

# Los Altos Hills Town Newsletter - March 2003

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LOS ALTOS HILLS



CALIFORNIA

Los Altos Hills

# TOWN NEWSLETTER

Volume XXVI No. 1

March 2003

## NEW TOWN HALL

### What Is Your Preference?

#### CALENDAR

Starting March 3 -  
**Summer Recreation Programs** - Pickup Registration Forms for Horse Camps & Ohlone Camps at Town Hall. Info.: 941-7222

**March 21, Friday; 6 PM;** LAH Volunteer Recognition Dinner at Fremont Hills Country Club.

**April 26, Sat., EARTH DAY, Westwind Barn, 1-4 PM,** Conservation Ideas,



Special Event Show, **LEOPARDS, ETC.,** Food, wine, displays.

**May 10, Sat., Fun Run, 2nd Annual 5 K Pathways Run/Walk (10:30 AM) & 1 Mile Kids Fun Run at (9 AM).** Start at Westwind Barn, Altamont Rd. (See application in this newsletter.)

**June 1, Sunday, LAH Town Picnic, 1- 4 PM** Little League Fields: Open to residents only. Invite to be mailed in early May. Volunteers needed. Call: 941-7222

#### Craftsman Style



The Craftsman style design is organized along an axial, gallery space that has two transepts and a large courtyard with the heritage oak at the center. Proposed materials will include a charcoal composition roofing system, natural redwood beams and window casings, a combination of wood siding and stucco exterior and low stone/masonry seat wall to define the transepts and courtyard. These low-maintenance, natural materials are in harmony with the existing neighborhood.

Peter H. Duxbury, AIA Los Altos

#### Mission Style



The primary materials of the Mission style are those found in traditional Mission style buildings: tile roofs, stucco walls, wood windows and doors, tile pavers in the courtyard and on the Council Chambers floor and exposed wood beams at roof overhangs. Wood trellises are used to form open roofs over the building entry area at the southwest corner of the building. The new Mission style design addresses the public's height concerns in the following ways: the 35' high clocktower in the prior design has been removed, the clearstory smaller in area, and the scale and size of the building is now similar that of the homes in the neighborhoods.

John Goldman, AIA

#### Rural Style



The Rural style is a combination of Folk, Prairie, & Craftsman which is characterized by gabled, cross gabled, low pitch roofs wide eave open overhangs, beams at gable ends, exposed rafters, casement windows & natural materials predominantly wood & shingles. All would be sustainable. The existing specimen oak is the focal point of the new plan with circulation occurring around the tree courtyard in the reception, gallery and council chamber lobby areas. Elements of the style are shown in various areas of the new plan such as clerestories, gables and cross gables, windows, wide overhangs and wood exterior.

Architect: Bruce M. Nathan, Palo Alto, Associate Architect

#### Sustainable Style



'Sustainable' style is an approach that strives to preserve the rural atmosphere of the foothills. Sustainably harvested lumber, salvaged finishes, ample daylight and operable windows, rainwater harvesting, photovoltaic electricity, and solar hot water are all elements which can be incorporated. A combination of exterior materials will be chosen for their resource efficiency. PISE (a sprayed soil-cement similar to stucco) is proposed for the main building elements. The roof construction features high levels of insulation, protected with a metal roof. A ground source geo-thermal heat pump would be an efficient means of heating and cooling.

David Levine, The Architects, Ecological Planning & Design

Public Hearing Resident Advisory Preference Survey – April 3, 2003 – 6 PM at Town Hall Chambers  
You are invited to hear the Special Architects Presentation before casting your vote for your style preference

LOS ALTOS HILLS

# THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

## CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

### *Status of Parks and Recreation Supervisor Recruitment*

In response to the Town's extensive recruitment campaign for the above position, fifteen applications were received by the January 8, 2003 filing deadline. Subsequent to the review of applications for minimum qualifications, eight candidates were selected for initial administrative interviews with members of the Town's Park and Recreation Committee present. Three candidates have been selected for the second round of in-depth interviews beginning on January 29 and concluding on February 5.

Should any one of these candidates be eliminated from further consideration, two other candidates from the "second tier" will be interviewed. It is expected that an appointment will be made by mid-February with the successful candidate joining the Town on or about March 1.

I am extremely pleased with the high quality of candidates overall and believe, as a result, the final decision will be a difficult one.

