude to those members of the community who serve on our Committees and Commissions. Former City Manager, Les Jones' suggestion, "Let's take them out to dinner!" was enthusiastically endorsed this year by the City Council. The event was held February 23rd at Fremont Hills Country Club and was catered by Chef Chu. Over 100 Committee and

Home Security Systems

Are Now Becoming Worthwhile

Many people are turning to home security systems for additional protection against burglaries or break-ins. Are they worth the cost? Statistics show that a house protected by an alarm system is **three times** less likely to be burglarized, and that when burglars do break into an alarm-guarded house, they leave more quickly and take only about **one-half** of what they would otherwise steal.

Some systems offer options such as medical monitoring and smoke detection, which can be valuable in dealing with other emergency situations. But security systems have some pitfalls as well. Many companies will try to sell the homeowner an expensive and ultra-sophisticated system which goes well beyond their requirements, and unnecessary false alarms can be annoying as well as costly. The Town of Los Altos Hills, for example, charges homeowners if more than three false alarms are recorded in a 12 month period.

Before investing in a home security system, the average homeowner would be well-advised to spend a little time on research.

The May 1994 issue of Consumer Reports offers a good in-depth review of alarm systems which is worth reading. Do-it-yourself systems are available for \$200 to \$500, and most of these systems are of the wireless type, i.e., the sensors communicate with the central control unit by means of

Commission members, Council appointees, Staff and significant others were invited. During the dinner, Council members introduced their committees (each Council member acts as a liaison to at least one Committee), described the committee's accomplishments and recognized those volunteers who have retired in the past year. The dinner was a sincere gesture that expressed the great appreciation that the entire Town feels for the invaluable work performed by our loyal corps of volunteers.



Junk Mail - Tired of It?

If the answer is "Yes indeed," you can take steps to reduce the amount of Junk Mail that you receive by having your name removed from direct mailing lists. Write to:

Mail Preference Service
 Direct Marketing Association
 P.O. Box 9008
 Farmington, NY 11435-9008

Indicate that you wish to have your name removed from Direct Mail lists. It will take about six months, but eventually your junk mail will be reduced.

miniature transmitters rather than actual wires.

Dealer-installed systems are usually wired (i.e., the sensors are directly connected to the control unit by wires which must be run through walls, ceiling, or floors) and offer more options and better performance, but at a considerable increase in price. Consumer Reports tested three such systems ranging in price from \$1,200 to \$3,200. They found little difference in quality, and concluded that the choice of a competent and conscientious dealer/installer was **more important** than the choice of hardware in getting a satisfactory result.

Whatever your choice, if buying a dealer-installed system, be sure to read your contract carefully. Some contracts include a commitment to a yearly service agreement, and sometimes the equipment is only leased to you, rather than sold outright.

It is recommended that the average homeowner should first consider a wireless, do-it-yourself system. These systems cost around \$500 with 10 sensors, a motion detector, and a separate siren. If you need the additional options and performance available in a dealer-installed system, shop around for a dealer you have confidence in, and be sure to read your contract carefully.

- T. R. Fisher
 Town Safety Committee

Meeting Our Neighbors -

Dan Alexander

Shortly after moving here, several years ago, my husband Andy and I found out how lucky we were to have special neighbors, Dan Alexander and his late wife, Peg. That first season our little orchard produced a bumper apricot crop and they taught us on the fine art of apricot drying. Over the years we went to them for more help. Peg always knew the best Bed and Breakfast spots. We joined the Los Altos Hills Historical Society largely because of their enthusiasm for the group.



Dan Alexander was raised in Salt Lake City, attended a military academy, and joined the Horse Cavalry in 1937. Later he and Peg met at Stanford, and were married. During World War II he served in the Army Air Corps. One memorable assignment during those years was the devising of a plan to get Allied POW's out of German prison camps, quickly and safely. About forty prisoners were neatly tucked into what was formerly a bomb bay. Lt. Colonel Dan brought the plan to Eisenhower's staff, and it was approved. Close to 300,000 soldiers were successfully retrieved, and Dan was awarded a Bronze Star for his part in the rescue.

