

LOS ALTOS HILLS



CALIFORNIA

Los Altos Hills

# TOWN NEWSLETTER

Volume XXXI No. 1 March 2007

## CALENDAR

**March 4, Sunday,**  
3-5 PM, Town Hall;  
Historical Society,  
“Antique Photo-  
graphs”; Info. Email:  
jbuck1467@mindspring.  
com

**March 31, Saturday,**  
Bullis Charter School  
Gala Benefit; “Ody-  
sey On the Orient  
Express;”

Palo Alto  
Country  
Club; Res-  
ervations  
Call: (650)  
941-3972



**April 21, Saturday,**  
8AM-2PM; **Earth Day  
Cleanup;** Meet at Town  
Hall.

**April 22, Sunday,**  
1-4PM; **Westwind  
Barn Earth Day Cel-  
ebration; Leopards,  
Etc.,** Sky Hunters, Birds  
of Prey, displays. FREE  
Admission;  
Info. (650)  
941-4808



**May 12,**  
Sat., **6th Annual LAH  
Pathways Run;** 9AM -  
5/10K; 10:30 AM 1-mile  
Fun Run; Info. Scott  
(650) 948-6455

**June 3, Sunday;**  
1-4PM; **LAH Town  
Picnic;** Little League  
Fields, Purissima and  
Viscaino Roads; FREE  
ADMISSION

## Town Drops Redistricting Effort — Appoints Negotiating Team

At the February 8, 2007 meeting the LAH City Council officially dropped its efforts for a new K-8 district. The Santa Clara County Committee on School Organization’s rejection of the Town’s petition left the City Council with no right to appeal, so this action ended the process of a Town-sponsored petition.

The council formally disbanded the Ad Hoc Committee on District Reorganization and authorized further discussion with School Districts.

The City Council appointed a new education negotiating team to continue discussion with the School Districts and designated a council member, Bart Carey and John Radford as the initial members.

The City Council agendaized for a future meeting the possibility of recreating a smaller Education Committee which would have as its task keeping informed on the actions of the public school districts serving Los Altos Hills and enhancing the two-way communications between the Town and the districts.

The City Council voted to put off any exploration of territory transfers of more or all of Los Altos Hills into PAUSD pending results of the negotiations and more clarity on the timing, size and attendance at the reopened Bullis-Purissima campus. If in the future it becomes desirable to formally review the territory transfer option, a public education opinion survey of the LASD portion of our Town is seen as a logical first step.

It has been publicly reported by LASD that the Bullis-Purissima facilities will be reconstructed beginning in the summer 2007. The construction budget has been set at \$10.5 million. LASD has also publicly reported and told the County Committee that there would be a “community public school” at the campus by the Fall 2008. The schedule for setting the attendance boundaries shows completion by June 2007. We encourage residents to participate in the LASD hearings on this important issue.

While the specific step requested by our Town was not achieved, we have made progress towards returning public education to Los Altos Hills. We will continue to monitor and advocate and negotiate until our goals are reached.



## General Plan Update

The LAH City Council will confirm the next public hearing date at their meeting on March 8, 2007. The Council will also consider the mailing format of the second Town-wide public hearing notice to ensure that residents have ample opportunity to comment on the draft General Plan prior to final approval.

## CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

The highlight of this past winter quarter at least from a municipal public works perspective, was the completion and adoption of a milestone Sewer Agreement with the City of Los Altos. The reason why an agreement is needed is because almost two thirds of the Town's sanitary sewer flow is eventually conveyed through the City of Los Altos Sanitary Sewer System to the Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant (PARWQCP).



*City Manager Carl Cahill*

For many years the Town relied on a Sewer Agreement with Los Altos that originated in 1961 with subsequent amendments in 1985 and 1993. This old Agreement allowed the Town only a limited number of sewer "capacity rights" that were completely used up by 2005. The new Agreement does away with this arbitrary "capacity right" methodology and instead allows the Town a total daily sanitary flow of 339,900 gallons per day (GPD). The Town's actual daily flow will be measured by flow meters that the Town will pay to install.

