

Los Altos Hills Town Newsletter - March 2000

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LOS ALTOS HILLS



CALIFORNIA

Los Altos Hills

TOWN NEWSLETTER

Volume XXIII No. 1 March 2000

Event Calendar

March 4, CLEAN-UP DAY, 7:30 am. to 2 pm. Locations: Town Hall Parking Lot, Magdalena at 280; Foothill College Lot C; Altamont Rd. at Black Mtn.- Westwind Barn; Page Mill Rd. at Arastradero (West). Come early, trucks leave promptly at 2 pm.

March 7, ELECTION DAY, Special Election for LAH City Council. Don't forget to VOTE!

April 9, ART OPENING

LAH 1ST MILLENIUM SPRING FAMILY PICNIC

Mark your calendars now for the Los Altos Hills 2000 Spring Family Picnic to be held on Sunday afternoon, May 21st from 1 to 4 pm at Little League field No. 2, the largest of the Little League fields on Purissima Road.

Over 700 Town residents enjoyed the Town picnic last year — the largest Town-sponsored event in the history of Los Altos Hills — and we hope to have an even larger attendance this year.

Attractions at this year's picnic will include: grilled chicken, hot-dogs and vegetarian burger dinners, complete with fire fighters chili, tossed salad and garlic bread, prepared and served by Fire Department volunteers. Soft drinks, beer and

VOLUNTEER CONSERVATION WATER GUIDELINES ADOPTED

On January 20th, Ernie Solomon, President of the Purissima Hills Water District, made a presentation to the City Council requesting that the Council adopt the Water District Guidelines for landscape water conservation. " Los Altos Hills customers are currently using 20% more water than is allocated to us. During the summer, 80% of the water is used to irrigate landscaping," stated Solomon. The Guidelines propose that any landscaped areas of at least 10,000 square feet should have at most 1/3 of the area in high water use plants and at least 1/3 of the area in low water use plants.

The City Council agreed to endorse the Guidelines as a voluntary measure, but split over sending

RECEPTION, Public invited, 2-4 pm; Town Hall Chambers, Mel Lapides, Wire Sculptures: Barbara von Haunalter, Watercolors. Exhibit open to the public, M-F, 8-noon and 1-5 pm.

April 27, Los Altos Chamber of Commerce BUSINESS EXPO 2000, 4-7 PM; Los Altos Youth Center. Info: 948-1555

May 21, PATHWAYS WALK, 11:30 am-1:30 pm Hike before the Spring Family Picnic. Meet at Little League Fields. Wear comfortable shoes, bring water, and have fun!

May 21, LAH SPRING FAMILY PICNIC - FREE! 1-4 pm, Little League Field, Purissima Road. Invites will be mailed to all residents in April. Info: Call: 941-7222

wine, ice cream cones and sundaes, a clown, who will make toy animals from balloons, games organized by many volunteers from the Town, with prizes for winners, AstroJump, a fire engine with its tall ladder. Music provided by The String of Pearls Band and High Speed Buck bluegrass group. Information about various Town Committees and Community organizations

The entire event is hosted by the Town for the purpose of bringing the community together. Just bring the whole family, a blanket to spread out on the grass of the field, and a big umbrella if you like shade!

The picnic is organized by your all-volunteer Community Relations Committee. Would you like to volunteer to help run a game, scoop ice cream or serve refreshments for half an hour, or help in any other way? Please call Town Hall at 941-7222 or use the Resident's Reply Card in this Newsletter to volunteer. We need lots of volunteers to put on an event this large!

Even though the event is free to Los Altos Hills residents, it is important that you reserve in advance so we can plan for the dinners. Reservation invitations will be mailed in April to all Town residents. Be on the look-out for the invite and respond early!

So mark your calendar right now for this terrific Town sponsored event!

landscape plans to the water district for review, notifying developers whose plans did not meet guidelines. The Town will provide developers the Guidelines and the Water District can review plans at Town Hall and report back to Council on how many do satisfy them. Purissima Hills will notify all residents, especially high water use the necessity for water conservation.

