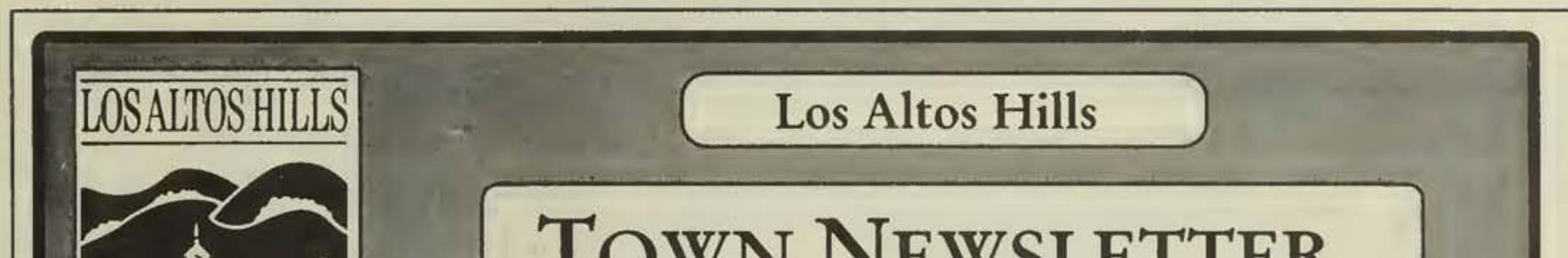


Los Altos Hills Town Newsletter - October 1997

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Public Hearing:

Friendly Skies? Moffett Field Public Hearings at Town Hall

A Public Hearing will be held at Town Hall Chambers to discuss the future land use of Moffett Field as it affects Los Altos Hills. This is a regional issue and the City Council wants to hear your views before deciding whether or not to make a decision to join with other local governments in formulating a resolution. At issue is whether or not our quality of life will be impacted by the future potential use of Moffett Field for air cargo, general aviation, aircraft maintenance and engine testing. Some advocate the retention of NASA as the primary steward of Moffett Field for only research and development activities. You are invited to hear the presentations and provide your input to the City Council.

Date: Wednesday, October 15, 1997
Time: 7:00 P.M.
Location: Town Hall Chambers
 26370 Fremont Road

Public Hearing:

Master Path Plan Review

A Public Hearing will be held to receive input on the Master Path Map section covering the *southwest section* of the Town. The Pathway Committee has reviewed the off-road paths in each section and made recommendations for changes in the 1981 map. These recommendations have been reviewed by the Council and a public hearing will be held before final

Public Hearing:

Town's Housing Element To Be Reviewed

Date: Wednesday, November 19, 1997
Time: 7:00 P.M.
Location: Town Hall Chambers
 26379 Fremont Road

The Town's proposed Housing Element of the General Plan is currently under review by both the Planning Commission and City Council. The Housing Element is required by State law to show how each city and county in California will attempt to meet region-wide targets for low and moderate income housing. The State's Department of Housing and Community Development reviews each proposed element and determines whether or not it complies with the statute. While there are no prescribed penalties for non-compliance, in the absence of a certified, approved Housing Element, legal action by individuals or special interest groups may result in court-ordered plans being imposed on a community.

A subcommittee of City Council and Planning Commission members has developed the Town's proposal, with the assistance of staff and a planning consultant. The emphasis of the draft Housing Element is to promote the construction of secondary dwellings, which are currently permitted by the Town's Zoning Code, subject to certain restrictions. These units can generally be accommodated on most lots in Los Altos Hills without impact to neighbors,

(Continued on page 5)

adoption of that section of the Master Path Plan. Included in this newsletter is a map of the proposed new Master Path Map for the *southwest section* of the Town. This map shows existing off-road paths. The map also shows planned future off-road paths. Comments are now requested. The week of the hearings, you may see the notice on our new Website: <http://www.losaltosonline.com/lah>.

Date: Wednesday, November 5, 1997
Time: 7:00 P.M.
Location: Town Hall Chambers
26379 Fremont Road

Points of Interest:

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THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

Town Accomplishments

FY 1996/97

At the beginning of each fiscal year, the City Council adopts a list of goals and objectives for the upcoming year. In October, the Council adds a work plan of capital projects to be performed during the "capital year." In addition to the day to day operations of Town Hall, these goals, budgets, projects and work plans formulate much of how the Town will operate during the year.

