

Los Altos Hills Town Newsletter - November 1998

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

November 8 - December 31, Art Show, Jean Struthers & Faith Duhring, Los Altos Hills Council Chambers, 26379 Fremont Road, Mon. - Fri. 1 - 5 P.M. Information: 948-5840

November 29, Sunday, 7 P.M., Festival of Lights Parade, Downtown Los Altos, Main and State Streets.

December 2, 1998, Wednesday, 7:00 P.M., Public Hearing: Circulation Element: Review of the Draft Circulation and Scenic Roadways Element of the General Plan. Town Hall Chambers 26379 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills, Information: 941-7222.

December 4, Friday, Joint Community Volunteer Service Awards Luncheon.

December 5, Saturday, Friends of the Library Annual Gift Quality Used Book Sale.

December 6, Sunday, Historical Society Annual Holiday Party.

December 13, Sunday Newcomers Annual Holiday Party.

GUIDED PATHWAY WALKS

The Pathways Committee led an enthusiastic group of hikers on a guided tour of Town pathways on Saturday, October 10th. The route included the beautiful Artemas Ginzton Trail in its autumn glory. Following the walk, the Community Relations Committee provided welcome refreshments with a festive Halloween touch.



The next hike to be led by the Pathways Committee will be in May and will coincide with the Spring Family Picnic. Keep posted for time and location.

1999 FAMILY SPRING PICNIC

If you already have your 1999 calendar, now is the time to mark Sunday afternoon, May 23, 1999 for the annual spring event organized by the Community Relations Committee. It is the Sunday prior to Memorial Day weekend.

Because this year's family picnic was so successful, the Committee has already begun planning a similar event for next May 23, 1999.

**NOTICE
PUBLIC MEETING TO BE HELD
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1998.
7 P.M. TOWN HALL**

CIRCULATION ELEMENT - PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED

On Wednesday, December 2, 1998, at 7 P.M., the City Council will conduct a public hearing to review the Draft Circulation and Scenic Roadways Element of the General Plan. The Circulation Element outlines the Town's policies regarding roadway and right-of-way requirements, and must be consistent with Town policies regarding pathways and bike routes. The element has not been updated since 1975. The revision will also incorporate the existing Scenic Roadways Element of the General Plan.

Key issues which are addressed by the updated Circulation Element include: maintenance and dedication of private roadways; right-of-way widths; the aesthetic design of roadways; road capacities and traffic levels; regional traffic problems; roadway safety measures; emergency access routes; standards for drainage; reducing impacts of regional traffic; bicycles and other alternate transportation modes; and coordination with the Town's Pathways Element and the pathway network. The element outlines general goals, objectives and policies regarding all of these issues, but does not provide detailed proposals

January 23, Saturday, Salute to the Mayors of Los Altos and Los Altos Hills. Banquet sponsored by the Los Altos Chamber of Commerce. Reservations required. Info: 948-1433

January 23, 24, Saturday & Sunday, Friends of the Library Book Sale. Saturday, 10-3 P.M., Sunday, 12-3 P.M., Hillview Community Center.

There will be games, an Astro-jump for the children, and entertainment. As an added attraction for the 1999 event, barbeque chicken dinners will be served to all those who attend. Volunteers from the Fire Department will serve as chefs for the event. We hope to substantially exceed the attendance of the B300 at this year's picnic.

Further news about the picnic and reservation forms will be provided in a subsequent edition of the Newsletter. In the meantime, if you would like to help with the event, please send in the reply card in this Newsletter. We hope to have a fun-filled afternoon for all!

for improvements to any specific roadways or determinations of whether a street is public or private.

The Draft Circulation and Scenic Roadways Element is available for review at Town Hall or on the Town's web page <www.losaltosonline.com/lah>.

If you have any questions regarding the update of the Circulation Element, please contact Curtis Williams, the Town's Planning Director, at 941-7222.

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THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

City Manager's Report

Quarry Hills Subdivision

The utilities within the subdivision have been installed and the contractor is now focusing on the construction of the streets. Weather permitting, the majority of the improvements should be complete this fall.

La Paloma Drainage Project

The contractor has completed the installation of the 48" pipe along La Paloma. The placement of the rock lining in the channel will occur next and should take approximately one week. After this project is complete, the contractor will begin the Saddle Mountain to Berry Hill Court storm drain project.



Town Hall staff and residents attended the YMCA Red Triangle Awards Ceremony honoring Sid Hubbard, LAH City Council Member. Pictured L. to R., Curtis Williams, Planning Director, Jeff Peterson, City Manager, and Diane Burrager, Co-Chair Pathways Committee.