VOTE

SPECIAL ELECTION

TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2000

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

To vote you must be:

- A registered voter
- United States citizen
- A resident of California
- Not in prison or on parole for the conviction of a felony
- At least 18 years of age at the time of the election

No person shall be registered as a voter except by affidavit of registration. The affidavit indicates that your residence is the place where you live (Election Code Section 2020-2035 specifies that your domicile the place where you physically reside). Simply own property in Town does not qualify one to vote in LA Election Code violations may be charged as felonies misdemeanors.

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THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Capital Improvements In Town

The Town's major capital project from last summer, over \$500,000 of paving along Robleda Road, is nearly complete. There are still some additional safety improvements currently being made along the northwest side of the street, just off of Fremont Road.

The Town's major capital projects to be performed during Summer and Fall 2000 include: roadway, path and drainage work along Elena Road from Robleda to Purissima, pathway improvements along Purissima Road from Robleda to Concepcion, and replacement of the Tracy Court bridge.

These major projects are now under preliminary design and we anticipate holding neighborhood workshops for the larger projects in



Mark Miller, City Manager

but if their service fails to meet your needs, please let Town Hall know.

— Mark Miller, City Manager

NEW FIRE HYDRANT AND WATER MAIN PROGRAM INCREASES FIRE PROTECTION

The Los Altos Hills County Fire District is embarking on a program of installing new fire hydrants, water mains, and relocating low-flowing hydrants in Los Altos Hills. "The cost of the program, underwritten by the Fire District, is estimated to be about \$1,000,000 and the goal is to provide a higher level of fire protection for the residents of the Hills," states Stu Farwell, District consultant.

In cooperation with the Purissima Hills Water District, new water hydrants will be installed and some existing hydrants will

anticipate holding neighborhood meetings for the project in early spring. Project informational letters will be going out to neighbors soon, but if you have any questions or comments about these projects, please send them to the city manager via email at mmiller@losaltoshills.ca.gov or by post, care of Town Hall.

Staff and volunteer committees are also investigating the possibility of doing a demonstration project for the undergrounding of overhead utility lines, and Council has approved some preliminary design work on a possible re-build of Town Hall. More information will be available as these projects are developed.

Mid-Year Town Budget Report

The Town operates on a July to June fiscal year, and the mid-year financial report of information through December will be made to the City Council at the February 17th regular Council meeting. Minor budget adjustments were recommended, but the Town's mid-year financial picture is very good. To no one's surprise, the strong Silicon Valley, California and U.S. economies have translated into much building activity, and Los Altos Hills is no exception. 17 new home permits were issued, and over 100 site development applications were approved from July to December.

The current development applications are at the highest level in staff's recollection, including 6 subdivisions underway, 24 applications pending for new residences, and 41 development permits issued in December alone.

Future Bullis School Construction Activity

The Town staff was invited to attend Los Altos School District's recent meetings of their City/Schools Traffic Committee, held in conjunction with the plans for new construction at the schools. Bullis School is the only site with direct impacts on Los Altos Hills, but Staff is passing concerns on to the School District regarding traffic congestion and pathway circulation for the Town.

Franchise Services Complaints

Staff has recently become involved with several complaints regarding the Town's franchise services for refuse (LAGCO) and television cable (Sun Cable). Ideally, the fastest response on service problems is achieved by contacting the service providers directly.

be relocated from a lesser pressure zone to a higher-pressure zone. In total -18 new hydrants and 3 relocations will take place.

The Santa Clara County Fire District sites specific locations the hydrants. Most will be located in public rights-of-way. If necessary to locate a hydrant on a resident's property, notification will be provided and easements secured.

The timetable is: April – resolve easements; May – submit plans to Purissima Hills Water District, Los Altos Hills, and PGE; June – entertain bids; July – work begins.