### *Change in PG&E Government Relations Representative for Santa Clara County*

Effective February 1, 2003, Renee Silveria will replace Dawn Jackson as our area's Government Relations Representative with PG&E. Dawn, who was very helpful to the Town during her nearly two years in this capacity, has accepted another position in the San Francisco area. Renee can be contacted at r3sz@pge.com.

### *City Manager Appointment to CAL ID Program Local Policy Board*

In addition to serving on the County's Supplemental Law Enforcement Oversight Committee which reviews, approves and reports on the uses of COPS funding in Santa Clara County, I have been selected to serve on the County's California ID Program's Local Policy Board. Both of these nominations emanated from the Santa Clara County/City Managers Association. The Cal ID Program Local Policy Board oversees the operation of the countywide automated fingerprint identification program administered by the City of San Jose. This Board traditionally convenes annually in the District Attorney's Office in San Jose.

—Maureen Cassingham, City Manager



City Manager Maureen Cassingham



For Council Agenda and Minutes,  
See our Website.

## BULLIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL VOTE FOR CLOSURE

Community help is requested to help launch our Charter School. As long predicted by those close to the site, at the February 10th Los Altos School District meeting, the school board trustees voted 5-0 to close the Bullis site and move all of the Bullis students to the Covington Campus in 2003. Many residents strongly opposed the closing of the public school in Los Altos Hills. They spoke of its value as a long-standing community institution important to the town's social fabric. The Los Altos Hills Town Council adopted a resolution on December 10 — identifying Bullis School as an important community asset and urging that it remain open.

Despite the actions of the School Board, Bullis may yet remain open. Forty founding families have begun an effort to establish an elementary charter school at the Bullis site.

Charter schools are state funded institutions that are generally founded and run by neighborhood organizations under the supervision of local school boards. Such a school could be open to all Los Altos Hills families (whether in Los Altos or Palo Alto School districts) tightly integrating Bullis with the town. The charter vision includes small classes, rich curriculum, an intimate school size of 300 students, and excellent teachers. The town would also retain the school fields for public access.

The charter school group is working to make the charter school open for Fall 2003. A website providing information about the charter school is available at [www.bullischarter.org](http://www.bullischarter.org). The group is looking to build a Community Board of Advisors and also seeks donations for the Bullis Charter Foundation. Individuals can email [volunteers@bullischarterschool.com](mailto:volunteers@bullischarterschool.com) or call Scott Vanderlip at (650) 948-6455.

—Mark Breier and Scott Vanderlip

## PATHWAYS CORNER

### *Do Your Paths Need Maintenance?*

Residents who feel that a path needs maintenance or rebuilding should call the Town at 941-7222 and request a Maintenance Form be completed for the path. An annual funded budget amount is available for pathways maintenance. The Pathways Committee, with input from the community, tries to identify which paths need maintenance or rebuilding.

Our Town Maintenance crew has a big job and they do it well. They also appreciate knowing from the residents which paths need upkeep.



**PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**T**own Planning Department approvals for new development since December 2002 through February 2003, include the following: three new residences approved through the Fast Track review process, four additions, two pools and five landscape screening plans. The Planning Commission reviewed the following: two new single family residences, two secondary units, one addition, one conditional use permit for a cellular antenna, two variance requests, four landscape plans and a Negative Declaration for a private single lane bridge replacement project. The Planning Commission voted to recommend that the City Council approve a minor revision to the basement ordinance. The basement ordinance now specifies that basements shall be entirely below natural grade in order to qualify as exempt from floor area calculations.



*Planning Director Carl Cahill*

One of the Mayor's top goals for the year is to adopt an ordinance that would prohibit unreasonable obstructions of pre-existing views as a result of tree and shrub growth. The Planning Commission is now studying a draft view and sunlight protection ordinance.

The proposed ordinance establishes property owner rights to maintain views or access to sunlight that existed at any time since they purchased or occupied a property from unreasonable obstruction by the growth of trees. The proposed ordinance also establishes a process by which persons may seek restoration of such views or sunlight that existed at any time since they purchased or occupied a property from unreasonable obstruction by the growth of trees. The City Council will consider adopting the ordinance in March.

The Planning Department has received comments from the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) on the Town's 2002 Housing Element. Staff is preparing response to comments with input from a City Council appointed subcommittee.

*—Carl Cahill, Planning Director*

**VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION DINNER**

On March 21st at 6 PM the Town will host its annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner at the Fremont Hills Country Club honoring over 100 town volunteers. The Town is indebted to the hard working volunteers who donate many hours of service to the Town.