Pavement Management Project

The pavement management project is progressing well, albeit more slowly than the contractor had planned. The project should be complete by mid-November.

Elmberg Subdivision (Taaffe Road)

If completed on schedule, this subdivision will be brought to the Council for acceptance of improvements at the second meeting in November.

Housing Element

On August 19th, the City Council approved modifications to the Town's adopted Housing Element. The resolution and revised element were forwarded to the State on September 1st. As of the end of September, staff has not received verification from the State regarding certification by HCD. We will begin preparing ordinance amendments, policies, brochures, etc. to implement the proposed programs by early 1999.

Matadero Creek Development Standards

As council has requested, an amendment is being prepared to modify the conditions of approval for the entire subdivision to establish a more manageable and limited set of standards for subsequent development. Staff expects to distribute a proposed map amendment for review by property owners in December, and then to present the amendment to the Planning Commission in January, and subsequently to the City Council. All Matadero Creek property owners will be notified of the proposal.

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:

- New residences - 10 applications pending for new residences at: 26450 Ascension Drive, 27690 Central Drive, 25706 Elena Road, 11890 Francemont Court, 27835 Lupine Road, 27371 Moody Road, 13828 Moon Lane, 24028 Oak Knoll Circle, 26870 Taaffe Road, and 13737 Wildflower Lane; and 5 major addition/remodel projects.

Sewers

The joint Los Altos Hills/Los Altos sanitary sewer video inspection project has started in Los Altos. The Contractor is scheduled to start in Los Altos Hills on November 16th. Staff inspected the sewer line that runs along the drainage gully south of Page Mill Rd. at Matadero Creek Lane and found that the gully has undermined the sewer line in several places where the sanitary sewer crosses the gully. Staff plans to replace the sewer line with stronger metal pipe and fill-in and reinforce the gully at the sanitary sewer crossings before winter. Construction access is very difficult.

Streets

With the exception of Moody Road and Page Mill Road, most of the major streets in Town are scheduled to be re-stripped this fall. We will use longer lasting thermoplastic pavement markings, STOPs, crosswalks, etc. at the school sites in Town, including Foothill College, Bullis School, Pinewood School and St. Nicholas School.

Storm Drains

The yearly inspection of the storm drain facilities has begun in preparation for this winter's storms. Some predictions indicate that this winter will be wetter than normal, but not as wet as last year.

Los Altos Hills Web Page

Earlier this month, the Town's computer consultant and I met with the Town Crier to discuss the Town's interest in having direct update capability of the Town's web page. It was agreed that the best method to accomplish this would be for the Town to maintain our web page on another server with a hyper-link to Los Altos Online. With this arrangement, the web user would still use the Town's web page in the same manner. Updates to the web page would be done from Town Hall via a modem connection. Mountain View and Los Altos' web pages are set up in a similar fashion. Staff has started the process and will need to register a domain name for the Town. I plan to use the domain name: <www.losaltoshills.ca.gov>. The conversion should be completed by early November.

--- Jeff Peterson. City Manager

• Subdivisions: 25400 La Loma Drive (Lands of Denny) - proposed 2 lot subdivision of approximately 5.96 acres; to be scheduled in late 1998 or early 1999.

For Council Agenda and Minutes,
See our Website:
www.losaltosonline.com/lah

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Volume XXII

November 1998

BIG DROP-OFF IN YARD WASTE DISPOSAL

The Saturday Drop-Off of Yard Waste at Foothill College has disposed of 107 tons of waste in the first 5 months. The program is paid for by the Los Altos Hills County Fire Protection District. The collector prefers that waste be bundled to expedite drop off. However, if you do not bundle your delivery, the collector will accept the load as is.

Since the introduction of this program and the curbside pickup and the closure of the Town Yard Waste Center, **the tonnage of yard waste collected in Los Altos Hills has dropped to 1/3 of what was previously collected.**

Each collection event at Foothill draws about 200 people. The Zanker Road drop-off draws about 30 people per month.



All in all, the new solid waste recycling program is working well and seems to have solved many of the problems associated with

WHAT'S NEW AT THE LIBRARY?

New Databases at the Los Altos Library

Standard & Poor's Net Advantage is now available on-line at the Los Altos Library, and a new LAN (local area network) offers CD-ROM access to computer periodicals, science information, and newspaper articles.

Net Advantage contains ten S & P publications: Stock Reports, Industry Surveys, Corporation Records, Register, Stock Guide, Bond Guide, Earnings Guide, The Outlook, Dividend Record, and Mutual Funds. Patrons may access this site by clicking on Databases on the library home page on the terminals in the library. Net Advantage is not available for DialPac users dialing directly in from home nor through Lynx (text only browser).