Meet Our City Manager

Jeff Peterson

On Thursday, January 19th, City Engineer and Director of Public Works Jeff Peterson assumed the role of LAH City Manager. He will continue as City Engineer.

Jeff was born and raised on a farm in western Wisconsin. He was a multi-sport athlete who excelled at wrestling. After becoming #2 in the State in his weight class (Jeff was undersized for his 185-lb class), he was offered and accepted a full athletic scholarship to the University of New Mexico, where he chose to study Civil Engineering. His favorite subjects? Structural analysis and steel design.



Post college tours at Boeing Aerospace in Seattle, and the oil-rich tundra of Alaska (Anchorage) prepared Jeff for five years in a Foster City consulting engineering firm, and eventual contract work with LAH. Two promotions later, he is our new City Manager with a solid background in the needs and workings of our local government.

Jeff sees his new job as people management, serving the residents and being professionally responsive to the Council. "We need to update our ordinances and procedures and become more proactive - for example, projecting more into the future, as our engineering department has begun to do with the new Pavement Management Plan. I want to see the finest, user-friendly service to our residents that is possible," said Jeff. "At the same time, I am committed to making the Town's systems and functions as modern and efficient as possible."

Stop by and welcome our new City Manager soon, or be

awarded a Bronze Star for his part in the rescue.

Dan worked for PG&E from 1939 until his retirement in 1981. He was the manager of the Mountain View office for his last 12 years. Although living in the Hills, he was elected the Citizen of the Year by the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce in 1980. Someone remarked that Dan was living in one town and being honored by another. At the time he commented, with his characteristic humility, "I just try to be a good citizen in Mountain View because that is where my business is."

I know Dan best as sailor (he "tacks" out of Redwood City), skier, horseman, gardener and historian. He is also a world traveler who loved to venture with Peg to off-the-Hyatt-path spots such as the Silk Road in China. But his wonderful commitment to service in our community is nearly legendary. Dan has been a member and past president of Mountain View's United Way Board of Directors, Rotary International, and the Chamber of Commerce. He has served on the Board of the Purissima Hills Water District since 1971,

sure to meet him at the upcoming Spring Greeting!



and has been its President since 1981. Dan, who is very active in several historical groups, wants to insure that our history is being shared while it is being preserved. He is a member of Los Altos Tomorrow, a community foundation serving both Los Altos and Los Altos Hills which focuses on improving the quality of life for our citizens. Dan serves on the "Save the Griffin House" Committee, the Los Altos Hills Historical Society, and the Los Altos Hills Horsemen's Association.

When you travel on Elena Road, you may see Dan on horseback with one or more of his six grandchildren. You may even find him sporting a basket of tomatoes. He always generously shares his delicious crop with those of us who are so fortunate to be able to call Dan Alexander our beloved neighbor!

- Cathie Perga
Community Relations Committee

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THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

Spring Greeting '95

In Los Altos Hills

The Town of Los Altos Hills cordially invites you to meet recent newcomers at *Spring Greeting '95*.

Spring Greeting '95 is our official WELCOME to all

Hidden Villa Celebrates Gold & Silver

Hidden Villa cordially invites all Los Altos Hills neighbors to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the founding of its multi-cultural Summer Camp and the 25th Anniversary of its Environmental Educational Program. Special family farm tours will be offered every Sunday between March 19th and May 28th at both 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. On April 4th

Spring Greeting '75 is our official WELCOME to all recent newcomers to the Los Altos Hills community. The newcomers are our guests of honor. It is designed as a fun-filled Spring "Social Hour" featuring tasty hors d'oeuvres and beverages, against a background of music.

DATE: SUNDAY, May 21st
 TIME: 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.
 PLACE: Town Hall Gardens
 26379 Fremont Road
 Los Altos Hills
 DRESS: Casual
 BRING: Your family (all ages are welcome!!)

Take this opportunity to personally meet members of the City Council, the Town Staff, the Planning Commission, and members of all the Town's volunteer Committees. You'll have the opportunity to meet the people who make the Town run, ask questions, meet some acquaintances and make new friends.