The new Agreement is intended to accommodate future build-out conditions by allowing the Town to increase, as needed, the designated total daily flow allocation. This provision is subject to the Town acquiring additional flow capacity from PARWQCP partners (Mountain View and Palo Alto). To that end, the Town has reached a tentative agreement with the partners for an additional capacity of 126,000 GPD. The Town will also be taking over maintenance and billing for our system from Los Altos. The bottom line is that those residents who have not yet connected to the Town's sewer system will be able to connect in the future with relative certainty. The Los Altos Hills City Council and staff devoted much time, effort and diplomacy to bring this complex inter-jurisdictional matter to a successful conclusion.

In other news, new pathway construction continues through the winter. Segment 1b of the Moody/ El Monte Road Pathway near Old Snakey Road was completed at the end of January. The Robleda Road pathway was extended near Atherton Court and will be complete in February. The Town also applied for a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) grant and is working closely with the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) in order to obtain additional funding to complete the El Monte Road section of this major pathway. The cost to construct a pathway increases significantly where retaining walls and footbridges are needed to traverse the steep side slopes and ravines that are found throughout the Town.

— *Carl Cahill, City Manager*

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

## Meet Our City Clerk

### Karen Jost

Being the cruise director on the Queen Mary 2 can't be any more complex than the job of city clerk. In fact, Carl Cahill, City Manager often refers to city clerk Karen Jost as the "cruise director" of Town Hall.

Karen has been with Town Hall for over 9 years - having served in a variety of capacities from consulting on special projects to maintaining the New Town Hall records. A long time native to Santa Clara Valley and former Kappa Kappa Gamma at San Jose State University, Karen possesses the personal charisma that puts everybody at ease.



Karen's job role is overseeing that all of the elections run smoothly and ensuring that the city council agendas, minutes and all other official legislative documents are properly maintained and cataloged. In addition, the office supports the city's advisory boards and commissions, maintains the Municipal Code, administers provisions of the Political Reform Act, and ensures public access to records and notification regarding meetings. No small task. Since 9/11, she has been accredited as the Town's Public Information Officer, representing LAH in an area-wide effort to develop a coordinated public information capability in the event of a terrorist attack or other natural, technological or human caused hazard. The role is part of a larger initiative funded by a grant from the Office of Domestic Preparedness, U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security for the San Jose Urban Area.

In this role, the City Clerk will act as the information link to City Council members to ensure that they will be provided accurate and appropriate information to release to the residents and media in their roles as spokespersons during a disaster.

Professionally, Karen is a member of the City Clerks Association of California, whose mission is to promote the profession of City Clerks through education, support and communication. Additionally, she is a member of International Institute of Municipal Clerks.

Previously, Karen served as a Fire Commissioner for 10-years on the Los Altos Hills County Fire District representing the unincorporated area. She served twice as president of the Commission.

Asked what she likes to do in her spare time, Karen responded, "What spare time?"

Occasionally, she and Nash, her retired financial advisor husband, like to get away to various bay area retreats such as Carmel or Cambria to visit their son Chris and wife, Virginia and adorable granddaughter, Gracelynn.

With Karen at the City Clerk's helm, we are definitely on "cruise-control!"

## PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### IMPROVED CELL PHONE SERVICES IN LOS ALTOS HILLS

Within the last year, three new cell towers were approved and constructed in Los Altos Hills. The new cell towers vary in heights from 65' to 87' and are designed to look like pine trees to blend in with surrounding natural vegetation. The new towers will help improve cell phone services and coverage for residents within an approximately 3/4 mile radius. The locations of the three new facilities are at Town Hall (Cingular/AT&T), Arastradero and Purissima Roads (Cingular/AT&T), and Westwind Barn (Verizon/T-Mobile collocation).