For the recently completed FY 96-97, staff has assembled a

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- October 5
Sunday Pathways Day, Meet at Town Hall;
Time: 1:00 P.M. Refreshments; Information:
Call: 941-3984
- October 15
Wednesday Public Hearing: Moffett Field Land Use;
Town Hall Chambers, Time: 7:00 P.M.,
Public Invited.

list of accomplishments under Mayor Sid Hubbard's direction as well as the combined efforts of the City Council, Planning Commission, Committees and Staff.

Accomplishments of FY 96/97

- Installed networked computers for the remainder of the Staff; connected the Heritage House computers into the server.
- Purchased and installed a parcel database system onto the computer server; performed a major data entry effort using planning interns; designed a user interface to make the system more user friendly. Staff is now using the system in the day to day operations of planning.
- Prepared our General Plan Housing Element for review, received comments from State Housing and Community Development Department. A revised draft has been completed and should be scheduled for Planning Commission public hearing this fall.
- Adopted a revised "Site Development Policy;" also, adopted policies regarding: 1) grading guidelines, 2) wireless communications facilities, and 3) secondary dwellings. All policies have been incorporated into the recent reprinting of the Town's Design Guidelines.
- Adopted Site Development Code revisions to streamline review process, allowing added staff discretion to approve smaller projects, and eliminating redundancies and unnecessary provisions.
- Prepared other Zoning and Site Development Code revisions regarding nonconforming structures, pavement allowed in setbacks, and outdoor lighting, which is currently under review by the City Council.
- Processed an increase of approximately 33% in planning and building permit activity, with no increase in staff levels and little increase in contract staff costs.
- Reviewed and approved several conditional use permits for Pacific Bell Mobile Services and Sprint Spectrum to substantially complete the wireless (cellular) phone network along Highway 280 through Town in a manner consistent with protecting the open character and visual quality of residential areas.

November 5 Wednesday	Public Hearing: Pathway Map Southwest Section; Town Hall Chambers, Time: 7:00 P.M., Public Invited.
November 9 Sunday	Artist's Opening Reception; 2 - 4 P.M., Town Hall Chambers; Refreshments.
November 19 Wednesday	Public Hearing: Housing Element; Town Hall Chambers; Time: 7:00 P.M., Public Invited.
December 5 Friday	Community Volunteer Service Awards Luncheon; Los Altos Youth Center; Time: 11:45 A.M.; Tickets: \$20 per person; Send Checks to Volunteer Awards, Box 1851, Los Altos, CA 94023; Information: Call Virginia Roberts, 949-2081

Planning Commission Changes

The Town's Planning Commission is a committee of residents, appointed by the City Council. The Commission is responsible for the review of all proposed new residences, subdivisions, and other major projects in Town, as well for recommending to the City Council policy and ordinance changes related to planning issues. On June 18th, the Council revised the Town Code to reduce the Planning Commission's size from a seven-member committee to a five-member committee. While the transition was scheduled to be effective in June of 1998, one Commission member has recently resigned and another has moved beyond the Town limits, reducing the group to five members.

Steve Finn resigned from the Commission due to out-of-state work commitments, which made it difficult to attend all of the scheduled meetings. Shelley Doran recently moved out of the Town, although she has indicated her desire to return to Los Altos Hills in the near future. The City Council has ex-

- Reviewed preliminary subdivision improvement plans and a final map for the Quarry Hills subdivision (Lands of Vidovich). Construction is anticipated to begin later this fall.
- Reduced garbage rates by over 10% in spite of a proposal to

(Continued on page 6)

pressed its appreciation to these Commissioners for their dedication and commitment in serving the Town. The remaining Commission members include Emily Cheng, Carol Gottlieb, (Chairperson), Guy Jinkerson, Dot Schreiner, and Mary Stutz.

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October 1997

Fire Prevention Initiatives

Our Fire District is working on a number of projects to protect our area from fires. This spring the District undertook a pilot "chipping" program to reduce combustible yard waste. Two hundred residents in hazardous fire areas were selected



and offered this free service with fifty-four homes participating. The McClenahan Company performed the work. The average chipping time at each residence was 4.5 hours. The District is likely to offer this service to other hazardous fire areas next spring.

