



OUR TOWN

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS

DECEMBER 2012



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Initially established by George Washington in 1782, the Purple Heart Medal has been awarded to any member of the Armed Forces of the U.S. who has been wounded or killed in active duty.



The Memorial Wall, part of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, was completed in 1982. It honors the members of the U.S. armed forces who fought and died in the Vietnam War.

A monument to honor Sergeant William Sigua, dedicated in November 2007 in Purissima Park, is located behind the William Sigua field.



Honoring Our Sons

Upon learning of the bereavement of a widowed mother who lost all her sons in the Civil War, President Lincoln was moved to write an eloquent and poignant letter: “[I have learned] that you are the mother of five sons who have died gloriously on the field of battle. I feel how weak and fruitless must be any word of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic they died to save. I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.”

Over the past five decades, the Town of Los Altos Hills has lost four sons: Louis Gau, Larry Mullen, William Sigua, and Matthew Manoukian. By remembering them — their courage, their dedication, their service — we humbly honor their lives and the lives they touched. [CONTINUED ON PAGE 2]



WHAT YOU LEAVE BEHIND IS NOT WHAT IS ENGRAVED IN STONE MONUMENTS, BUT WHAT IS WOVEN INTO THE LIVES OF OTHERS.

PERICLES, THE FUNERAL ORATION OF PERICLES

Louis Ellie Gau

Private First Class Louis Gau was born in 1945. At the age of 23, Gau joined the army in early 1968; he served as a Private First Class in B Company, First Battalion, 12th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division, U.S. Army. Three days after deployment to Vietnam, Gau was killed in action, along with three other men. According to family friends, Gau's family never really recovered from the loss of their dear son.

Gau's name is inscribed in the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. that honors the men and women of the armed forces of the United States who served in the war and sacrificed their lives. Gau is also remembered on the Virtual Wall. One classmate wrote: "Louie, you made the ultimate sacrifice defending Freedom. I regret that you didn't have a chance at life; to marry, to experience the joy of holding your child, to grow comfortably old in years and wisdom. I will always remember your friendship and generosity and your willingness to share them. You were too good a friend not to be remembered."

Larry Donald Mullen

Private First Class Larry Mullen was born in 1950, the son of William Mullen and Dorothy Overall. Mullen had a brother, Michael, and two sisters, Debbie and Heidi. Mullen attended Covington and Los Altos High School. He was on the varsity wrestling team, winning 10 gold medals in AAU competition, and played football on the junior varsity team. After graduation in 1968, the Mullen family moved to Ojai.

Mullen joined the Marines in October of 1968. Although he had been offered the opportunity to attend Officer Candidate School, he volunteered to go to Vietnam; he was deployed to Vietnam in April of 1969. Mullen was killed by enemy fire while leading a Marine Corps patrol near Quang Tri on May 26. A service

was held in Los Altos on June 6, 1969, and he was interred at the Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno.

William Mason Sigua

Sergeant William Sigua, the son of Ben and Jackie Sigua, was born in 1985 and grew up in Los Altos Hills with his two older brothers, David and Jonathan. He attended Bullis-Purissima Elementary School, Egan Jr. High, and Los Altos High School, where he was active in many sports — football, rugby, track, and wrestling.



The terrorist attacks of 9/11 were the main reason that Sigua decided to enlist in the U.S. Army right after graduating from high school in 2003. Trained as an infantry squad leader, he was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division based at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. In 2004, he was deployed to Afghanistan to bolster security for the local elections. In 2006, he was deployed for a second tour.

Sigua was killed in action on January 31, 2007, in Baiji, Iraq when his unit came under assault from small-arms fire while on patrol.

Sigua served his country with distinction — his awards and commendations include the Bronze Star medal, Purple Heart medal, and Army Achievement medal with three oak leaf clusters.

A memorial service and mass was held at Saint Simon Church in Los Altos on February 8, 2007, followed by his interment at Golden Gate National Cemetery and a celebration of his life the following day. On November 11, a dedication ceremony was held at Purissima Park in Los Altos Hills. Because Little League was an important part of Sigua's early years, the Town of Los Altos Hills dedicated one of the baseball fields and erected a monument in his honor.

