

**Art Show Invitation**



**Town Hall Reception**  
**Sunday,**  
**March 16, 2008**  
**2 - 4 pm**  
**Refreshments**

There's a warm tropical breeze coming to Town this March when Florida based artist Katherine K. Allen's works will be exhibited. Her sumptuous works are stitched monotypes on silks and cottons. Not your orthodox renderings but innovative works of art on cloth, stitched by hand in a truly unique style.

The art in the coming collection draws its inspiration from natural elements such as grasses, trees and plants giving the exhibit an environmental theme that aligns nicely with the Town Hall exhibit space. When creating her works, Katherine builds a richly nuanced surface using a unique combination of paint and thread. Lively texture is added to each piece using stitched lines and marks. The result is an artwork of soothing elegance and lively playfulness. These color-rich works visually whisper and sway with the graceful gestures of nature, bringing the outside in. They will be on display March through September of 2008.

**LAH Historical Society**

**William Cranston, Villa Warec, Fremont Older, and more, at Historical Society December 2nd meeting**

Local historian John Ralston will share the results of his exploration of the life of William Cranston, father of Senator Alan Cranston, at the December 2 Historical Society meeting, 3-5 pm in Town Hall. Cranston was an early 20th century Los Altos realtor, whose home, "Villa Warec", still stands. He met Fremont Older commuting to San Francisco by train. Although of different political views, they formed a close friendship, and Older was a strong influence on Cranston's children.

A discussion and refreshment period follows the formal part of the meeting.

For information about the Historical Society, please call 650-961-8859.

**Halloween Trick-or-Treat Ride**



Westwind 4-H disabled riders "spook" the neighborhood on their annual Halloween Trick-or-Treat Ride. Pictured above Geoffrey Czarnik on Raspberry led by Ingrid Schrader.

**"Howl-O-Ween" Dog Walk**

On Saturday Oct. 27th Parks and Recreation Committee and 5 Paw Bakery sponsored the second annual "Howl-O-Ween" dog walk event at Town Hall.

There was a dog and owner costume contest judged by Mayor Jones, Council Member O'Malley and Ruby Calloran, owner of 5 Paw Bakery. Costumed dogs and their owners then went on a "trek and treat" along the pathways where Halloween "treat" stations were set-up for dogs and humans. Doggie goodies were provided by 5-Paws Bakery. Donations were accepted for the Palo Alto Animal Shelter.



**Has Your Driveway Been Re-surfaced?**

During recent months, a number of homeowners had their driveways resurfaced. In some cases, this has presented a safety issue. If an LAH Resident has a pathway on their property where a driveway goes over, it is crucial that this section of driveway (approximately 3' -4' wide) be "roughed" or "etched" to prevent a slippery surface for pedestrians or equestrians. Some residents have reported that these surfaces cause a hazardous condition, especially if there is a slant at that portion of the driveway.



Since these driveways have caused a concern on warm, sunny days, the danger factor will be multiplied when rainy weather prevails. Should your driveway fall into this category you are advised to take steps to correct this situation. If you have questions about how to go about this, contact the Town's Public Safety Officer, Steve Garcia at (650) 941-7222.

Layout & printing by:



**Holiday Barn Lighting**  
**Los Altos Hills**  
**Westwind Community Barn**  
**27210 Altamont Road, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022**  
**Sunday, December 2nd, 1:00 - 4:00 PM**

**Join the Los Altos Hills Community for a special "Uniquely Hills" holiday celebration this season.**  
**Refreshments & Santa Claus**  
**Information: Kathy Evans (650) 948-8985**



**Annual Los Altos Hills Holiday Pathways Caroling Event**

Thursday, December 20, 2007, 7 - 9 PM  
 LAH Town Hall  
 26379 Fremont Rd, LAH



Come share the holiday spirit this year by joining your friends and neighbors from LAH, Los Altos and surrounding communities in the annual LAH Pathways Holiday Caroling event.

Cookies and warm refreshments provided by Girl Scout Troop 597 and the LAH Community Relations Committee. We will first practice a few songs at the Los Altos Hills Town Hall before making a short 45-minute caroling stroll visiting houses on the pathways near town hall.