A contract has been completed with Palo Alto that provides a first response service from Station 8 (located at Foothills Park) for portions of the District along Page Mill Road. This is a seasonally staffed facility scheduled for opera-

Pathways Day – Mark your Calendars!

Join members of the Town Pathways Committee for a hike along the Town paths. This is an opportunity to obtain an "insider's view" to see our beautiful community.

Date: Sunday, October 5th

Time: 1:00 P.M.

Return: 3:00 P.M.

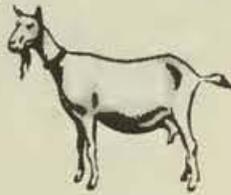
Start Location: Los Altos Hills Town Hall

Refreshments

The walk, though not difficult, includes some hills. Regardless of your age or ability, you will enjoy this opportunity to exercise, to learn and to meet new people. The Community Relations Committee will provide refreshments at the conclusion of the walk. So, mark your calendars today!

tion between 8:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. each day of the fire season. The station closes October 15th unless the fire season extends beyond that date. The District pays half the cost of providing this service.

The Fire District has two other programs in progress: 1) Additional hydrants will be installed in areas that do not meet national standards, and 2) Byrne Preserve may be the site of a brush reduction program using a herd of goats. It sounds amazing, but goats are actually used by Menlo Park and several East Bay municipalities for fire prevention! They even eat poison oak!



See Our Website for Information on Public Hearings:
www.losaltosonline.com/lah

Friends' Café Open in Library

Did you know that you could socialize, study, or simply snack at the new Friends' Café in the lobby of the Los Altos Library? The new café offers food and drinks in a sociable atmosphere. You can eat inside at one of eight small tables in the lobby, or outside by the fountain.



After October 1st the Café will be open whenever the library is open. Food and drinks are available including: hot and iced coffee and tea, hot chocolate, assorted fruit juices, bottled water, bagels, muffins, breads, pastries, biscotti, and fruit. All purchases are transacted in cash only.

Proceeds from the Friends' Café are donated to the Los Altos and Woodland Libraries to purchase books, videos, furniture, and equipment.

For more information, call the Los Altos Library at 948-7048.

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

The County of Santa Clara conducts Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Events at various sites located in the county. Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) disposal requires that you call to schedule an appointment. The hotline service will schedule appointments for the HHW Events and Battery, Oil, and Paint (BOP) Centers and provide information about hazardous household materials. Staff will screen for types and quantities of waste and direct all recyclable waste (batteries, motor oil, latex paint, and antifreeze) to BOP Centers.



HHW Hotline Number: (408)299-7300

Monday - Friday 8:30 A.M.-4:30 P.M.

Event Schedule FY'98

MONTH	HHW EVENT	BOP EVENT
OCTOBER 1997	10/4 - SARATOGA	10/11 - MILPITAS 10/18 - SUNNYVALE
NOVEMBER 1997	NONE	11/1 - SAN JOSE 11/15 - SUNNYVALE
DECEMBER 1997	12/6 - SAN JOSE	NONE
JANUARY 1998	NONE	1/17 - SUNNYVALE
FEBRUARY 1998	2/7 - MOUNTAIN VIEW	2/14 - SAN JOSE 2/21 - SUNNYVALE
MARCH 1998	3/7 - WEST VALLEY	3/14 - SAN JOSE 3/21 - SUNNYVALE

About Our Publication

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

Editor: Roger W. Burnell

Associate Editor: Dorothy Duffy Price

Los Altos Hills City Council

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

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THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

**LOS ALTOS HILLS EMERGENCY
ACCESS ROADS**

During its early development years, the Town of Los Altos Hills provided for a number of "emergency access" roads to be incorporated into subdivisions where major roads might be blocked during an emergency.

Emergencies such as fires and earthquakes have the potential to restrict access to dead-end streets and difficult to reach areas. These emergency access roads were intended to be used only in such emergencies and not for general traffic usage. Currently, there are 18 such emergency access roads spread throughout the Town. Over the years, these roads have been poorly maintained for proper emergency usage and they have become overgrown with foliage and, in some cases, blocked by posts and locked gates.