**EDITOR'S MESSAGE**

**NEW TOWN HALL STYLE - WHAT IS YOUR PREFERENCE?**



**D**o you want Craftsman, Sustainable or do you want the Mission or Rural style? Now you have an opportunity to share your preference.

The new city council responded to the electorate's request that the New Town Hall project be revisited.

At their January 21st meeting, the New Town Hall Committee - consisting of three council members and seven citizens established new guidelines for the proposed project:

- Budget - not to exceed \$3.5 million
- Height - single story building
- Ordinance Compliance - must comply with the residential building ordinances
- Water District Office - on the same property/separate building

Central to the effort of the New Town Hall Committee is the desire to obtain citizen preferences on the design style factor of the new building. (Ultimately, the committee will make the final decision based on many additional factors, e.g., cost, overall design efficiencies, space utilization, etc.)

Your input is solicited regarding design style for the proposed new town hall. Each household will have the opportunity of actually voting on their favorite design. In March, the Town will be sending out a separate mailer requesting your preference. A down-loadable form will also be available on the Town's website. Before voting on your preference, try to attend the Public Hearing on April 3rd at 6 PM to hear the architect's presentation. Deadline for responses to be received will be April 10, 2003.

The committee selected four outstanding architects to submit renderings of different design styles so that the residents can identify the style that is most reflective of their vision for a town hall in Los Altos Hills.

The architects' renderings are pictured on the front page of this newsletter with a short paragraph describing the elements of the style. We appreciate the opportunity of sharing our preference.

Sincerely,  
  
 Duffy Price, Editor



# THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

## NEW PATHWAY MAP COMMITTEE

### *The Goal Is To Produce An Accurate Map*

The recently appointed new Pathway Map Committee is meeting on a regular basis. Members of the committee include residents: Bill Downey, Les Earnest, Carol Gottlieb, Dot Schreiner, Bob Stutz; Councilmembers: Breene Kerr & Mike O'Malley; Staff: Mintze Cheng, Town Engineer.

The purpose of this Committee is to produce an accurate map of the Town's existing dedicated off-road pathways and existing easements that could lead to future off-road pathways. The Committee will use the map prepared by Town Staff that was given to the Pathways Committee in April 2002. The map will not reflect any of the changes approved by City Council in November 2002 because the Citizens' Pathways Referendum that was adopted by the Council in January 2003 rejected these changes.

The Committee will not review any on-road (roadside) pathways at this time. The sole focus will be off-road pathways. The Committee will review only pathway easements and not look at utility or sewer easements. However, there are certain parcels that have general easements on them. The Town Attorney will be requested to provide an opinion as to whether these general easements can be considered pathway easements.

The Committee will not consider issues like wildlife corridors, nor consider legality of on-road pathways on private roads. Also, the Committee will not review any paths that are presently in use but are not dedicated pathways. These will be considered in the next stage when additional pathways are proposed.

The Committee will review all emails, letters and other documentation that the Town received regarding possible inaccuracies in the 2002 map. The Committee will encourage citizens to bring any issues to the Committee's attention so that a factual answer can be determined.

The Committee meets every Friday, usually at 9 AM in the Council Chambers. The public is invited. Call Town Hall 941-7222 to verify the meeting time.

## Town Newsletter - Statement of Purpose

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 2002 Newsletter will be published quarterly in the months of March, June, September, and December. Deadline for the next issue is April 30, 2003.

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 Lamparter, Linda Seidel, Karen Emerzian

## UNDERGROUNDING OF UTILITIES - RESIDENTS' RESPOND

Many thanks to 100 residents who sent in Resident Response Cards on the issue of undergrounding utilities in the last issue of the Town Newsletter.

### Responses to questions:

1. Are your neighborhood utility wires underground now?

Responses - 100:

Yes: 15

No: 85

2. If not, would you consider becoming a member of an assessment district for undergrounding:

Responses - 94:

Yes: 52

No: 42

3. Would you be willing to pay?

Responses - Yes: 55:

\$ 5000	12	\$20,000	10
\$10,000	14	\$25,000	12
\$15,000	7		

Based on the information in the newsletter article, a substantial number of respondents were very positive in their desire to form assessment districts. However, others were much more concerned that we spend town revenues on sewers. One resident stated in a letter that the figures in the article were incorrect and that instead of the costs being \$15,800 per household it would be higher. Another resident commented "How would I observe the birds without the wires?" (Good point!)

The New Undergrounding Committee is taking all of this information and much more into consideration and will soon be sharing its conclusions and recommendations with the council and the residents.