For more information, please contact Scott Vanderlip at (650) 948-6455.

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

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**Ad Hoc Committee on Parks & Recreation Recommendations for New Parks & Recreational Facilities**

The Los Altos Hills City Council appointed an Ad Hoc Committee on Park and Recreation Facilities to recommend potential funding for new facilities or improvements to existing facilities. After months of deliberation, the Ad Hoc Committee has recommended the following to the City Council for consideration at the December 13, 2007 City Council meeting, which will include public input on these projects. The Ad Hoc Committee recommends an overall multi-year park and recreation facilities budget of \$3.0 million for these projects

The major park and recreation facility improvement projects under consideration include:

1. Development of a small park in the upper field at Bullis-Purissima campus on Fremont Road in cooperation with the Los Altos School District. Approximate budget: \$1.0 million. Development of a park ranked first in a survey of residents. While there has been discussion about placing a full size soccer field at this location, the fact that the site is in close proximity to several homes makes it more suitable for a small suburban park and a small (K-3) soccer field. This project is, of course, dependent upon partnership with the Los Altos School District.
2. Improvements of the Little League fields on Purissima Road. Approximate budget: \$800,000-\$900,000. Little League has done a great job serving our kids and we estimate has served one in eight Los Altos Hills households and a similar proportion of Los Altos households. These improvements are all based on improving the infrastructure (drainage and irrigation), safety, and non-baseball facilities (a half basketball court and park like features including shade trees and picnic table). There is no expansion of baseball capacity or reconfiguring of the fields. Little League is encouraged to fundraise to finance the improvement of the snack shack.
3. Construction of additional Pathways where easements already exist. The Pathways Committee is expected to provide the City Council a choice of one or two highest priority off road pathways where easements already exist. Pathways are a popular and unique feature of Los Altos Hills. The Ad Hoc Committee recommends up to \$500,000 be allocated in additional financing for construction of high priority linkage pathways to improve pedestrian circulation in and through the Town.
4. Financial support for the proposed swimming pool complex behind Covington Elementary School in Los Altos. The Ad Hoc Committee recommends that the City Council consider matching Los Altos Hills resident donations to the SPLASH project of up to \$300,000 and request residents strongly consider donating to this community project.
5. Improvements and repairs at Westwind Barn on Altamont Road in cooperation with private donors and Supporters of Westwind. The Ad Hoc Committee supports the current painting, dry rot repair, and cosmetic improvements already authorized by the City Council to an amount not to exceed \$61,000. The Ad Hoc Committee also recommends the City Council consider financing other improvements in an amount not to exceed \$250,000. This keeps Westwind Barn financing to 10% of the total budget, in keeping with the need to restore and repair an historic building, but recognizing the heavy use dominated by a relatively small number of residents.

**Los Altos / Los Altos Hills Joint Community Volunteer Service Awards Luncheon**

The 25th annual Los Altos/Los Altos Hills Joint Community Volunteer Service Awards Luncheon will be held on Friday, December 7, 2007, commencing at 11:45AM at the Los Altos Youth Center. The luncheon will honor deserving volunteers, whose service has benefited the community. Honorees are not announced in advance, so it is a pleasant surprise to see which deserving volunteers have been selected for an award. For information or reservations, please call Virginia Roberts, 941-1697.



CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

New Annexation

The Town has just grown bigger by 84 acres and 65 parcels with the October annexation of the West Loyola Drive neighborhood. This neighborhood is located in the southern end of Town off of Ravensbury Avenue. As part of the annexation, the County has committed \$469K to the Town for the cost of street repair and upgrades. The Town will use the funds to repave the road once sewer installation is complete at West Loyola.



City Manager Carl Cahill

Garbage Contract Out to Bid

The current franchise agreement with LAGCo for the collection of Garbage, Recyclables, and Plant Trimmings collection services is set to expire on June 30, 2008. The Town is in the process of soliciting competitive proposals (RFP) for a new franchise agreement from qualified vendors including the current service provider Los Altos Garbage Company. The RFP requires continuation of the current basic services, with minor modifications, such as accepting and recycling a few additional material types. In addition to the required basic services, the RFP also requests cost proposals for several upgrades.