Each year on Memorial Day the Sigua family attends services at Golden Gate National Cemetery and hosts a picnic for family and friends at Shoup Park.

Matthew Patrick Manoukian

Matthew Manoukian was born in 1983, the son of Socrates "Peter" Manoukian, Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge, and Patricia Bamattre-Manoukian, Associate Justice of the Sixth District California Court of Appeal. He grew up in Los Altos with two younger brothers, Michael and Martin. Manoukian attended Saint Nicholas school and Saint Francis High School, graduating in 2001; he attended the University of Arizona, graduating in 2005. Later that year, Manoukian joined the Marine Corps.

Manoukian graduated from Officer Candidates School and the Infantry Officer Course and served in the Marine Corps Special Operations Command, the elite unit of the Marines. In 2007 he was deployed for his first tour of duty in Western Iraq, where he studied Middle East history and culture and learned to speak Arabic.

In May 2012, Manoukian was deployed to Afghanistan, his fourth deployment. He was killed on August 10, 2012, along with two other Marines, by a rogue Afghan police officer in Sangin district, long a Taliban stronghold.

During his military career, Matt had received two Purple Heart medals and two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation medals.

A memorial service for Manoukian was held at Saint Francis High School on August 18, 2012. The Marines gave Manoukian a 21-gun salute, and at the end of the service, the parents were presented with the Purple Heart medal.

Town to Honor Heroes

To honor these remarkable, brave, young men, and the sacrifice that their families have laid upon the altar of this country, the City Council unanimously voted to commission an appropriate memorial at the base of the flag pole at Town Hall. The memorial is expected to be completed in the coming year.



TO LEARN MORE:

Contact Community Services Coordinator Sarah Gualtieri at 650-947-2518 or sgualtieri@losaltoshills.ca.gov

The town processes an average of 500 building permit applications each year, with projects ranging from water heater replacements and reroofing jobs to additions/remodels and new residences. Construction activities typically slow down during the winter months because of the town's grading moratorium. No grading work is allowed during the rainy season from October 15 to April 15 of each year.

The purpose of the grading moratorium is to help protect water quality and preserve the scenic qualities of the natural terrain throughout the town. Limiting grading during the rainy season minimizes erosion, soil compaction, topsoil displacement, and siltation of water courses. Project sites where grading has occurred must be winterized before October 1 by providing weather protection for all exposed

PROTECTING WATER

graded surfaces. Required soil erosion and sediment control measures such as temporary seeding and mulching, erosion control blankets, and fiber rolls must be maintained through April 30. Town staff will inspect construction sites to ensure that proper erosion and sediment control measures are in place per approved grading plans. The contractor is responsible for checking and repairing erosion control systems after each storm. Failure to implement erosion control measures during periods of rainfall may result in a prohibition of

any additional construction during the remainder of the rainy season.

Per 10-2.404 of the Site Development Code, the town engineer may allow grading to proceed during the rainy season if precipitation has been minimal; if the grading technique to be used will minimize the risk of landslides, erosion, or damage to adjacent properties or environmentally sensitive areas from soil movement; or if it is in the interest of public health and safety to permit grading. The town engineer can only grant the exception request if no detriment is likely to occur to neighboring properties or public or private roads; if grading can be completed within 30 days of the grant of the exception; and if the site will be winterized with an approved erosion control plan.

By Debbie Pedro

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIRECTOR

Yulia Rasulova recently joined the town staff as administrative services director. Her role is to ensure that the town's resources — financial, personnel, equipment, and facilities — are available to provide the community with a high level of municipal services. This includes preparation and day-to-day administration of the budget, finance, contract management, IT, and human resources functions of the town's operations. Prior to her new job, Rasulova was risk manager and senior management analyst for the City of San Carlos for five years. There she managed the daily operations of the city's risk management division, as well as several city projects — from budget preparation and labor negotiations to implementation of shared services models for public safety. Prior to that, she worked in various capacities for the City of Kansas City, Missouri for four years. Rasulova earned her graduate degree from Park University in Parkville, Missouri.

There were several reasons that Rasulova was drawn to Los Altos Hills. "Los Altos Hills is one of the most beautiful and desirable residential communities in Northern California," she explained. "It has strong leadership and very active and involved residents. I was greatly impressed by the dedication and sense of commitment that the town employees bring to this community, which made me believe

that the town is a great place to work."