To reduce the financial impact on residents, the committee is currently seeking knowledgeable input on alternative financing mechanisms. If any Town resident is willing to offer expert advice in this area, please contact the city manager 941-7222.

## TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS Community Volunteers Needed

Town Standing Committees (Four Year Terms):

Environmental Design & Protection, Finance/Investment  
Parks & Recreation, and Information & Safety

North County Library Authority

Youth Commissioner & Library Commissioner

Applications are available at Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills, California 94022 during regular hours.

**Los Altos Hills City Council**

• Robert Fenwick, Mayor • Emily Cheng, Mayor Pro Tem  
• Breene Kerr • Mike O'Malley • Dean Warshawsky



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office hours (8:00 a.m. to noon; 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.). For  
additional information, please call the City Clerk  
at 941-7222, ext. 226.

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# THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

## Summer in the Hills 2003 Recreation Program

Sponsored by  
LAH Parks and Recreation Committee

Offered for Summer 2003

### WESTWIND HORSE CAMP



Session 1

July 28 thru August 1

Session 2

August 11 thru 15

3.5 hours - start time 8:30 am

### OHLONE CAMP

Session 1

June 16 thru 20

Session 2

June 23 thru 27

4 hours - start time 8:30 AM

### YEAR-ROUND RIDING PROGRAM

Spring 1

March 5, 12, 19, 26

April 2, 9, 16

Spring 2

April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 28

June 4, 11

1.5 hours - preferred start time 4 PM

### HORSE MANAGEMENT CLASS

April 5, 12, 19, 26

1 hour - preferred start time 9 AM

### SPECIAL EVENTS

Pathways/Park & Rec Run-Walk

May 10 starting at Westwind Barn

(See Insert/Application in this Newsletter)



Applications for Westwind Horse Camps and Ohlone Camps can be downloaded starting March 1 from the Los Altos Hills Website [www.losaltoshills.ca.gov](http://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov) under Parks & Recreation.

Applications for all camps will be available at Town Hall starting March 1.

For camp updates, questions, and information contact

## LOS ALTOS HILLS EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Location: Westwind Barn

Date: Saturday, April 26th

Time: 1 PM to 4 PM

**GOAL:** to promote public awareness of educational resources in our community — whose purpose is to give us a greater understanding and appreciation of our natural surroundings



**PARTICIPANTS:** This is an all-volunteer event. Groups that will be invited to participate in the Los Altos Hills Earth Day Celebration include all Town Committees, local conservation and wildlife groups, school groups, recycling organizations, etc. We expect that at least two dozen groups will participate. If a local group you know about would like to be included, please contact Nancy Couperus at 941-4808.

Local winemakers will also be invited to participate. The sponsoring groups will provide cheese and crackers.

**EVENT SPONSORS:** Representatives of the LAH Recreation Committee, the LAH Environmental Design Committee, and the LAH Community Relations Committee will work together with the Friends of Westwind in planning for the Earth Day Celebration.

For this second Earth Day Celebration at Westwind Barn, Leopards, Etc. will again be bringing their wild cats for viewing. Two educational shows have been scheduled, and families will have an opportunity to view close up a mountain lion, lynx, cheetah, and other wild cats.

*Admission is free but donations will be gladly accepted to defray costs of the event.*

## Blue Birds Return to Los Altos Hills



Photo by Jitce Couperus

The Audubon's local Bluebird Recovery Program began in 1997 and has since grown to include nearly 60 volunteers throughout the county. Volunteers build, place, and monitor nest boxes in local parks and open spaces. Bluebirds and other cavity nesting birds have seen population declines recently, primarily due to habitat loss and competition from aggressive, non-native birds. Providing and maintaining safe nesting sites

For camp updates, questions, and information contact  
hermelinde@aol.com or call 650-941-7222. Thank you!

aggressive, non-naive birds. Providing and maintaining safe nesting sites  
can help reduce that trend. Last year, for example, 1530 songbirds and  
other cavity nesters fledged from our boxes, including eleven barn owl  
chicks. Boxes of different sizes and designs accommodate everything from  
bluebirds and chickadees to wood ducks and kestrels.

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## THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

### LAH TOWN PICNIC SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 1

**M**ark your calendars for Sunday Afternoon, June 1, from 1 PM to 4 PM for the Annual Los Altos Hills Town Picnic at the Little League Fields on Purissima Road. Chicken, all-beef hot dogs and vegetarian dinners will be cooked by our firefighters from Santa Clara County Firefighters Local # 1165 and served with firefighters chili, tossed salad, and garlic bread. Soft drinks, beer, wine and ice cream sundaes will also be provided.