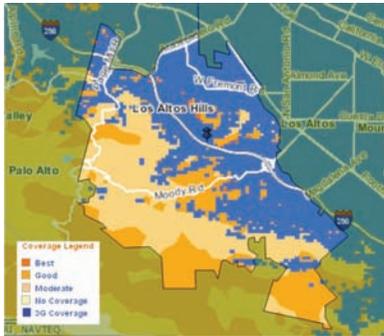
In keeping with the latest technology, these telecommunications facilities will provide both digital phone service and high speed PCS wireless internet for handheld or portable devices such as BlackBerry, PocketPC, palm(r), and wireless laptop cards. The increasingly popular "smartphones" (the convergence of a PDA and cell phone into one device) are not only used for phone applications but also wireless data communications that enables users to connect to the internet and check email.



*Debbie Pedro,  
Planning Director*

### TO CHECK COVERAGE IN YOUR AREA

Most major wireless carriers provide coverage maps on their website so you can check whether services are available in your area. (e.g. Cingular/AT&T coverage map) The web addresses of major wireless providers operating telecommunications facilities in the Town are shown below.



**AT&T/Cingular** - <http://www.cingular.com/coverageviewer/>

**Sprint/Nextel** - <http://coverage.sprintpcs.com/IMPACT.jsp>

**T-Mobile** - <http://coverage.t-mobile.com/idealer.aspx>

**Verizon Wireless** - <http://www.verizonwireless.com/b2c/CoverageLocatorController?requesttype=NEWREQUEST>

## MEET OUR NEW ASSISTANT PLANNER

### Nicole Horvitz

Although she has only been on the job five months, Nicole Horvitz, Assistant Planner is right at home tackling the tough jobs of development in Los Altos Hills Planning Department. Nicole graduated from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona in June 2006 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Urban and Regional Planning. During her academic work she interned for one year in the Planning Department for the City of Walnut. Following graduation she applied for 22 different job opportunities and received a 75% response rate.

Because her grandparents live in Palo Alto, she was familiar with the area and loved the rural ambience of the LAH. Nicole considers the fact that she was lucky to obtain full-time employment so quickly upon graduation as a very big achievement. I love working with the public and appreciate the department's goal of providing good resident-relations," states Nicole.

She plans on obtaining her Masters Degree and after a few years of work become certified by the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), which will help her move up the career ladder. Nicole grew up in the Palm Springs area and loves the desert. Her father works for the California State Park System, and while she was growing up the family lived all over the state. He is now the District Superintendent of the Humboldt Redwoods State Parks in Eureka (where the recent mountain lion attacks occurred).

In the past five months, Nicole has transitioned through very difficult ups and downs. In contrast to the excitement of assuming her first job, she recently lost her mother (age 47) in August 2006 to Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. Currently Nicole is training for the June "Rock & Roll Marathon" a Fund-Raiser for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in San Diego. So besides planning duties she finds time to work out at the gym 6 days a week and walk every noon from Town Hall to Downtown Los Altos with her co-worker walking partner, Jeanne Evilsizer. Nicole is hopeful that her boyfriend, who currently just returned from serving in Iraq in the Army, now stationed in Tennessee, will soon be able to join her in California.

We are pleased to welcome Nicole aboard and wish her much success in her new position as Assistant Planner.



*Nicole Horvitz,  
Assistant Planner*

# Public Safety

## Los Altos Hills County Fire District EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CLASSES

Now more than ever, it is important that citizens have plans and procedures in place in the event of a disaster. The Los Altos Hills County Fire District is pleased to announce two new programs developed by the Santa Clara County Fire Department dealing with disaster preparedness for the homeowner.



Programs are FREE of charge and a survival kit will be provided at the completion of the course to each homeowner.

**To Register Call:** (408) 693-0007

**Trainer:** Mike Sanders, Emergency Services Coordinator

**Email:** mike.sanders@cnt.sccgov.org

**Class Location:** Los Altos Hills County Fire District; El Monte Fire Station; 12355 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills

### Programs:

#### 1. Personal Emergency Preparedness (PEP)

The PEP Program will teach you and your family how to survive in case of a disaster for the first 72 hours. The class will be taught in one 3-hour session.