The Fire Department, in conjunction with the Los Altos Hills Town staff and the Safety Committee have started to make plans to restore emergency access roads to proper operating condition. Fire Department personnel have surveyed each road and prepared an analysis of: 1) its present condi-

**NEIGHBORHOOD EMERGENCY
NETWORK**

The Town of Los Altos Hills has one of the best all volunteer neighborhood emergency networks in Northern California. The Neighborhood Emergency Network was established in 1985 by a group of citizens concerned about the potentially harmful effects of major fires and earthquakes. The Town Network was laid out to have thirty-five equivalent sized neighborhoods, with each neighborhood having one key coordinator supported by local "block" captains covering the entire area. The Neighborhood Coordinator works with the local residents to **PLAN AHEAD** for their handling of any emergency. The Town has a general set of guidelines for setting up a neighborhood network. Due to the uncertainty of predicting effects on any one neighborhood in an emergency such as an earthquake or major fire, the basic purpose of the emergency network is to make everyone as *self-sufficient* as possible and to promote the concept of "neighbors helping neighbors." Neighborhood Coordinators also help in other very useful ways such as alerting neighbors to local burglaries, and to the occurrence of earth movements during heavy rain periods.



Heritage Trees



Los Altos Hills has a Heritage Tree program and the designated coastal live oak at Town Hall is a fine example of such a tree. We are looking for other outstanding California native trees that could be honored as heritage trees and included in a photo book of Prize Trees of Los Altos Hills. Property owners with such a tree are encouraged to contact the Town Hall office at 941-7222. The Environmental Design and Protection Committee will evaluate the tree and if the tree is suitable and healthy, an award will be given and the tree will be identified as a Heritage Tree of Los Altos Hills.

Welcome to New Town Hall Staff

JIM RASP – Director of Public Works

This past June Jim Rasp joined our Town Staff as the Dir

Baby Boom At Town Hall

During the past 3 years, members of the Planning Department at Town Hall have added a number of beautiful new babies to the population.

Suzanne Davis

Pictured here are members of our staff with their progeny. A hearty congratulation is extended to our happy Mothers for doing such a good job at both home and at work.



Suzanne Davis, Associate Planner has worked for the Town since July 1993; pictured with daughter Juliana Mary Davis, born October 11, 1996; other children Brian Andrew, 21/2 years & Katie Rose, 4 years.

Susan Manca



Susan Manca has worked for Town since August 1994; son Samuel John Stevenson, born June 11, 1997.



Debbie Pollart



This past June Jim Kasp joined our Town Staff as the Public Works Director, replacing Ed Taylor who recently resigned.

Jim previously was employed by a local engineering firm.



Jim, whose background is civil and structural engineering, has been primarily a Design Engineer and Project Manager. Jim hails from the School of Engineering at California State University at Los Angeles, where he also minored in Public Administration. While in school, he gained experience working for the City of West Covina.

Jim and his family of six children reside in San Jose. He is active in the 4-H program, serving as VP of the Santa Clara County Chapter, and where *interestingly* he volunteers as a calligraphy instructor. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara County Fair.

Jim enjoys the challenges of engineering and design work, and of finding "the best and most economical solution." He will be managing the Town's Public Works Department and Maintenance Crew. He looks forward to working with our community and states, "I really enjoy people and this is a wonderful place to work."

Welcome aboard, Jim!



Debbie Pollart has worked for the Town as a Consultant/Interim Planner since April, 1995; pictured with Connor Jackson Pollart, born February 1, 1997; other children: Cameron 3 years & Kaila 5 years.

(Housing Element - continued from page 1)

while providing a source of lower cost housing that can be rented, or used for relatives, domestic workers, or guests. Proposed programs in the Housing Element include: 1) an expedited review process for second units, 2) reduction or waiver of fees for affordable secondary units, 3) low interest loans for building affordable units, and 4) "in-lieu" fees for properties that "max out" without building affordable units.

The Planning Commission conducted a public hearing and discussion regarding the proposed Housing Element on Tuesday, September 16th. Following the Commission's recommendation, the City Council has scheduled a public hearing and will take final action on the document prior to forwarding it to the State for review. If you would like to review the draft Housing Element or would like additional information, please contact Curtis Williams, the Town's Planning Director, at 941-7222.

(Town Accomplishments - continued from page 2)

increase rates.