Neighbors greeting newcomers at Spring Greeting '94

A full complement of Town materials will be available for your browsing, and for general distribution.

Please mark your calendar now! Admission is free. Come join the fun!

-Your Community Relations Committee



and April 20th, Hidden Villa will be holding special neighborhood teas from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon to welcome and introduce neighbors to the farm and programs.

Fifty years ago this summer, the Duvenecks started this country's first multi-cultural Summer Camp, bringing young children together at Hidden Villa to build relationships embracing tolerance and understanding across racial, cultural and economic lines.



Twenty-five years ago the Duvenecks started an Environmental Education Program in response to the first Earth Day. This program thrives today, teaching pre-school through sixth grade children from our community to appreciate and care for their environment by using Hidden Villa's 1,600 acre farm and wilderness preserve as a teaching platform. Other upcoming events include:

- March 25 Native Plant and Animal Hike
- March 26 Author Tea: Robert Allen: Reading from Brotherman's, *The Odyssey of Black Men in America*
- April 4 Neighborhood Tea
- April 8 Straw Bale Building Workshop
- April 21 Serenade String Quartet Recital
- April 29 Vegetarian Sushi Making

In 1924, Frank & Josephine Duveneck bought the land along Moody Road known as Hidden Villa, built themselves a home, and made extraordinary plans to preserve it for future generations. Their legacy remains today in this beautiful farm and wilderness preserve with its unique programs which

About Our Publication

The Town Newsletter is published in March and September with assistance from our Town Volunteer Committees:

Editor: Roger W. Burnell
Associate Editor: Duffy Price

Los Altos Hills City Council

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

promote environmental awareness and multi-cultural understanding.

Once subsidized by the Duveneck Family, Hidden villa now relies on charitable support from our community for all operating and program costs. For more information, contact Judith Steiner, at (415) 949-8654.

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Pathways Day

Mark Your Calendar !

Hikers, bicyclists and equestrians are invited to join guided tours of Town pathways on Saturday, May 6, led by members of the Town Pathways Committee. Refreshments will be served by the Community Relations Committee. All tours begin at 10:00 a.m. at the Town Ring, next to the Little League field on Purissima Road. The tour will end there after about two hours. All ages are welcome!

Pedestrians will do a circuit through the scenic Middle Fork-Byrd Lane path, while equestrians will travel to Westwind Barn and return. Two bicycle tours will be offered, one with easy riding and another involving more challenging off-road riding.

New Los Altos Mediation Program

A new Los Altos/Los Altos Hills Mediation Program (LAMP) was initiated on March 15th. The program is sponsored by Los Altos Tomorrow.

It has become clear that mediation really works. Mediation is a voluntary settlement process that is used to resolve conflicts between two or more people in a non-adversarial setting, using the aid of a specially-trained third party.

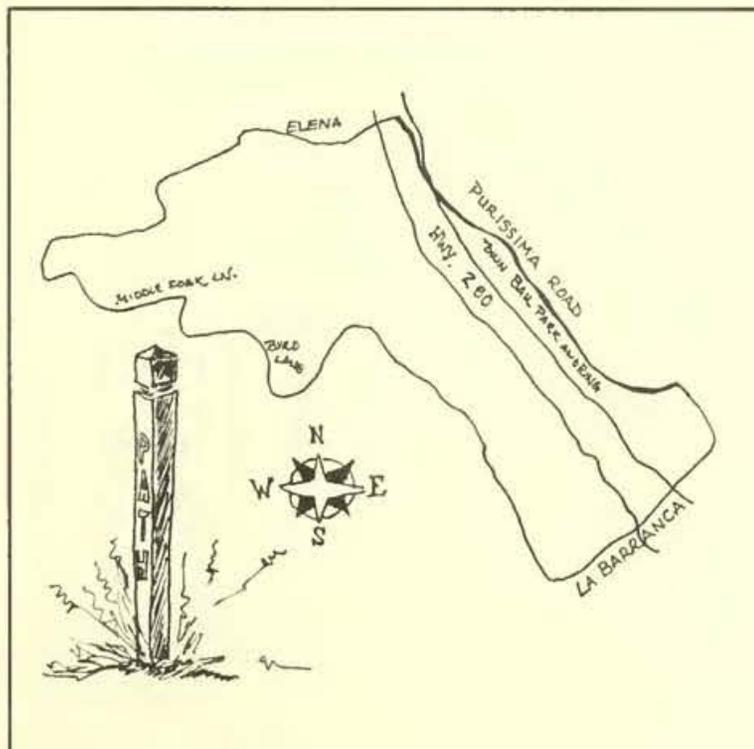
It can successfully resolve disputes between individuals, or between individuals and organizations. Mediation increases communication, promotes understanding, and builds a stronger community for all of us.