Wednesday, April 25, 2007; 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM

#### 2. Senior + Emergency Preparedness

Program is 4-hours long and covers all of the information in PEP and adds in Senior Health & Wellness. The class will be taught in two 2-hour sessions.

### Dates:

Tuesday, April 24, 2007; 4 PM - 6 PM

Thursday, April 26, 2007; 4 PM - 6 PM

### Additional Neighborhood Programs Offered:

If you would like to host a program in your home for you and your neighbors, please contact the Emergency Services Coordinator at (650) 693-0007 or

Email [mike.sanders@cnt.sccgov.org](mailto:mike.sanders@cnt.sccgov.org)

## Parks & Recreation Department

### Spring Session Register NOW for:

- Year Round Riding Classes
- Mind Body Fitness



Go to Town's website: [www.losaltoshills.ca.gov](http://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov)

Watch for new Activity Guide coming in March

## DISASTER STRIKES!

### The Town's Response

Disasters most likely to occur in Los Altos Hills are earthquakes and wildland fires. We need to prepare for the predicted 7.0 or greater magnitude earthquake that is expected to hit the Bay Area within the next thirty years.

Preparation is key. The Town has conducted several emergency preparedness presentations and faires for our residents. The key message at these presentations is: Be prepared... you may be on your own without government assistance for three or more days. The County Fire District will schedule emergency preparedness presentations for residents. These presentations are free and will be advertised to our residents.

### What is the Town's response to a disaster?

The Town's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is equipped with information gathering and communications equipment ready to go at the touch of a button. Trained Town staff will respond to activate the EOC to gather disaster information and report to the County Office of Emergency Services so that the County and State can disperse resources where they are needed most. The EOC also organizes Town resources, resource requests, shelters, volunteers and press releases.

### Where are our firefighters, paramedics and police?

They are overwhelmed in a major disaster. Mutual aid will come from agencies that are unaffected by the disaster. This could take days before help arrives in Los Altos Hills and we would have to rely on available firefighters and police from the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

### What is CERT?

CERT are trained volunteers from our community. They receive twenty-four hours of training from a federally approved course. Training consists of search and rescue, first aid and emergency preparedness. Once training has been completed, they are sworn in as disaster service workers. CERT members may respond to the Town's EOC in an emergency where they will work with volunteer ham operators and firefighters.

### What could I do?

If you would like to join the CERT program or become a ham operator, please contact the Town's Public Safety Officer Steve Garcia at (650) 941-7222 x242.

## 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 2007 Newsletter will be published quarterly in the months of March, June, September, and December. Deadline for the next issue is April 30, 2007.

**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**  
Dean Warshawsky, Mayor • Craig Jones, Mayor Pro Tem  
Breene Kerr • Jean Mordo • Mike O'Malley



## IN MEMORIAM

### Los Altos Hills Fallen Soldier

The Department of Defense announced on February 2, 2007 the death of Sgt. William M. Sigua, who was supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sgt. Sigua, 21, of Los Altos Hills, Calif., died Jan. 31 in Bayji, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his unit came in contact with the enemy using small arms fire during combat operations. Sigua was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Sigua joined the Army in July 2003 and was first deployed in September 2004 to bolster security for the Afghanistan elections. Most recently he was re-deployed for a second tour in August with his current unit.

“Sergeant Sigua was the type of leader you want your men to be,” said Captain Timothy Peterman, commander Company C. “He was intensely focused upon accomplishing his duty, but had a calm demeanor about him that put all at ease. He was courageous and full of energy.”

Sigua graduated from Bullis Elementary School, Egan Jr. High, and Los Altos High School and was highly respected by his fellow students. Will’s death stunned his former classmates and friends. Will grew up in Los Altos Hills and was a wrestler and football player at Los Altos High School.