GARBAGE SERVICE UPDATE

The city council has agreed to revise the rate structure so that residents with long driveways who opt to leave their car near the garage are charged for the length of the driveway only once, independent of the number of cans collected. Currently, the length of driveway is charged for every can collected.

The council also voted to offer residents lids for their recycling containers at cost. Several residents have been testing the lids for the past few months. Here are some of their comments: *"The lid allows me to me to put my paper recycling out the night before pickup without worrying about the paper getting wet or blowing away."* *"With a lid on my bottles and cans, I no longer worry about dogs and other animals scavenging in the container."* *"The lid fits tightly and stores easily behind the bin in my garage. It even allows me to stack the bins if I wish."*

It is anticipated that the lids will cost between \$5 and \$5.5 a piece and can be ordered directly from LAGCO. Watch your March bill for notice of how to acquire lids for the recycling bins.



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PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Update of Land Use Element of the General Plan

The Town is in the process of updating the Land Use Element of the General Plan. Each city and county in California is required to adopt a General Plan to guide its decisions regarding land use, housing, transportation, protection of environmental resources and open space, and safety.

The Land Use Element outlines the Town's policies regarding land development, and has historically dealt with the preservation of the



EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Let's begin the first Millennium issue of our quarterly Town Newsletter with a note of gratitude to our residents. In each issue we seek residents' feedback regarding our newsletter content and their concerns about the Town. All of the responses are reviewed by the City Council and when indicated - directed to the appropriate Town department or volunteer committee for follow-up. I would like to recognize the contributions of the many residents who have taken the time to provide their views.

open and rural atmosphere of the Town. Policies of the existing Element limit site uses to single-family homes and agriculture, with the exception of a few churches, schools, and government buildings. The Element has not been updated since 1975, so the effort is an important opportunity to determine how the community sees itself in the year 2000.



Curtis Williams, Planning Director

Key issues which are likely to be addressed by the Land Use Element include: appropriate measures to limit impacts resulting from new development; the level of discretion involved in the review of new development; annexation opportunities and constraints; and the extent to which new non-residential development should be allowed.

A committee of 13 residents appointed by the City Council has been formed to advise staff and the Town's planning consultant regarding issues and policies for review, and to assist with development of a community survey to solicit residents' opinions regarding land use issues. The Committee has met five times thus far to review background information and existing policies, and to provide guidance as to questions that might be incorporated in the community survey. The survey is expected to be mailed to Town residents sometime in the spring of this year.

When a draft Element is prepared, public hearings will be scheduled before the Planning Commission and City Council, with public notice provided to residents as the process moves along. Completion of the update is tentatively scheduled for late in the year.

The next Land Use Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 21st at 7 pm at Town Hall. If you have any questions regarding the update of the Land Use Element, please contact Curtis Williams, the Town's Planning Director, at 941-7222.

FREE MEDIATION SERVICES AVAILABLE

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

Many thanks to: *Katherine & George Alexander, April Anair, Mrs. William Antonioni, Vacit Arat, Evangeline Benson, Barrett Bruch, Helen Bucholz, Art & Vilma Bussi, Mary Cole, Betty & Alan Dale, Rosemary Damon, F. John Draeger, Berin Fank, Jan Fenwick, M. Fogel, Connie Frenzel, Charlene Geers, John & Laney Harney, Lois Crozier Hogle, Sheila Holland, Norma & Bill Hollowell, Dr. & Mrs. Christian Horn, Ron Knapp, David & Lisa Orton, Mark & Kathy Scheible, Joan Sherlock, James & Marjorie Shively, Ben Smith, Gail Solomon, Maynard & Shirley Stevenson, Linda Swan, Wayne Weiler, and Wendy Wilson.*

Residents expressed concerns about issues, problems, and suggestions to improve Los Altos Hills. For example: with so many chain link fences being installed, many felt the Town was beginning to look like a prison. Traffic safety was also another big concern as was litter accumulation and trash alongside roadways. One respondent even suggested eliminating the pathways entirely, because we are now an "urban community!"