Applicable types of conflicts are general neighborhood

The Town's pathway system is a heritage from the Town's founders and provides links between many of the cul-de-sacs that make it possible to walk or ride for pleasure or exercise along many routes. Pathway maps were mailed to all residents in 1994 and extra copies are available at Town Hall for \$2.00 each.

The Pathways Committee works closely with the Town staff on identifying paths that need maintenance and on developing additional paths to link various parts of Town. With our recent heavy rains, some of the paths may have been damaged. If you notice any problems such as erosion, missing sign posts or slippery surfaces, please submit a request for pathway maintenance on the appropriate forms at Town Hall. A reminder - when disking your property, please avoid disking the pathways. Let us work together to keep our pathways safe and enjoyable for everyone in the community.

Your Pathways Map for May 6th



Appropriate types of concerns are general neighborhood concerns - noise, pets, fences, trees, children, cleanliness, and parking.

Community concerns are merchant-customer disagreements, or conflicts within or between groups and organizations.

How does the Mediation Program work? Instead of confrontation, using the legal system, or resignation and resentment, call LAMP and explain your dilemma. If appropriate, program staffers will arrange a meeting (if necessary) with up to two trained mediators present. There is NO CHARGE. At the meeting, both parties participate in resolving the problem. The mediator facilitates the outcome by helping parties to listen and to explore possibilities. Mediators do not give opinions, legal advice, or decide right from wrong. Once reached, a solution is summarized in writing and agreed to by the parties.

Over 80% of disputes brought to mediation are settled. Of those, 90% of the agreements reached are upheld by the parties. It is free and fast, and can usually be set up within one or two weeks.

Any resident of Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, and the adjacent unincorporated areas of Santa Clara County, as well as businesses operating in these areas may use this program. Simply call (415) 949-LAMP [949-5267].

Business Licenses

Reminder

Residents using the services of gardeners are reminded that anyone doing business in the Town of Los Altos Hills is required to have a business license. These can be secured at Town Hall. The fee is \$50 for the calendar year.

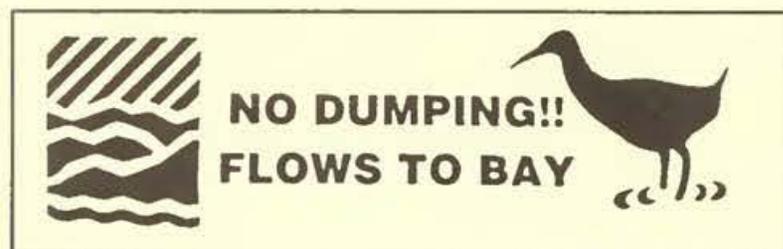
We also wish to remind residents that having a home based occupation also requires a business license, which is \$100 per calendar year.

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Let's Not Pollute Our Bay

Are you curious about the stencil on your curb that reads "No Dumping! Flows to Bay"?



It means just what it says! While the water that goes down our sinks and toilets is cleaned by a wastewater treatment plan, anything that flows down your gutter and into the storm drain at the corner flows directly into a nearby creek, without treatment. And since all of our creeks eventually flow into the Bay, we all may be contributing to bay pollution, a little at a time.

Many government agencies in the County have joined in a concerted effort to make sure that everyone understands what a storm drain is. We're all trying to keep toxic materials out of our creeks and the bay.