A lifelong resident of the Hills, William is survived by his parents, Jacqueline and Ben Sigua and older brothers, Jonathan and David.

Mrs. Sigua expressed that Will was doing what he wanted to do and he believed that he and his unit would make a difference. He was dearly loved and respected by all who knew him. He strongly believed in our country’s mission in Iraq.

Los Altos High School student and LAH Assistant Youth Commissioner, Lisa Kellman stated, “Will was an exceptional person and his family has lived here in Los Altos Hills forever. His mother was our computer teacher at Bullis. Will touched so many lives and fought for our country and I believe that he deserves the best send off that we can give him.”

The Los Altos & Los Altos Hills City Councils, the Los Altos Hills County Fire District and numerous civic organizations participated in the memorial service in recognition of this remarkable son and dedicated soldier.

Contributions May Be Sent To: William Sigua Memorial Fund- LACF, 183 Hillview Avenue, Los Altos, CA 94022

Letters of condolence may be sent to: Juvenal & Jacqueline Sigua, 13440 W. Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022



William Mason Sigua  
March 21, 1985 - January 31, 2007

### *Crested Crane of Uganda Moves to LAH*



Photo by Jitze Couperus

*This beautiful bird is alive and well and residing near the Town Hall. The Crested Crane is a symbol of Uganda. It is one of the most beautiful birds you can find in East Africa. Together with the Uganda Kob, (an antelope) the crane appears on the Uganda Court of arms. They live a very natural life, feeding on grass, seeds and insects. They are very social birds and enjoy a chum. The crane flew away from a private aviary and has decided that he likes LAH.*

### HISTORICAL SOCIETY

#### *The Lure and Lore of Antique Photographs March 4<sup>th</sup>*

Learn about Daguerreotypes, Tintypes, and old photographs, as heirlooms, hobby items, or art for display, at the Historical Society’s March 4 meeting, 3-5 pm at Town Hall. If you have one of these, bring it to share its story with others or possibly learn more about it or how to care for it. Our speaker, local historian Jim Lyons, will have example items from his own collection, including one that was part of Newsweek’s Feb 6, 2006 cover. A discussion and refreshment period follows the formal part of the meeting.



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

## 10TH ANNUAL LOS ALTOS HILLS TOWN PICNIC SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 3

**M**ark your calendar now for the Tenth Annual Town Picnic, which will be held on Sunday afternoon, June 3, 2007, from 1 PM to 4 PM at the Little League fields on Purissima Road at the intersection with Viscaino Road. The Picnic features lots of entertainment, games and other attractions, as well as a free lunch for all Los Altos Hills residents. Delicious chicken, all-beef hot dogs and vegetarian meals will be cooked by our terrific 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 be provided.

To provide variety, this year's picnic will feature some new attractions as well as the return of some old favorites. The De Anza Daddios Jazz Ensemble will entertain at the picnic. By popular demand, David Wilson, master magician, balloon artist and entertainer, who mesmerized residents with his magic show in 2004, will return this year. Lionel model trains, several large inflatable attractions, volleyball, children's contests, pony rides and crafts will also return. Some antique cars will make an appearance at the picnic this year.

The Town Picnic is organized by the Community Relations Committee, with help from many volunteers in Town. You can volunteer to help for half an hour with registration or games or serving beverages or ice cream by calling Town Hall at 941-7222.

Our Town hosts the Picnic as the major annual community event for all of our Town residents. Since there is no charge for attending, the picnic is limited to Los Altos Hills residents and Town staff — so do encourage your Los Altos Hills neighbors to attend with you, but please do not invite friends or family members from other cities (they will be turned away at the gate). Also, by city ordinance, dogs are not allowed on the fields.

Watch for the picnic flier with a registration coupon that will be mailed to all Town residents in May. Advance registration by Monday, May 21 is required so the correct number of meals may be ordered. Tables, chairs, and many large canopies will be provided, so rain or hot weather do not cancel the picnic.