Please take the time to give us your feedback using the Resident's Reply Card on page 6. In the next issue, your comments will be summarized. Thank you.

— Duffy Price, Editor

Omission Correction:

The name of Janet Vitu was inadvertently omitted as a member of the Town Hall Building committee in the December 1999 issue.

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 2000 Newsletter will be published quarterly in the months of March, June, September, and December. Deadline for the next issue is April 30, 2000. Internet Address: www.lusaltoshills.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

Los Altos Hills City Council

• Clayne Dauber, Mayor • Steve Finn, Mayor Pro Tem
• Tom Casey • Bob Johnson •



Recycling Paper

THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

OPINION BY RESIDENT

NEW PROGRAMS AT THE LIBRARY

Los Altos Library is the place to be for stimulating discussions this spring - Great Decisions, Great Books, and

Alert - Pets Possibly Killed by Stray Dogs

Los Altos Hills has a law that dogs are supposed to be on a leash. Nevertheless I have now lost two beautiful Siamese cats to the jaws of dogs running loose in the neighborhood.

The first cat was attacked while sleeping on our front walkway by a dog brought by a construction worker and allowed to run loose in the neighborhood. The second cat was attacked near our next-door neighbor's house. The latter cat was attacked very savagely; the veterinarian said it could not have been done by a raccoon or a possum, but required a large dog or wolf to do that much damage. People never believe that their dog would harm anything; they say it must have been a wolf. However, neighbor sightings of animals in the area at the time of the attacks implicate dogs. I grieve for my cat, but I fear for people who have small children - dogs may be friendly to adults and still maul small pets and small children. If you have a dog please keep it in the house, in a fenced yard, or on a leash. If you see a dog running loose, call the Animal Control 24-hour number at 650-329-2413, to report it.

— Patty Woolsey
Snell Lane Area

For Council Agenda and Minutes,
See our Website:
www.losaltoshills.ca.gov

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- Community Relations Committee
- Environmental Design and Protection Committee

Applications are available in the City Clerk's Office at Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road during regular office hours (8 A.M. to noon; 1-5 PM). For additional information and a list of the charges and duties for any of these committees, please call the City Clerk, Pat Dowd, at 941-7222.

SUN COUNTRY CABLE FOR SALE

Apparently the recent financing acquisition/merger initiative for Sun Country Cable has fallen apart. The company is now up for sale. The Town is very disappointed because we were expecting new upgrades to improve the system.



Some Modern Classics.

The Great Decisions 2000 discussion program began on February 7 and will continue through April 3, every Monday from 10 a.m. to noon [except February 21]. Everyone is welcome to join the continuing discussions. Topics left include: March 6, The Military: What Role in U.S. Foreign Policy?; March 13, Middle East Realignment: New Directions for the Next Millennium; March 20, The Euro's Challenge to the Dollar: King Kong Versus Godzilla?; March 27, Africa and the U.S.: Prospects for the Future; and April 3, Defining Humanitarian Intervention. Sponsors are the League of Women Voters of Los Altos-Mountain View, the AAUW, and the Library. For more information call 948-3806 or 964-1552.



A newly formed Great Books Club in Los Altos began meeting February 8 at the Los Altos Library. The group plans to meet the second Tuesday of the month from 6 to 8 p.m. to discuss excerpts from the great classics. The next meeting will be March 14. The Great Books Foundation, established in 1947, is an independent, non-profit educational organization whose mission is to provide people of all ages the opportunity to read, discuss, and learn from outstanding works of literature.

Los Altos Library will present a book discussion series on "Some Modern Classics." Everyone is welcome to attend the discussions on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., which will be led by Los Altos librarian Miriam Marr. Dates and titles are March 8 - My Antonia by Willa Cather; April 5 - The Trial by Franz Kafka; May 10 - The Assistant by Bernard Malamud. For more information, call the Adult Reference Desk at 948-7683 x3519.