Entertainment and games for both adults and children will be featured. The Parks and Recreation Committee will provide crafts. The Town Picnic is organized by volunteers from your Community Relations Committee, with help from many other volunteers in Town. If you would like to volunteer to help with the Picnic, by organizing a children's game, working at the registration desk, or serving refreshments or ice cream for 1/2 hour, please let us know by calling Town Hall at 941-7222.

The entire event is hosted by the Town for the purpose of bringing our community together. A registration coupon will be mailed to all Town residents in early May, and advance registration will be required so we can order the correct number of dinners.

### Habitat Restoration At Byrne Preserve



Pictured is former councilman Bob Johnson, who with other residents volunteered on February 7th to remove Teasel, a non-native, invasive plant in the middle of a field within the 55-acre Byrne Preserve, close to West Barn. Teasel is a non-native weed that will choke out native grasses. Resource management of the preserve being undertaken by a group of residents who are interested in maintaining the open space. Next restoration dates are March 15th & April 12th (9 AM-12 Noon) at Byrne Preserve, Altamont Road.

Layout & printing by:



Print Innovations, Inc.

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

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### Mark Your Calendar Town Picnic June 1, 2003 1 - 4 PM



The Annual Los Altos Hills Town Picnic at the Little League Fields on Purissima Road is being planned by the Community Relations Committee. The picnic will feature

*games, crafts, music, BBQ dinners cooked by our firefighters from Santa Clara County Firefighters Local # 1165, soft drinks, beer, wine and ice cream sundaes will also be provided. Watch for your invitation to arrive in early May. If you want to volunteer to serve for registration desk, games, serving ice cream - please call Town Hall 941-7222.*

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# Los Altos Hills Pathways Run/Walk



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## LOS ALTOS HILLS PATHWAYS RUN 2003

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual 5K Pathways Run/Walk & 1 Mile Kids Fun Run Saturday May 10, 2003

5K at 9 AM, Kids Run at 10:30 AM – Westwind Barn 27210 Altamont Rd LAH

Cost: \$20 for 5 K Run/Walk                      \$10 for Kids Fun Run

Colorful T-Shirts for all 5K and Fun Run entrants

Race Day Registration \$24 5K Run/\$14 Kids Run

Both the 5 K and 1 mile fun run will be somewhat hilly and scenic trail courses in Los Altos Hills.

All proceeds from this event will benefit LAH Recreation Programs.

Mail in Registration forms available at Los Altos Hills town website: <http://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/>

**Online Registration at** [www.active.com/event\\_detail.cfm?event\\_id=1043334](http://www.active.com/event_detail.cfm?event_id=1043334)

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ M / F Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Address, City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Run: (Circle one)    (5 K Run/Walk - \$20)    (1 Mile Fun Run - \$10)

T-shirt Size (Circle one): Kids SM, M, L    Adult: S, M, L, XL, XXL

**Please send completed forms and checks may out to Los Altos Hills Recreation Programs**

**LAH Recreation Programs 26379 Fremont Rd, LAH, CA 94022                      (650) 941-7222 x306**

**Release and assumption of Risk** In consideration of the acceptance of my participation in the Town of Los Altos Hills 5K Run/Walk/Fun Run, I hereby waive release and discharge any and all claims for damages, death, personal injury or property damage which I (or my minor child, if applicable) may have, or which may hereafter accrue to me (or my minor child) as a result of my (or my minor child's) participation in this event. This release is intended to discharge in advance the Town Of Los Altos Hills, and its officials, agents, volunteers and employees from and against any and all liabilities arising out of or connected in anyway with my participation (or minor child's participation) in this event, even though that liability may arise from their negligence in organizing, planning and implementing this event.

I further understand that accidents can occur during the Town Of Los Altos Hills 5K run/walk and participants in such events can sustain personal injuries and or property damage as a consequence. Knowing the risks, nevertheless, I hereby agree to assume those risks and to release and discharge all of the persons or agencies mentioned above who (through negligence or carelessness) might otherwise be liable to me (or minor child or my heirs or assigns) for losses, injuries, damages or liabilities.

It is further understood and agreed that this waiver, release and assumption of risk is binding on my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns (and on

my minor child, if applicable).

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

If participant is under 18 years of age, please have parent or legal guardian read and sign above.