Still, Los Altos Hills is far away from her hometown of Moscow. "Moving to the United States, first to Kansas City, from cosmopolitan Moscow was a big adjustment for me," she said. "I believe that the place that we grow up in affects who we become and shapes our identity, personality, and character. If you leave that place, you leave a part of you behind." Although California offers its own cuisine and culture, Rasulova still misses home: "I miss my family and friends, of course. I also miss some of my favorite Russian food and sweets; but I especially miss the theatre — drama and satire... Moscow theater is absolutely outstanding. I feel very spoiled because I grew up watching such amazing, memorable productions. I have to get my fix of Moscow theater every time I visit Russia."

When Rasulova is not creating and reviewing spreadsheets, she cheers on her 11-year-old son who plays in the NorCal Soccer Premier League. "Being European," she said, "I am a huge fan of football — known as "soccer" in America — and enjoy following my son's team, as well as the major games for most European Football Leagues and Cups." Her bucket list includes learning to speak French and traveling around the world.



Upcoming Fall/Winter Courses

YOUTH

Blue Angels Youth Ski & Snowboard Program

Beginner/Intermediate Ski & Snowboard Camp for children 7-16 year old.

Dates: 1/12 - 2/23 (Saturdays), no class 1/19 and 2/16

Departure & Return: Please visit www.BlueAngelSnow.com for locations & times
Fee: \$849

Freestyle Ski/Snowboard Camp

Learn Slopestyle, Superpipe & All Mountain Skills for children 12-16 years old.

Dates: 1/12 - 2/23 (Saturdays), no class 1/19 and 2/16

Departure & Return: Please visit www.BlueAngelSnow.com for locations & times
Fee: \$849

ADULTS/SENIORS

Project Memoir

Have you been thinking about writing down your life stories to pass on to your grandchildren, nieces, or nephews? Well, now is the time! Come join Bonnie Gikis, a seasoned writer and teacher. She will supply you with the time and place and a toolbox of techniques (a la Julia Cameron, Natalie Goldberg, and Gabrielle Rico) to get those stories out of your head and onto the page. Enjoy the camaraderie of likeminded writers and begin the New Year with Project Memoir. For more information, please contact Bonnie at 650-948-9523 or bgikis@aol.com.

Dates: 1/8 - 2/12 (Tuesdays)

from 10:00 - 11:15 am

Location: Parks and Recreation Center at Town Hall

Fee: \$105 Residents, 119 Non-Residents

Pilates for Bone Building

This class focuses on Pilates-based core exercises as well as standing balance, leg and back strengthening, and weight bearing exercise for a bone-building workout! You must be able to get down to and up from the floor safely to participate in this class.

Foam rollers (\$25), miniballs (\$10) and

bands (\$6) will be available for purchase on the first day of class or you may bring your own. Please bring your own mat and come to the first class 15 minutes early to complete paperwork and have a brief orientation. For more information visit www.pilateswithteresa.com or teresa@pilateswithteresa.com.

Dates: 1/16 - 3/6

(Wednesdays) from 12:30 - 1:30 pm

Location: Town Hall Council Chambers

Fees: \$77 Residents, \$82 Non-Residents

For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 650-947-2518, or to view a full listing of courses or to register visit: www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/parks-and-recreation/activity-guide.



HOLIDAY BARN LIGHTING at Westwind Community Barn

Join the Los Altos Hills community on Sunday, December 2 for a special holiday celebration from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at Westwind Community Barn.

Spend the afternoon in the fresh air at Westwind Community Barn, sampling home baked cookies and hot cider and/or wine tasting with local vintners while kids participate in seasonal games, craft tables, face painting, pony rides, and a petting zoo. Local student groups will perform traditional carols and holiday music. Bring your cameras for a photo op with



Santa, who will listen to last-minute holiday wish lists and provide children with a tasty candy cane. Local Pony Club and 4-H students will demonstrate horse grooming and

horse management skills, and answer questions on how residents can participate in their programs. The Barn lighting will occur promptly at 4:00 pm and Santa will ride off into the sunset in true Los Altos Hills style. Complete the holiday season and bring the whole family for a memorable day at the barn. The event is free for all residents.