EARTH DAY

April 22nd

PARTICIPATE

- Restore a creek
- Plant a tree
- Recycle

FAST ELECTION DAY RESULTS OVER THE INTERNET

The Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters Office will make election results available over the Internet. The results can be found on their web page: <<http://www.scvote.org>> Results can also be obtained by calling 408-299-8639.

THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

Art Exhibit Invitation
The Town of Los Altos Hills
cordially invites you
to view a new exhibit featuring local artists on display in
the Los Altos Hills Council Chambers
April 9 - May 26, 2000
Opening Reception Sunday, April 9th, 2-4 PM. Public Invited
MEL LAPIDES - WIRE SCULPTURE
BARBARA VON HAUNALTER - WATERCOLOR PAINTINGS



Exhibit open to the public
Monday - Friday
8 AM - Noon and 1 - 5 PM
For more information:

Please call Ethel Blank, Exhibit Curator at 948-5840



Pathways Committee

PATHWAYS WALK BEFORE SPRING FAMILY PICNIC

Join members of the Los Altos Hills Pathways Committee on Sunday, May 21st, for a hike in the hills preceding the Town Picnic.

The walk will begin at the Little League Fields (Purissima Road at Viscaino Road) and will include local trails nearby. A choice of routes will be available, one with more hills than the other.

Regardless of your age or ability, you will enjoy this opportunity to exercise, to see our beautiful community from a new perspective, and to meet new neighbors.

The outing will begin at 11:30 am, returning to the starting point between 1 and 1:30 pm. Bring water, wear appropriate shoes, and have fun. Join in on the Town Picnic afterwards.

TOWN CLEAN-UP DAY

Saturday, March 4, 7:30 am to 2 pm

Come early as the trucks will leave at 2 pm

Locations: Town Hall Parking Lot

Magdalena at Hwy. 280 (solid waste only)

Foothill College - Parking Lot C

Altamont Rd. at Black Mountain ñ Westwind Barn

Page Mill Rd. at Arastradero (West)

In order to verify eligibility, you will be required to show your driver's license to a representative of Los Altos Garbage Company. No hazardous or toxic materials will be accepted. Participants will be limited to two standard truckloads of debris. For more information please call Los Altos Garbage



ARF... ARF... IS LOS ALTOS HILLS GOING TO THE DOGS?

LAH Horsemen's Association Sponsors Family Dog Show

Why not bring your favorite pooch to the Los Altos Hills Horsemen's Association and Los Altos Trail Club Family Fun Dog Show? The event is being held on Sunday, April 16, 2000 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Town Ring on Purissima Road, adjacent to the Little League Field.

Do you and your dog look alike? Does your dog have the longest tail? Come join the fun and find out. Each class entry is \$3.00 or four classes for \$10.00. You can sponsor a class for \$25.00 that will go to help maintain Los Altos Hills recreational facilities. Refreshments, including hot dogs and sodas, will be on sale. Join the fun!



FAREWELL TO BILL SIEGEL



In honor of our highly respected and dedicated council member, Bill Siegel, recently retired after serving over 3 terms on the City Council, a beautiful oak tree will be planted at the entrance to the Quarry Hill. In her tribute to Bill at his retirement party Mayor Elaine Dauber stated, "Amongst his many contributions...

THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

RESIDENT'S REPLY CARD

Let's Hear What You Think

1. We'd like to hear from you. Please let us know what is on your mind about Los Altos Hills.

2. What issues would you like to see addressed in future Town Newsletters?

3. Would you like to volunteer to help with the Spring Family Picnic? How about spending some time scooping ice cream or helping with the games?

WE THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone / e-mail: _____

Please use this card or answer on a separate sheet. Send your responses to Town Hall, 26739 Fremont Rd, LAH, CA 94022 or Fax: 650 941-3160

Spring Family Picnic

Sunday, May 21ST

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS TODAY!
ALL TOWN RESIDENTS ARE INVITED**



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

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Los Altos, CA
Permit No. 30



JOIN THE FUN!

SEE STORY ON PAGE 1