These upgrades include:

- weekly collection of recyclables and plant trimmings (current service is collection every other week );
- distribution of wheeled carts for all services to all residents;
- requiring the Franchisee to be responsible for processing and marketing the recyclables and compostables; and
- use of alternative fuel vehicles and other features that reduce the impacts on the environment.

New El Monte/Moody Road Pathway

The Town has completed the installation of segment 2 of the El Monte/ Moody Road Pathway. This particular segment runs along the perimeter of Foothill College from the Fire Station entrance to the main entrance of the College. The project includes a dedicated bicycle lane and a 90-foot long pedestrian bridge that spans Adobe Creek. The final segment, which is Segment 3, is in the design stage. It will connect with Segment 2 from the College main entrance to existing pathways near the I-280 interchange. This will result in a continuous trail from Hidden Villa and Rancho San Antonio Open Space to downtown Los Altos. A substantial portion of the project cost has been paid for with Federal and State grants and a significant contribution from Foothill College.

— Carl Cahill, City Manager

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

The Town of Los Altos Hills and the Los Altos Hills County Fire District purchased a state-of-the-art Emergency Notification System for Town residents and surrounding unincorporated Fire District. The system has two effective features ideal for the Town; 1) it is capable of simultaneously calling 1000 residents in 30 seconds with a recorded message and 2) it will only call residents living within a specific geographical location affected by the emergency. The new system replaces the outdated Teleminder system that made 8 calls a minute.



Teleminder system was actually used in 2006 when an armed robber invaded a resident's home. The system alerted surrounding neighbors that an armed suspect may be in their neighborhood as deputies searched with a helicopter and K-9's. The City of Los Altos has a similar system that was used to alert residents of a mountain lion sighting and a gas line break.

When the Emergency Notification System is activated by Town staff, the emergency message will begin "This is the Town of Los Altos Hills with an emergency message". Listen carefully, but you can have the message repeated. Please instruct your family on what to do if they answer the phone during an emergency alert message. Depending on the emergency, you may receive a follow-up message. This system only calls landline telephone customers, not cell phones.

The Town has scheduled an area-wide test of the Emergency Notification System for January 5, 2008. Random test of specific neighborhoods will be conducted throughout the year. Feel free to call Steve Garcia, Public Safety Officer at (650) 947-2508 if you have any questions.

Pathways Map Update

The Pathways Committee has been working hard to complete the current and up-to-date Walking Map. It is proposed to print a limited number of this latest edition of the map, with the intention that as more paths are cleared and made accessible, they will be added to later editions. Hopefully, each path on the map should be cleared and 'walkable' at the time it is published and available.



There are several ways that residents can help to make this system a reality for the entire town. After a summer of growth, trees, bushes and weeds intrude into the pathway easements, making them either very narrow or sometimes nearly inaccessible. Although the town staff attempts to keep the pathways useable, we would greatly appreciate it if residents could lend a helping hand by keeping branches and brush cleared. We also have noted many errant sprinkler heads, either that are misdirected or perhaps broken, which soak the paths. And a continuing problem is the use of paths as parking areas, forcing pedestrians and horses to go into the streets.

Los Altos Hills has a unique and valuable asset. Many thanks to all of those who have helped make this Walking Map Project a success, and we look forward to feedback and assistance to make continuing improvements. As you notice problems or if you would like to suggest additions, please complete forms that are available at the Town Hall. The pathway system exists for the use and enjoyment of everyone in the town.

— Ginger Summit, Chair Pathways Committee

PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Development Area Credit for Semi-Permeable Materials

On October 11, 2007, the City Council amended the Town's Development Area Policy to allow development area credit for the use of semi permeable materials on required driveways, fire truck turnaround and parking areas. The use of semi-permeable materials is an environmentally friendly alternative to conventional paving materials because water can drain through the pervious hardscape surfaces to reduce water runoff and erosion.



Debbie Pedro, Planning Director

Permeable concrete, permeable pavers, and grasscrete pavers may qualify for up to 50% credit towards development area calculations. In addition, artificial turf was approved to receive 90% credit when used in the rear or side yard. Some restrictions apply so if you are interested in taking advantage of the new development area credits, please contact the Planning Department for more information.