So, what are we trying to keep out of the storm drains and the culverts that line our streets? Let's get specific. Never

California Oak Trees**Pest Update**

There is no sight more beautiful than a golden California hillside studded with the natural gray-green of the California Oak tree. We are indeed fortunate to live in Los Altos Hills where such views are a daily occurrence. But, are you aware of the fact that many of our oaks are subject to pests - such as the Oak pit scale. While many species of California Oaks can be host(s), the *Quercus lobata* (valley oak) is most frequently attacked. Oak pit scale is a foreign pest which, was unfortunately, introduced into the United States without its natural enemies. Adult female scales are green, golden or brown, flattened, circular, immobile, and about the size of the head of a pin (2mm).



Adult females produce live young (crawlers) from April through October. The peak crawler production occurs in early summer (May and June). Current and one year old twigs are colonized by crawlers. Most crawlers mature by September. Adults overwinter on twigs with pits formed as crawlers settle and feed.

How can you recognize the signs and symptoms?

pour these into the gutter:

- Pool or spa water and pool filter rinse water. (Water should be disposed of into your home's sanitary sewer "cleanout" so that it flows to the wastewater treatment plant; pool filters should be rinsed out over a dirt area in your garden.)
- Any unwanted hazardous material including excess paint.
- Latex painting clean-up water. (Clean brushes in the sink, not in the gutter.)
- Pesticides and fertilizer. (Watch out for yard runoff; spray your tank rinse water in the yard where you've been working - not down any sink or drain - inside or outside.)
- Soapy water. (Even biodegradable soap is toxic to fish. Pour leftover soapy water in the sink or toilet.)
- Concrete job clean-up water. (Clean your equipment over a dirt area or over a wheelbarrow that can be wheeled into a dirt area - never rinse into the gutter.)
- Used motor oil and antifreeze. (Recycle - call your local recycling program for information: (415) 961-8040.)

Remember that you are liable for the behavior of anyone who works for you, so make sure that your contractors appreciate your concern about the health of our creeks and the Bay.

For more information about storm drain pollution and brochures on less-toxic products, call (800) 794-2882.

- Dead leaves retained on killed twigs throughout the winter.
- Leaf flush on deciduous oaks is delayed up to three weeks.
- Pits resemble doughnut-like swellings surrounding the scale. (The pit results from inhibition of growth at the feeding sit.)

How can you control the pests?

Chemical sprays are an effective treatment applied May through June. The best long term solution is to reduce stress by improving growing conditions.

- Avoid disturbance to the tree's root zone.
- Maintain favorable growing conditions.
- Loosen compacted soil by vertical or radial mulching, soil needle, pitch fork, etc.
- Mulch soil within dripline with 3-4 inches of organic mulch, e.g., wood chips, shredded bark, orleaves.
- Minimize pavement within the dripline.
- Avoid fill soil within the dripline.
- Provide moderate fertilization every 2-3 years where leaves are regularly removed.
- "Deep" water infrequently (1-2 times per year) during unusually hot, dry summers, and on marginal sites.
- Prune properly and avoid over pruning.

Property Tax - Where Does Our Money Go?

In 1978 California's Proposition 13 established a 1% maximum tax rate on property taxes. Here is how each \$100 of property taxes is shared in Los Altos Hills:

- (A) Property Located In Los Altos School District
(B) Property Located In Palo Alto School District

<u>Beneficiary</u>	(A)	(B)
Schools & Foothill College	\$45.89	\$50.79
Santa Clara County	27.09	23.88
Los Altos Fire District	11.56	10.53
TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS	4.87	4.44
Los Altos Library	4.37	4.79
Santa Clara Valley Water District	2.31	1.97
El Camino Hospital	1.97	1.79
Mid-Peninsula Open Space	1.73	1.58
Bay Area Air Management	0.21	0.19
Resource Conservation District	0.00	0.04
	<u>\$100.00</u>	<u>\$100.00</u>

Los Altos Hills received \$508,000 from its share of Property Taxes in the 1994 fiscal year. But in 1993-94, the state shifted \$131,000 of the Town's share of property taxes to schools. The Town's total revenue from all sources was \$2,764,000. Certain voter approved additional assessments, parcel taxes and service fees are also included on some property tax bills:

Los Altos Elementary School Parcel Tax	\$168.00
S.C. Valley Water District Flood Control	\$ 53.74
North County Library Authority	\$ 52.00
Santa Clara County Vector Control	\$ 4.34
Los Altos Hills Service Charge	\$176.00

Los Altos Hills Horsemen's Association

Los Altos Horsemen's Association (LAHHA) is a non-profit organization that promotes the use and care of horses in Los Altos Hills and in surrounding communities. Horseback riding is not a requirement of membership, but some kind of involvement with horses is necessary. The care of horses ranges from grooming and feeding to show riding, to maintenance of the Town Ring, to participation in LAH's pathway development and maintenance.