*Layout & printing by:*



**Advantage Grafic**

Offset Printing Digital Press Digital Copying

Tel: 408-991-9999

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

Presorted  
Standard  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Los Altos, CA  
Permit No. 306

### Mark Your Calendar!

#### LAH FUN RUN



6th Annual Los Altos Hills  
Pathways FUN RUN  
Saturday, May 12th  
Westwind Community Barn  
9:00 AM 5/10K starts,  
10:30 AM 1 Mile Fun Run.

Information <http://www.lahpathways.org>  
or  
Scott Vanderlip at (650) 948-6455



Angela, James & Graeme

### Building Homes in New Orleans

By Hills residents James Hickman, Graeme Radlo, and Angela Takahara

Over the winter break we spent seven days in New Orleans helping rebuild houses damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. We went with The Curriculum Initiative (TCI), an organization that provides high school students with community services opportunities in needy areas.

The three of us, along with eleven other students from Woodside Priory School (Graeme is from Menlo School, James and Angela are from Woodside Priory), joined up with fifty other high school students from East Coast schools to work with Habitat for Humanity. We stayed in the French Quarter and worked in the Musicians Village in the upper 9th Ward and the Audubon Zoo. This was our first time ever in New Orleans and Louisiana. While the French Quarter seemed largely undamaged, it was surrounded by areas that looked like war zones. It was hard to see such destruction. We were glad to be able to lend a hand to help.

Our days started at 5:45 am. We put on our work gloves and took a bus out to the 9th Ward where we moved and installed dry wall, dug ditches for drainage and landscaping, and put finishing touches on near-completed houses. One of the memorable things about our experience was working side-by-side with the families who would eventually be living in the house. Habitat for Humanity requires that families put so many hours of their own time into the construction of their homes. Working with these families gave us a chance to meet and hear what they experienced during and after Katrina. We ended our days tired and sore but still able to enjoy Cajun dishes for dinner like gumbo and jambalaya.

One of the highlights of our trip was hosting a New Years Party at the Audubon Zoo for the children of New Orleans. We also helped clean up the zoo a bit.

We were really glad that we had a chance to meet the families who would live in the houses we were helping to build. We learned that these families appreciated even the smallest jobs we accomplished. But there are still miles and miles of destruction - tons of work to be done. We want to go back and help again.

### SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC EXPANSION FOR THE TOWN HALL

In late 2006, the Town Council of Los Altos Hills voted to expand the solar photovoltaic (PV) system currently installed at the Town Hall. The Town Hall is using more power than originally planned mainly because of the recently built Town Hall cell tower.

The Environmental Initiatives Committee (EIC) has seized the opportunity with the goal of (1) installing a state-of-the-art solar photovoltaic system that tracks the sun and (2) getting the new PV system payback down to less than 12 years (hopefully 10 years). In this manner, the Town Hall will have three types of PV solar systems to serve as examples of what Los Altos Hill residents can install, i.e., roof-mounted, fixed ground-mounted or ground-mounted solar trackers.

The plan is to mount three solar trackers that track the sun and keep the PV panels perpendicular to the sun from sun-up to sundown, which results in about 35% more solar energy per day compared to the fixed systems. These PV trackers will be mounted close to the existing ground-mounted PV systems on the north side of the Hall. The EIC committee, with its expertise in PV trackers systems, has designed a system and refined a bid proposal to solicit qualified contractors in order to keep the costs down.

Additionally, in the spirit of reducing costs, members of the EIC committee spent a recent Saturday putting up story-poles to indicate the profile of the proposed PV trackers systems. — Jay Shideler, Environmental Initiatives Committee



### FUTURE DEVELOPMENT: NEW PARK FOR THE TOWN

At its Annual Strategic Planning Session in August 2006, the LAH City Council agreed that the development of a new park and playground should be a top priority.