**West Loyola Annexation**-The Town has just completed annexation of the West Loyola area adjacent to the southeastern portion of the Town in unincorporated Santa Clara County. The West Loyola annexation consists of 65 parcels on 82.83 acres developed with primarily single-family homes. Most of the parcels are 1+ acre in size substantially in compliance with the land use and zoning of Los Altos Hills. The annexation transferred land use authority for the project area from Santa Clara County to the Town of Los Altos Hills. In addition, the properties are now eligible to receive sewer service because they are part of the Town of Los Altos Hills.

General Plan Update

The Town of Los Altos Hills is currently in the process of updating its General Plan. The General Plan Update is divided into three phases. The City Council approved Phase 1 in April 2007, which includes the Conservation, Open Space & Recreation Elements. Phase 2 is currently underway and includes the Safety and Noise Elements. The City Council reviewed & approved the Phase 2 updates on November 8. The General Plan Committee has begun working on Phase 3, the Land Use Element and it is expected to be completed in 2008. For the latest information on the General Plan Update project or to view/download the documents, please visit the Town's website at [www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/government/generalplanupdate.html](http://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/government/generalplanupdate.html).

Library Survey

Los Altos Libraries (Main and Woodland Branch) are participating in a needs assessment to determine future library needs and expansion ideas. Please take the time to complete a survey available on the library website at [www.santaclaracountylib.org/losaltos/](http://www.santaclaracountylib.org/losaltos/). We would like your feedback whether you are a library user or not! Thanks in advance.



—Cheryl Houts, Community Librarian.

HORSES & CARS DON'T MIX

With the advent of the rainy season equestrians may have to use more of the roadside trails in order to exercise their horses.

Car drivers have often had little experience driving in the presence of horses, so it may help to understand what situations can arise.

Horses are prey animals by nature, but through domestication they can adapt to many unusual activities that would normally scare them. However, even in the best-trained horse there is an underlying wariness, which may be triggered by some sight or sound—one that could cause him to spook and jump in front of a car. This may be a dog unexpectedly rushing at a fence, a deer in the bushes, tree trimmers starting up a chipper! Problems related to vehicles include large trucks with hissing air brakes, pickup trucks with metal garbage cans rolling around and even bicycle brakes that screech.

Drivers should definitely slow down when passing horses giving them a wide berth. In the event that they come across a rider having difficulty controlling their horse on or near the road they should stop until the situation is resolved, or obey any hand signals that the rider gives them.

No driver wants to have an injured horse or rider on his conscience or on his insurance claim - they may discover that the horse is worth more than their car!

Sudden Oak Death — Update

Town Staff have contacted several tree specialists for quotes on applying Agri-Fos to oak trees located on Town property. Agri-Fos is a fungicide that is considered to be effective in preventing Sudden Oak Death. Per the recommendations of the Open Space Committee, oak trees that will be immediately treated are:



1. Town Hall heritage oak.
2. Oaks at the top of Byrne Preserve (those that are visible from Altamont).
3. Oaks in Byrne Preserve that are close to the known infected trees.

For more information on Sudden Oak Death, please refer to the California Oak Mortality Task Force website: [www.suddenoakdeath.org](http://www.suddenoakdeath.org) or go to Town Hall and pickup a brochure on the disease.

For Council Agenda and Minutes, See our Website: [www.losaltoshills.ca.gov](http://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov)

General Plan Noise Element

At a recent public hearing, the City Council approved updates to the Safety and Noise elements of the Town's General Plan, which is the Town's blueprint for the future. This update was done because the State requires periodic update of the General Plan.

The Noise Element is intended to protect residents from unwanted noise, thereby assuring our continued enjoyment of the quiet, peaceful community envisioned by the General Plan. We want to listen to the radio when we turn it on, not when our neighbors do.

The recent trend to construct larger homes has in some cases involved the installation of commercial-scale equipment, and air conditioner noise has become a problem. On the other hand, most residents tolerate emergency sirens and occasional lawnmowers because they represent necessary actions related to public safety and neighborhood upkeep.