Taaffe, Dezahara, Sherlock, Byrne, O'Keefe — familiar street names around our town. But behind them lies an interesting story. The town's History Committee is initiating a project to document the origins of street names in Los Altos Hills. Why or how did the street get that name? What's the story behind it? Did you know that we have a street denoting a gully, and another is named to remind us of a slaughterhouse? (La Barranca and Matadero, respectively.)

Besides the origins of the names, stories that center on particular streets are also of interest, or original street names that have since changed and disappeared. Did you know that Stonebrook Drive, which used to connect El Monte with Magdalena, played a pivotal role in the fight to incorporate the town? Or that Mir Mirou (Russian for "Peace to the World") now only survives as the name of a cul-de-sac off the original road — since re-named as Paseo del Roble by the developer?

The History Committee is asking residents of the town to help with this important history project. If you know the story behind a street's name, please contact the committee via email at LAHhistorycommittee@gmail.com. Submissions should include any information on the origins of the street name, the family or persons associated with the name, any reference material, and contact information. With the help of residents, we can prevent these great stories from fading into the mists of time.

Story of
Street Names

The Los Altos Hills Horsemen's Association (LAHHA) was founded in 1971 with the purpose of promoting "good horsemanship and care of horses in the Hills." An early project, led by Hills resident Bob Stutz, was to design and build the original Town Arena on Purissima Road using donated lumber and labor. Current members remain united in goals of sharing information that contributes to the welfare of these magnificent animals that grace our lives and our neighborhoods. Members meet for trail rides

and participate in area events. LAHHA continues to support activities in Los Altos Hills (including the pony rides at the Town picnic) and neighboring communities. In recent years, LAHHA members have joined Santa Clara County Emergency Services in planning for the care of animals (large or small) that might be evacuated in a natural disaster.

HORSING AROUND

Holiday Events

LAHHA members will be caroling on horseback at the forthcoming Holiday Barn Lighting at Westwind Community Barn (see previous page). A week later, on December 9, LAHHA will hold its annual Holiday Gathering and Potluck at 3:00 PM at 26786 Robleda Court. The event is open to all current or former LAHHA members and supportive residents.

LAHHA events for 2013 include an art and essay contest in the spring (see below), an annual "PlayDay" in May, a "Hills Barn Tour" in June, and another great "Schooling Show" in July.

Student Art and Essay Contest

Children who live in Los Altos Hills or surrounding communities are invited to submit an essay or work of art on the theme of "Why I love horses in the Hills." The essays will be broken down into three categories (8 and under, 9-12, and 13-17 years old) and be evaluated on creativity, writing style, and fluency. The artwork can be any form of media (crayons to watercolor), created by hand (as opposed to computer or photography), must adhere to theme, and include at least one horse. Submissions are due from March 11-15, 2013. Submissions can be mailed or delivered to Town Hall. Prizes will be announced early next year.

To learn more about any of these events or the contest, please contact LAHHA President Mike Wagner at mwagner@litinomics.com or visit www.LAHHA.org for more details.



The Life of the Oak Tree



The coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) is the most common native tree in Los Altos Hills. Several other native oak species grow here, including valley oak, blue oak, black oak, canyon oak, golden oak, and scrub oak, but the coast live oak dominates the mix. The coast live oak is an evergreen. Its leaves are adapted to gathering sunlight depending on the leaf's location on the tree. Those on the top are thicker than those in shadier areas — it helps the top leaves survive the harsh direct sunlight while the thinner shaded leaves are designed to absorb whatever light they receive.

Beyond its majestic beauty, the oak is a critical part of the ecosystem: its branches, leaves, pollen, flowers, and acorns are a source of food for wildlife. Its large canopy provides shelter for a diversity of species: mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians, insects, fungi, and lichens. A few of the species associated with the coast live oak are described below. The oak, like other trees, is remarkable because it is valuable as habitat either dead or alive. Dead trees are used



Western scrub-jays nest in oaks. They collect acorns and bury them. Because it is difficult to find the buried acorns, scrub-jays bury as many as they can; new oaks sprout where the jays have not recovered their buried loot.