- Completed approximately \$1.4 million dollars of capital improvement projects which included street and storm drain improvements, pathway construction, retaining wall construction, landslide repairs, building improvements and the computer system and finance system upgrades.
- Negotiated and adopted a new lease with the Purissima Hills Water District.
- Negotiated and adopted a new five-year contract with the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department.
- Negotiated and adopted a new three year Animal Control Services contract with the City of Palo Alto, with no cost increases for the next three years.
- Finalized a policy on the acceptance of private streets as public streets.
- Developed and adopted a policy on the use of the Town's benchmark system.
- Updated and adopted approximately fifty percent of the Town's standard construction details.
- Developed a revised draft Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual. It is anticipated that the document will be brought forward for Council review early in FY 97/98.
- Reviewed job descriptions for all positions at staff level and updated the requirements to conform to ADA requirements. These will be used in conjunction with the salary survey in FY 97/98.
- Completed improvements to the Maintenance Barn including the creation of a locker room and the installation of a heater.
- Researched, competitively bid, purchased and installed a new financial system. The system will be fully operational in early FY 97/98.
- Established an Equipment Replacement Program for the Maintenance Department.
- Purchased a new dump truck for the Maintenance Department.

New Art Exhibits at Town Hall

You're missing a treat if you haven't seen the artwork of local artists, Carol Hake and Ginger Summit. Attend the November 9th reception at Town Hall Chambers, 2-4 P.M., or visit during weekdays between 1:00 and 5:00 P.M. from November 9th - December 31st.

Carol Hake - Landscapes

Carol Hake, known locally for her colorful still life paintings, is also a dedicated landscape painter. Our local hills have been a favorite

subject ever since she moved to California in 1962.

Early mornings or late afternoons she can be seen trudging up the hill at the Byrne Preserve with easel in one hand and canvas in another and a



knapsack full of brushes and oil paints. Hake retains the freshness of vision achieved by working directly from nature. When her children left for college twenty years ago, she turned the living room into a studio. It has a sweeping view of the bay and wonderful north light. She is always ready to show people her recent work here, as well as at a second studio which she maintains in an old cow barn in Bolinas.

Ginger Summit - Gourd Crafts

Ginger Summit discovered gourds after retiring from education approximately 10 years ago. At first attracted by the wonderful textures and shapes of the gourds, many other as-



- Started the process for establishment of a Master Calendar for annual major maintenance activities.
- Connected the Heritage House to the emergency generator for auxiliary power.
- Installed AutoCad on the Town's computer system for use on capital improvement plans, standard details, the parcel database mapping system, etc. Created checklists for improvement plan checking of subdivisions and site development engineering plans.

... Jeff Peterson, City Manager



FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE OUR WEBSITE:
www.losaltosonline.com/lah

pects of the plant soon fascinated her: their rich history and multifaceted use by cultures throughout the world, their horticulture, and all aspects of gourd craft. Because no reference books existed on the topic, she decided to write what has become the best-selling "Complete Book of Gourd Craft" (Lark Books). Since its publication last year, she has been busy touring the country giving lectures, demonstrations, and artist workshops. An emeritus Chairperson of the Community Relations Committee and an active volunteer and humanitarian, Ginger's greatest passion has become gourd crafting. Most of her unique artwork is created from gourds grown in her own garden in Los Altos Hills.



Currently showing at Town Hall Chambers is the art work of Martin Katz (Monoprints) and Toni Morley (Bronzes). This exhibit ends October 31st.

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October 1997

Building Permits Up 75%

The hot real-estate market is reflected in the increased applications for building permits and site ap-

Trees — Are They Really the Solution?

First of all, what is the problem? Is it excessive visual exposure, privacy, or the need for wind or

provals for new homes. In 1995/1996 there were 24 new residences approved but in 1996/97 the Planning Commission approved 42 homes. This increased building activity (75%) has continued throughout the summer.



Volunteers Needed

The Town's committees are always looking for new members. Vacancies may occur at any time. If you are interested in joining, file an application and you will be notified as openings occur. The Town Standing Committees are: Community Relations, Environmental Design & Protection, Finance, Pathways Recreation & Parks, Safety and Technology Improvement, and a position of Youth Commissioner. In addition, the Town needs volunteers to serve as Neighborhood Coordinators and Block Captains for the Town's Emergency Program. There is also an opportunity to perform flower arranging for the art exhibit receptions. For more information about these volunteer positions, please call City Clerk Pat Dowd at 941-7222.