The four CD-ROM databases are:

- Computer Select - full text and abstracts from more than 100 leading technology publications updated monthly. Also includes



the old Yard Waste Center.

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR'S PUMPKINS

This year, Vince and Diane Zunino grew a total of 190 pumpkins of five different varieties in their garden on Ascension Drive. The Pumpkins ranged from the smallest (Munchkin), to the largest (Atlantic Giant). The other varieties were Baby Bear, (small and good eating), French Rouge (used by Disney animator's for Cinderella's carriage), and Howden (a popular Halloween variety).

The largest Atlantic Giant was over 500 pounds and took six people and five liters of wine to carry to the front porch where it turned into a jovial jack-o-lantern for Halloween. Most of the muchkin and baby bears that they grew were taken by their daughter, Amanda, to her preschool and shared with her classmates and teachers.

The rest of the crop was used to create a small pumpkin patch under the large tree in front of their house. Included in the patch was the grand-daddy veggie of their garden, a mutant squash weighting-in at over 600 pounds and several small Atlantic Giants about 150 pound each. Over the last few weeks, many of the Zunino's neighbors have stopped by to take pictures of their kids sitting on the giant gourds.

The mutant squash is available free of charge to the first person that can carry it away. (See picture on page 6.)



software and hardware product specifications and computer company profiles.

- Discovering Science - based on the Gale Encyclopedia of Science, offers articles on subjects and people, timelines, pictures, and hypertext links.
- New York Times - text from January 1994 to most current update (now August 1998)
- San Jose Mercury-News - text from January 1992 to March 1998 only.

Two LAN terminals are located near the adult reference desk. The Friends of the Los Altos Library paid for the network. For more information on these and other reference tools, call the Los Altos Library adult reference desk at 948-7048.

FREE MEDIATION SERVICES AVAILABLE

Have a conflict? Try free resolution services available to Los Altos and Los Altos Hills residents. For disputes between neighbors, tenants and landlords, and issues involving consumers and the workplace, call the Los Altos Mediation Program (LAMP) at 949-5267. (LAMP is a project of the Los Altos Community Foundation .)

Statement of Purpose

To communicate Los Altos Hills current issues, services, and activities to the residents of the Town. 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 January 31, 1999.

Internet Address: 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



**Page 4****THE TOWN NEWSLETTER****EDITOR'S MESSAGE**

This will be our final Town Newsletter for 1998. I want to express appreciation to all of the contributors that have made the "new" newsletter so successful.

During the past year, we have tried to bring you timely accurate information about our Town and to stimulate feedback from the residents. Every effort is made to respond to feedback received. Thank you Beverley Bryant and Cyrus Ghazyvini for your comments. We have forwarded your response cards to the appropriate people. Letters have been received from Mr. George Dill and from Mr. James Vedder. As space is available, we will publish letters to the editor. We encourage your participation and involvement in our communications.

The founding fathers of the Town provided an excellent framework for residents to participate in the work of the Town. By joining one of the many volunteer committees that make the Town function, you will find that "participation is its own reward." The best small town government depends on participation of all of its residents. It is one of the elements that makes Los Altos Hills so special.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

I have just read the August 1998 volume of the Los Altos Hills Town Newsletter. I believe that it is important to publish and distribute this newsletter as one means of informing the people of our community about what has and is about to happen. Yes, in this modern era, we have the Internet. However, despite what the media attempts to convince us about, we do gather and assimilate information from other sources. The newsletter is the only other place to gather information about our community. We really need it. Personally, it is a pleasure to take this newsletter out on the patio to read at my leisure while relaxing in a large chair and feeling the fresh cool breeze.

I recognize that the current plans are to publish the newsletter every quarter. This periodicity is acceptable. However, it seems that there are too many events, issues hearings, etc. that occur in a quarter to be able to fit them all in. Furthermore, old news is not news. I would recommend consideration of a smaller newsletter once a month that contained all of the historical, current and planned activities as well as the personal interest stories.

I wish you all the success with this newsletter.

Sincerely,

George D. Dill

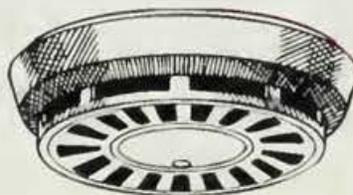
Warmest best wishes for the holiday season.

— Duffy Price

The Town Newsletter encourages submission of letters that are of general interest and address issues of public importance. The Town Newsletter will not edit letters but reserves the right to determine which letters are suitable for publication. Letters should not exceed 300 words, and must include the author's signature, name, telephone number and street address. Please submit by U.S. mail, e-mail, or by fax to 650-941-3160.