Oak moths use the oak tree to reproduce. Because

by birds for food storage, by birds and mammals for nest materials, and as food for fungi and insects. Coast live oak commonly exceeds 250 years of age, and is a stalwart for wildlife. The cavities in the older trees are particularly important shelter for birds and bats.

Oaks can be identified by both leaf shape and acorn characteristics. The coast live oak acorn is conical, with a deep cup on top that is fuzzy inside. The acorns ripen 6-8 months after the flowers are pollinated, a lot faster than other oak species. The acorn crop is called a mast. The flowers are wind pollinated and there are both female flowers and male flowers. The female flowers produce the acorns.

Native Americans found abundant wildlife in the oak communities, thriving on the resources provided in oak groves. Native Americans in California held the tree sacred as a symbol of fertility, strength, and oneness with the earth. It was used for food, medicine, dyes, and spirituality.



Great-horned owls will nest in an old tree where a branch has broken off and a cavity has developed. The cavity is used for sleeping in the day; the branches are used as perches for hunting or calling to other owls at night. The owls primarily eat rodents.



Duskywing butterflies depend on the oak as a larval food source. Its coloring matches the bark so it can hide.



the oak moth and the oak evolved together, an oak moth infestation rarely kills the tree. The larvae hang off the trees in late summer. Birds and small mammals feast on them.



Gray foxes climb the oak tree and use it for cover. They also hunt the other animals (e.g., birds, mammals, and insects) that are drawn to the tree.



Western skinks are found beneath the tree, where they find insects to eat among the decaying leaves. A skink is a rare find, with a brown body and an electric blue tail that departs from the body when a skink is threatened by a hunter.



Mule, or black-tailed, deer eat the acorns and leaves of the oak, as well as mistletoe (an oak parasite) and lichen. Acorn availability may affect deer reproduction; if the oaks do well, so will the deer.



Dusky-footed woodrats eat acorns and build stick houses away from, against, or in an oak tree. The houses are complex structures that include a nest, latrine, and latrine and are shared by other species. The houses are typically passed from mother to daughter. Woodrats also eat poison oak.



California gall wasps lay eggs in the oak's tissue. The oak responds by building a gall, or oak apple, that houses the wasp larva. It does not hurt the tree.



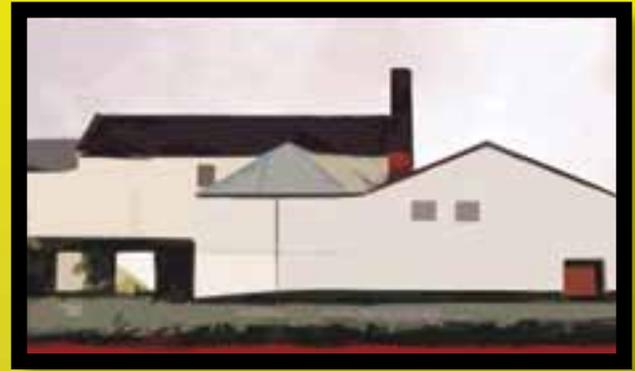
Ground squirrels eat acorns, and also cache them in locations away from the tree. As a result they may help plant oaks.



Arboreal salamanders find food in the oak's bark. They are superior climbers and have been found 60 feet up in a tree.

Early anglo-American settlers were awed by the oak woodlands' beauty and abundance. The chain of missions follows the general distribution of coast live oak, and Father Serra's first mass in Monterey was celebrated under a coast live oak. The settlers' technologies turned the oak into a commodity, and many oak woodlands were

converted to agriculture, spurring the economy. Early on, coast live oak was not a lumber tree, but was an important source of firewood and charcoal for blacksmiths, bakers, and other industries. By 1890, oaks started to be treasured for their architectural value near homes, much like today. Today the oak contributes to industry, recreation, science, and landscape architecture. Heritage trees are protected by ordinance because of their physical or historical stature. Many heritage trees are oaks, including the Charter Oak, Jack London Oak, and Oak of the Golden Dream.