LAHHA membership represents all ages and backgrounds, and includes both LAH residents and non-residents. The organization annually participates in the "Ride for the Ridge," and the May Pet Parade. LAHHA sponsors clinics (such as the recent tour of the Star Equine Center) and five or six horse shows at the Town Ring on Purissima Road. All activities are covered in our bimonthly newsletter - FAST TRACKS. The LAHHA Hotline, (415) 995-4791, advises of upcoming events and encourages requests for further information or membership applications. A single membership is \$15 and a double membership is \$20.

Did You Know ?

Town Council Meets

The 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m.
The community is invited to attend.

Planning Commission Meets

The 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m.
The community is invited to attend.

Safety Alerts:

Be Vigilant for Joggers

During bad weather, joggers are often use the side of the roadways. Please be alert and vigilant when sharing the road with joggers.

Mailbox Bomber On The Run

We have experienced over one dozen mailbox bombings in 1994. While it is possible that those involved are local youngsters making their bombs at home, we should be aware that a felony crime is being committed. The latest incident was a shaved pipe bomb which was made to hurl fragments of metal over 150 feet. So far, we are lucky that no one has been hurt. We must take every step possible to bring these dangerous acts to a halt. Parents should make their children aware of how dangerous the bombings can be. Please call the Sheriff's office with leads or reports of any suspicious activities.

Informational Packets at Los Altos Library

Informational packets for the Town Council and Planning Commission meetings are available for review on the Tuesdays and Wednesdays of the same week of the meeting, at the Los Altos Library, San Antonio Road, Los Altos, and at Town Hall.

Subdivision Environmental Impact Reports

Subdivision Environmental Impact Reports (EIR's), prepared for some subdivisions, are available for review at the Los Altos Library.

Utility and Geotechnical Maps at Town Hall

There are two maps that may be useful for homeowners and builders: A Sewer Line Map showing all of the sewer lines in relation to parcels and a Geotechnical Map showing the location of earthquake faults. Both are available at Town Hall.

THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

Residents' Reply Card

All members of the Los Altos Hills community are

5. Farmers Market Project comments. (See page 10)

encouraged to communicate and participate with our local government. Please use this card to communicate with us.

1. Volunteer Committees and Appointments: (Note: If there are no current openings, we will gladly notify you when one becomes available).

- Community Relations Finance Pathways
- Recreation & Parks Safety Environmental Design & Protection Town Historian Joint Volunteer Awards Youth Commissioner;
- Exhibit Curator Senior Coordinating Council

2. *Spring Greeting 95*: I would like to help with planning, serving 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?

6. Do you have comments about the zoning/permit process? (See page 2) _____

7. Please contact me about the Composter Project. (See page 2)

8. Do you have any questions or helpful comments?

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)

"Farm-Ours" Market

On February 1st, the City Council discussed the feasibility of having a Farmers' Market in Los Altos Hills. We heard from several residents who produced and sold products at various markets in the area. Farmers' Markets are a lot of fun, and can be good fund raisers. It was agreed by all those present at the meeting that the best location to have the market was Bullis School parking lot and the best time would be Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



What is needed is local producers together with a dedicated group of individuals who wish to run such a market. Those "farmers" present at the Council meeting

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 26379 Fremont Road
 Los Altos Hills, CA 94022

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said they wanted to see sufficient community enthusiasm before committing their wares. The Town and the Bullis PTA are ready to act as facilitators for the organization. If you have an interest in this project, or want to be a vendor, please write or call Town Hall. We are anxious to hear from you.