The Parks and Recreation Committee are charged with the responsibility of investigating other local parks in the area to begin to estimate space requirements. Ideas for uses include a soccer field, a sports court, playground equipment and picnic tables.

The City Council is responding to the requests from the public for more recreational options for our children and adults alike. This area is chronically short of playing fields and the situation is getting worse given the rising popularity of soccer and flag football. Sports court and playground equipment would help alleviate the lack of access to playgrounds at our public school sites.

Following analysis of the Public Recreation Facilities Survey recently sent to residents, the city council will review the anticipated costs and space requirements. Public hearings will be held to gain input from the residents.

Following public hearings, the city council will move forward on a plan including finding a suitable location, developing a budget and creating a timetable for development.



### EARTH DAY 2007 EVENTS APRIL 21 & 22, 2007

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pathway Pickup

Join the residents of our town in a special, fun event this Earth Day April 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The Pathway Committee is organizing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pathway Pickup Day on Earth Day to clean up our town's beautiful pathways. Last year, 20 residents plus 225 children from Bullis Charter School collected over 2,000 pounds of trash along our trails. This year the Charter School is again committed to support the event, and will be joined by 55 students from the Pinewood School.

How can you help? Simple - come to Town Hall anytime between 8AM and 2PM on Earth Day, Sat, April 21<sup>st</sup>. Members of the Pathway Committee will greet you and have supplies ready: safety vests, gloves, trash bags and refreshments. Select a path you would like to walk. Instructions will be provided.

Make a difference on Earth Day this year!



#### Earth Day Celebration at Westwind Barn



Date: Sunday, April 22, 2007

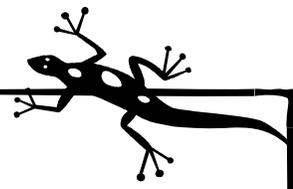
Time: 1 PM - 4 PM

Location: Westwind Barn

The LAH Open Space Committee along with representatives of other Town Volunteer Committees (Environmental Design, Community Relations, Pathways, etc.) are planning for this year's Earth Day Celebration at Westwind Barn.

Leopards, Etc. will again be bringing their wild cats for viewing and for a show. Families will have an opportunity to view close up a mountain lion, lynx, cheetah and other wild cats. Karen Hoyt of Sky Hunters will also be featured with her birds of prey. There will be many displays and interactive activities.

Admission is free, but donations will be gladly accepted to defray costs of the event. Note: Due to possible conflicts with the wild cats, please leave your pet dogs at home.



# Nature Corner

## LAH Environmental Design Committee

### Western Fence Lizard – Fighting Lyme Disease

If you live in an area with an abundance of deer, you may want to say “thank you” to your common Western Fence Lizard. They help you; actually, help humanity to fight Lyme disease.

According to research scientists from UC Berkeley, “The lizard’s blood contains a substance – probably a heat sensitivity protein – that kills the Lyme disease spirochete, a kind of bacterium.” This protein apparently leaches into the mid-gut of infected nymphal ticks as the tick feeds and destroys spirochetes stored there, permanently cleansing the ticks before they mature to adults and this prevents Lyme disease.

#### Description

The Western Fence Lizard measures 3 1/2 inches (snout-vent length), and is about six inches in total length. Coloration ranges from light gray to black with dark blotches on the back that continue down the tail. Male Western Fence Lizards have bright blue, sometimes greenish, bellies, and the undersides of their legs are yellow. Females lack this decorative coloring. The scales are keeled and somewhat spiny.

#### Build a Shelter for the Lizard

Try building a small rock pile or wood and stick pile to shelter these useful blue-belly lizards from predators.

Editor’s Note: According to the Environmental Design Committee: The study was done by two scientists: Robert Lane, professor of insect biology, UC Berkeley in collaboration with Gary Quistad a UC Berkeley researcher. Their work was funded by the National Institute of Health. The Scientists first reported their work in the February issue of the Journal of Parasitology 1998. Reference: Kathleen Scalise, California Agriculture Volume 52, Number 2.