Los Altos Chamber of Commerce

The mission of the Los Altos Chamber of Commerce is to encourage and promote businesses and to stimulate a vibrant economy in Los Altos and Los Altos Hills. If you are interested in learning more about your Chamber of Commerce and what it can do for you, please call either Gayle or Julie at the Chamber of Commerce (948-1455) or drop by the office at 321 University Avenue, Los Altos.



glare reduction? We often think of trees first – they are big and they will do the job fast. So we get trees – lots of them when we are especially anxious for results. What we forget is that a natural tree of 20 years or more will be tall and wide, but underneath, it will be open. Deprived of light, the lower limbs die out and bingo – there's that house again, or that roof or road. Maybe what was really needed was shrubbery. Most evergreen shrubs will top out below 20 feet, and continue to give privacy clear to the soil level.

Trees planted a few years ago are now beginning to cause problems here in Los Altos Hills. Those planted under power lines must be constantly pruned to prevent power outages. The pruning can cause the tree to die if disease enters through the cut. The expense of removal then becomes another problem – it's tricky under high voltage. The Town Municipal Code dictates that maintenance of street trees is the homeowner's responsibility.

Many complaints are now coming into Town Hall about view obstruction. Redwood trees are usually the reason. Ever go to Muir Woods? Once mature, those lovely little saplings go up and up and up. Over 200 feet *straight UP!* Their root systems can invade foundations, lawns and driveways and prevent most nearby plants from getting any nourishment. Here in the Hills, views are important and one person's tree may ruin another's view. Then there's winter sunlight. Tall evergreen trees located to the south will shade an entire lot all winter—rendering the yard and house dark and cold. So, your redwoods are on the north side? Well, remember that is your neighbor's south side and your tree now shades their lot, pool and home. Really it is best to use slower, not so tall growing trees, or use deciduous trees so sunlight can pass through in winter. Or you might just plant shrubs that stay under 20 feet in height. So, think ahead when planting trees and don't be afraid to remove them now if they could grow to become a problem in a few years. Select a new tree for its ultimate shape and height, and consider its natural habitat. Can it take drought, or does it need 150 inches of rain to survive? Redwoods do not naturally live here. They are native to the cool



Pack Up All Your Cares and Woes . . .

Mediation Available

Most conflicts can be resolved through MEDIATION. It's totally confidential, free and fast. Neighborhood concerns, community conflicts and merchant – customer disagreements are mediated to a successful conclusion 90% of the time. Call the **Los Altos Mediation Program** at 949-5267 for more information.

canyons usually found only on the coast side of the mountains. This is also true for Monterey pine. Most maples, birches, tulip trees, and magnolias need lots of water, and water is becoming expensive and scarce. Good drought tolerant evergreen trees are olive, pepper, incense cedar, live oak, gray pine, Coulter pine, and ponderosa pine. Good drought tolerant deciduous trees are Chinese pistache, blue oak (slow), valley oak, big leaf maple (native), walnut, sycamore, almond, Modesto or Raywood ash. Check your Sunset Garden Book for others. And please, when you plant consider your neighbors' views, privacy and sunlight. And after doing so, take the time to project forward and consider your own!

*. . . Jean Struthers, Member
Environmental Design Committee*

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THE TOWN NEWSLETTER



Residents' Reply Card

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

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

- Planning Commission Community Relations

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

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

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

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

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

We thank you very much!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

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



Reader's Feedback:

Your written responses using the Residents' Reply Card are very helpful. Below are some comments we have received:

"We appreciate the road improvements to Magdalena from 280 and from Ravensbury to Camino Hermosa."
 ... Maribeth Bruch

"The Town should start a composting program like Los Altos & Palo Alto."
 ... Annemarie Rosengreen

(Ed. Reply: The new garbage contract, under discussion, will provide finished compost on a regular basis.)

"Hooray! for the "Site Development Policy" article and for the Council's revision/re-adoption of Feb. '97. Now, stick to your standard!! Especially the

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

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

stick to your standards: Especially the
last paragraph on past "inconsistencies &
exceptions." ENFORCE WHAT'S ES-
POUSED."

... Beverley Bryant