CHECK YOUR SMOKE DETECTOR

Do you know that nearly half of the smoke detectors in homes are defective due to faulty batteries? We all pay a lot to carry fire insurance to protect us from loss of our homes. Checking the smoke detector batteries is an easy thing to do and may be your first line of defense in protecting your home and your life.



Editor's Response:

Thank you for your kind letter. We agree that it is highly desirable to publish community information on a more frequent basis; however, the newsletter is a volunteer effort and for the past seven years was published only twice per year. Balancing resources with the desire to provide timely information motivated the Town to increase our publishing schedule to a quarterly newsletter. The new schedule will move us toward your recommendation of providing "new" news instead of "old" news.

IF YOU ENJOY THE OUTDOORS -- THEN JOIN THE PATHWAYS COMMITTEE

The Pathway Committee is made up of volunteers from Los Altos Hills interested in preserving and improving the Town's Pathways System. If you enjoy the outdoors, here is your opportunity to be involved in a healthy activity. Please call Town Hall at 941-7222 for an application to join.

The Pathway Committee works with the Town officials to identify needed easements for design, construction, and maintenance of the pathways. Committee members and crews are currently placing pathway posts at pathway entrances, determining whether the slopes of certain pathways require redesign, and naming particular pathways to honor citizens who have contributed to the Town's Pathways System and to the community.



Even if you don't join the Pathway Committee, but enjoy using the paths, you can help us out. With the heavy, persistent rains last winter, some of the pathways were damaged. If you notice problems with pathways such as erosion, overgrowth, or missing signposts, please let Town staff know by submitting a "Request for Pathway Maintenance" form at Town Hall. Town staff relies on pathway users to let them know when maintenance is necessary.

THE TOWN NEWSLETTER



ART SHOW INVITE

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



NOV. 8 - DECEMBER 31
MON.-FRIDAY 1 - 5 PM
JEAN STRUTHERS AND
FAITH DUHRING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 10TH
OPENING RECEPTION
2 PM TO 4 PM
GLORIA SCHIFF AND
ARIS BALMORI



POETIC VIEWS

MY NEIGHBOR'S TREES

I think that I shall never see

DECEMBER HOLIDAY EVENTS

DECEMBER 4

Joint Community Volunteer Service Awards Luncheon
Recipients of 1998 awards will be honored at a luncheon at the Los Altos Youth Center at 11:45 A.M., December 4, 1998. For further information and /or nomination forms, contact 650/968-6146.

The view I had before the trees.

The trees whose awkward sprawling limbs
Have had no care nor ever been trimmed.

Time was when my garden was flowers on parade,
Now the bloom is cast in gloom, from growing in the shade.

You should keep your trees, that's your right.
But it's more than scenic beauty that causes my plight;

For it's the normal cycle of nature's might
To provide for fire to clear the blight.

I know my words may go unheard,
They sound like the anvil chorus.

But, Oh my friend, in the end
Did you have to grow a forest?

That's all for now, enough is said,
At least remove the tree that's dead.

---*Ralph Vetterlein*

DECEMBER 5

Friends of the Library

Annual Gift Quality Used Book Sale

Every year the Friends pick out donated books that are in such good condition they can be given as gifts, and holds a special sale in the Community Room of the Library. Over 4,000 books on all subjects will be available. Books range in price from \$1 to \$20. Many people find this is the time and place to begin Christmas shopping. Remember: December 5, Saturday, 10 AM-3 PM in the Community Room of Los Altos Library.



DECEMBER 6

Historical Society Annual Holiday Party

The Los Altos Hills Historical Society will have its annual holiday party and meeting on Sunday, Dec. 6th. For information on this and the Society, which has four interesting speakers annually, call the president, Marty Bernstein at 324-9610.

DECEMBER 13

Newcomers Annual Holiday Party

The Los Altos/Los Altos Hills Newcomers Club will host its annual holiday party on Sunday, Dec. 13th. The club has a myriad of activities, some of which are bridge groups, book club, golf, tennis and a popular monthly TGIF. For information on this dynamic organization call 916-8034 or for membership information 938-5676.

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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:

- Community Relations
- Environmental Design
- Exhibit Curator
- Finance
- Joint Volunteer Awards
- Pathways
- Planning Commission
- Safety & Protection
- Senior Coordinating Council
- Technology Improvement
- Town Historian
- Youth Commissioner

2. Annual Family Picnic: I would like to help with planning, food, and/or entertainment. _____

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

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

5. 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)

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

Bulk Rate
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Los Altos, CA



Know Your Neighbor's Pumpkins
Pictured are: Anthony, Olivia and Amanda
sitting in their pumpkin patch.
See story on Page 3