As a result, the Noise Element has been modified to distinguish between continuous sources of noise, such as air conditioners and pool pumps, and intermittent or occasional noise, such as emergency sirens, lawnmowers, or people engaging in conversation. The human ear is a remarkable instrument, and can pick out an annoying sound even if it is below the so-called "ambient noise level," so it is perfectly reasonable for the allowed maximums for sources of continuous noise to be set below the ambient noise level.

In due course the Town will modify the Noise Ordinance, to be consistent with the principles set forth in the updated Noise Element. The Noise Ordinance needs to be clear and enforceable, and to insure the peace and quiet we all value in our Town.



Town Newsletter - Statement of Purpose

This is the official Town Newsletter to communicate current issues, services, and activities in Los Altos Hills to the residents of the Town and to facilitate, encourage and improve interaction between the residents and Town government. The 2008 Newsletter will be published quarterly in the months of March, June, September, and December. Deadline for the next issue is January 31, 2008.

Internet Address: [www.losaltoshills.ca.gov](http://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov)  
About Our Publication

The Town Newsletter is published with assistance from our Town Volunteer Committees.  
Editor: Dorothy Duffy Price  
Associate Editors: Barbara Waldeck, Linda Seidel, Patty Woolsey  
Photographer: Jitze Couperus

Los Altos Hills City Council  
Craig Jones, Mayor • Jean Mordo, Vice Mayor  
Breene Kerr • Mike O' Malley • Dean Warshawsky



Los Altos Hills County Fire District News

226 vs. 9238!!!! What do these numbers mean???? Since February of 2007 226 citizens of the Los Altos Hills County Fire District have signed up or attend the FREE Personal Emergency Preparedness classes offered by the Fire District. That means that 9012 of you can still sign up to take the FREE classes.



The Personal Emergency Preparedness (PEP) course is a 3 1/2 hour class designed for families to be able to survive the first 72 hours of a disaster. There is also a Senior PEP course, it is a 4-hour class, the first 3 1/2 hours of the class is just like the regular PEP class but the last 1/2-hour of the class is designed specifically for seniors. If you would like to obtain more information on these two valuable classes go to the Los Altos Hills County Fire District web site at [www.lahcfd.org](http://www.lahcfd.org). Here you will see what the class content is and how to register for the FREE classes.

P.E.P. and Senior + P.E.P

"2008"

P.E.P

January 23rd	Wednesday	6pm-9:30pm
February 23rd	Saturday	9am-12:30pm
March 12th	Wednesday	6pm-9:30pm
April 19th	Saturday	9am-12:30pm
May 14th	Wednesday	6pm-9:30pm
June 25th	Wednesday	6pm-9:30pm

Sr + P.E.P.

January 19th	Saturday	9am-1pm
February 12th & 14th	Tuesday & Thursday	4pm-6pm
March 15th	Saturday	9am-1pm
April 15th & 17th	Tuesday & Thursday	4pm-6pm
May 10th	Saturday	9am-1pm
June 24th & 26th	Tuesday & Thursday	4pm-6pm

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

In the spring of 2008 the Los Altos Hills County Fire District in conjunction with the Town of Los Altos Hills will be hosting a CERT training class for the citizens of Los Altos Hills and the unincorporated area.

In this 24-hour class you will learn how to assist your local Fire, Police and Government agencies during a disaster. Following a major disaster, first responders who provide fire and medical services will not be able to meet the demand for these services. CERT is a positive and realistic approach to emergency disaster situations where citizens will be initially on their own and their actions can make a difference. Through training, citizens can manage utilities and put out small fires; treat the three killers by opening airways, controlling bleeding, and treating for shock; provide basic medical aid; search for and rescue victims safely; and organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers to be effective in assisting your local community.

You can obtain information and sign up for the class at [www.lahcfd.org](http://www.lahcfd.org).



# CALIFORNIA'S WATER: A CRISIS WE CAN'T IGNORE

September 2007

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## WATER SUPPLY CUTBACKS

California's economy, environment and quality of life are highly dependent on the availability of water. The need to balance human and environmental needs is more important than ever, but it is not always easy. Some environmental protection policies can affect water supply, as in the case of the Delta smelt.