## Open Space Committee



### An Evening with OWLS

An Evening with Owls Event drew a crowd of over 125 residents, including many families with school children who were interested in learning about these fascinating birds of prey.

Presenter Karen Hoyt of *Sky Hunters Environmental Education* explained how these birds help create a balanced ecosystem by controlling rodents and eliminating the sick and weak. Barn owls are voracious predators of rodents, eating thousands every year. An owl family with 5 young can consume 3000 rodents during a single breeding season!

Having barn owls in the neighborhood can control, but not entirely eradicate, rat and gopher populations. However, attempting to poison the remaining rodents can be counterproductive, as these may then be eaten by the owls and other natural predators. This in turn can lead to the reduction in predator population and a commensurate increase in the rodent population. A more effective way to deal with rodents is to employ a humane animal control business that will “animal proof” your home, sealing entry and exit holes, roof and exhaust vents, installing chimney caps, sealing off decks and porches, etc.

Additional information on how to encourage owls to locate in your neighborhood will be available at Earth Day 2007 (April 22) at Westwind Barn, where Karen Hoyt will again be on hand with her birds of prey and educational materials.

The next program in of the Open Space Committee’s *Living with Wildlife* series will take place in the fall.

# Los Altos Hills Horsemen's Association (LAHHA)



## MEETING SCHEDULE

Regular LAHHA Planning Meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month, 7:30 at Town Hall  
Open to the Public: Feb 19<sup>th</sup>, March 19<sup>th</sup>, April 16<sup>th</sup>, May 21<sup>st</sup>, June 18<sup>th</sup>, July 16<sup>th</sup>, Aug 20<sup>th</sup>, Sept 17<sup>th</sup>, Oct 15<sup>th</sup>, Nov 19<sup>th</sup>

## EVENTS:

Feb. 10th 11 AM Trail Ride\* Meet at the Town Arena for warm-up. Trail boss and route TBA.

March 11th 11 AM Trail Ride\* Tour the hills, searching for signs of Spring! Meet at the Town Arena for warm-up.

April 1st 'Fool Moon' Trail Ride\* Meet at the Town Arena at 5:30 PM witness an awesome moonrise. Bring a friend and hold good thoughts for a cloudless evening and a starry night!

April 14th Trail Ride\* 11 AM Meet at the Town Arena for warm-up. Rhus Ridge and Windy Pasture? Route TBD.

April 21th Arena Work-Day Meet fellow horsemen while helping with some TLC at the Town Arena site. 9 AM to 3 PM. Bring work gloves and handyman or gardening tools for trimming, raking, and hoeing. For more information, call Bob: (650.941.3826) or Mike: (650.917.1975 or cell 799.9271). *We'll share lunch and lots of laughs, too.* Rain date: April 28<sup>th</sup>

May 5-6th Julie Carpenter Clinic, Town Arena Join us with your horse where we'll work on solid ground-work and foundational skills, which will improve your arena or trail experiences. \$250 / 2 days. (May audit w/out horse.) Limited space - call Lisa 650.941.6611.

May 19th Los Altos Pet Parade Meet at Burke Rd. & Fremont Rd. by 10:30 AM to participate. If you don't plan to ride, we need two sign carriers and 2-3 persons for the 'clean-up crew'. (Call Jolon or Mike for more details: 917.1975.) Well behaved horses, please!

May 26th - 27th 'Advanced Horse Speak' Clinic at the Town Arena. Marybeth Wiefels will help equine enthusiasts learn advanced communication techniques with their equine partners. 9 AM – 3 PM. Space limited, so sign-up quickly. Non-riders may audit the clinic for a reasonable fee. Call Diane (650.941.3826) or Susan (650.941.4239).

June 3rd LAH Town Picnic Volunteers needed for Pony Rides and LAHHA Booth. Call Jo or Mike (650.917.1975)

**Giddy Up!**