### **Largest Court-Ordered Reduction in California History**

The Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta is home to more than 750 distinct species of plants and wildlife, some of which are considered threatened or endangered. One of these species, the Delta smelt, is listed as threatened on both state and federal endangered species lists.

In the summer of 2007, the state voluntarily stopped pumping at the State Water Project (SWP) Delta pumping facilities for 10 days to protect smelt. Then on Aug. 31, a federal judge ordered a massive reduction in water supplies from the SWP and Central Valley Project (CVP) to protect the Delta smelt while updated federal permits are obtained.

While state and local water agencies are still analyzing the court ruling, initial projections are that it could reduce combined SWP/CVP deliveries by as much as one-third, or 2 million acre-feet of water. This is the single largest court-ordered reduction in statewide water supply in California's history.

### **Communities Statewide Face Cutbacks**

The San Francisco Bay Area, Central and Southern California will experience a significant reduction in water supply because of the most recent court order. The SWP provides water to two out of every three people (approximately 25 million residents), irrigates 750,000 acres of prime agricultural lands and is directly responsible for \$400 million of the state's trillion-dollar economy.

Because local water agencies will have to rely on contingency or emergency sources of water to lessen direct impacts to their customers, they will be dipping into reserves that are already at dangerously low levels. However, by doing so, they will exhaust or significantly limit supplies that would be needed for a drought or major catastrophe, such as an earthquake or major flood.

### **Less Water for Farms, Cities and Businesses**

California is a leading food producer for the nation and the world. The impact of this court-ordered reduction on the state's farming community will be serious. In response to the cutback, some farmers in the San Joaquin Valley, Inland Empire and San Diego regions already are planning to idle their fields this coming winter and spring.

Urban communities will also feel the pinch of tightening water supplies as families and businesses are asked to conserve. In some regions, stringent water restrictions, including rationing, may be imposed and consumers may see their water rates increase.

For more information, visit [www.calwatercrisis.org](http://www.calwatercrisis.org).

***Veteran's Day***

***A Memorable Dedication of Little League Field No. 3***



*Over 200 family, friends and residents attended the dedication of Little League Field No. 3 honoring William Mason Sigua on Veteran's Day, Sunday, November 11, 2007.*

*The program included the Mayor of Los Altos Hills, CA State Assemblyman, Alexander Myers, President of the Little League, and John E. Lerch, former Little League Coach.*

*The Peninsula's Men's Chorus sang the Star Spangled Banner and God Bless America.*

*As a youngster growing up, Will Sigua played ball on the fields and learned many positive lessons that motivated and guided him through his life. Following graduation from Los Altos High School in 2003, Sigua enlisted in the Army because he wanted serve his country. Sigua gave his life while on patrol in Bayji, Iraq. He was a squad leader with eight soldiers under his command.*

*In addition to the naming of Little League Field No. 3, a monument honoring Will was placed on the grassy knoll overlooking centerfield.*

*The dedication and monument provide residents with a moment in time to reflect on the dedication and sacrifice that Sgt. Will Sigua and other warriors and their families have made to provide freedom and liberty.*



*Brother David, Jackie & Ben Sigua thank all of the attendees and the Town for honoring the memory of their son.*



***Los Altos Hills Dedicates Little League Field No. 3  
in Honor of William Mason Sigua***



*Sgt. William Mason Sigua*

*March 21, 1985 - January 31, 2007*

*1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment,  
3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division*

*Fort Bragg, N.C.*

***Fallen Hero - Operation Iraqi Freedom***

**“We would like to thank all of our friends, family and members of our community for their endless thoughts and prayers. The outpouring of support for William’s service and for our family has been truly heartwarming. In the loss of our son, it is comforting to know that so many people loved him and honor his dedication and sacrifice for our country. Thank you again for all of your support and for helping us keep William’s memory alive in our community.”**

**— The Sigua Family**



*Monument located on knoll behind center field.*



*The William Sigua Little League Field No. 3*

*Event Photos by Jitze Couperus*