The oil and acrylic paintings of Los Altos Hills resident Ry Smith will be featured at Town Hall March 22, 2013 – September 2013, in an exhibit titled “By Design.” Town residents are invited to attend the reception at Town Hall on March 31, 2013, from 2:00 to 5:00 pm. In his professional life, Ry invented and designed industrial products. His paintings reflect the clean lines and simplicity inherent in his industrial designs, for which he won many awards. In his paintings of boats, landscapes, and other subjects, Smith reduces complexity to simplicity with an emphasis on shape and color, interpreted in a very personal way. Smith’s art has been featured on the cover of several magazines. His work is exhibited in City Hall in San Mateo, Main Street Gallery in Weaverville, and galleries in Burlingame, San Mateo, and Carmel.

THE ART OF RY SMITH



Over the last five years, the Los Altos Hills County Fire District (LAHCFD) and the Town of Los Altos Hills have developed a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) group that has been trained to help our citizens

in the event of a disaster, such as a major earthquake or a large wildfire.

Currently there are 187 CERT members; however, in the event of a major disaster those 187 individuals will be stretched thin to help everyone in town. The LAHCFD encourages all residents to become a CERT member, ready to help out your family and neighbors when disaster strikes. Note that residents must first take the Personal Emergency

Preparedness (PEP) class before becoming a CERT member.

CERT member Richard Sereni, General Manager, Fremont Hills Country Club Stable, understands the impact that CERT members have: “I took PEP to be prepared for myself and family. I then took CERT because I wanted to give back to the community that

Help Your Neighbors When Disaster Strikes

I love. I can honestly say that I got more out of the CERT program than I put into it. I am also comforted knowing that I can help others if and when a disaster occurs.”

Nancy Green, another CERT graduate, enjoyed working with other residents: “I took the classes because I was interested in what to do for my family and community in a disaster. One aspect I really enjoyed was getting to know other residents and learning more about disaster preparedness.”

Fellow CERT member, Rich Irvine, a retired landscaper, also saw important benefits: “I took PEP because, in looking at the course outline, I knew it was going to be great information for me and my family. The PEP class also led into the CERT class, where I thought I could be of value to our community.”

For more information or to register for any of the classes, please contact Michael Sanders at 650-922-1055 or mike.sanders@cnt.sccgov.org.

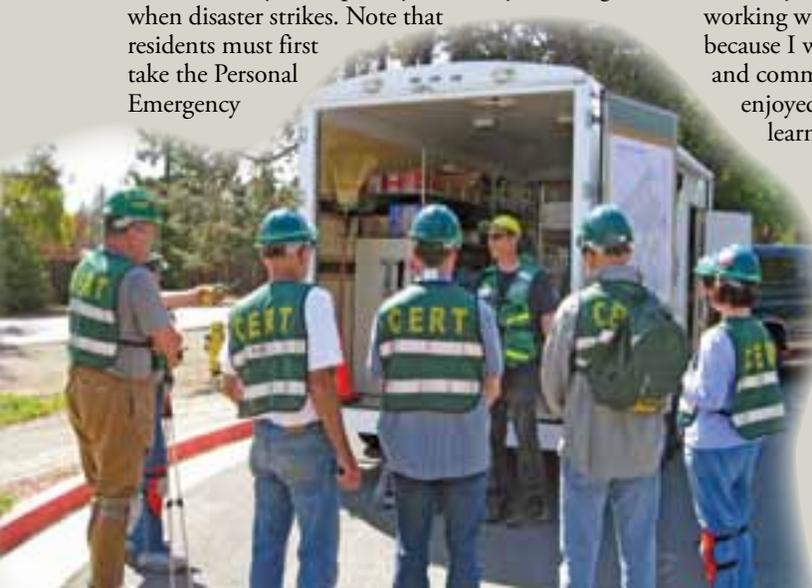


2013 CLASS SCHEDULE

PEP
Feb. 16 (Sat)
9:00 am – 1:00 pm
March 20 (Wed)
6:30 – 9:30 pm

SENIOR PEP
Feb. 19 & 21 (Tue, Thu)
4:00 – 6:00 pm
March 23 (Sat)
9:00 – 1:00 pm

CERT
April 9, 16, 23, 30,
and May 11 (requires
all 5 sessions)
6:00 pm – 9:30 pm
(on May 11 time is
9:00 am – 1:00 pm)

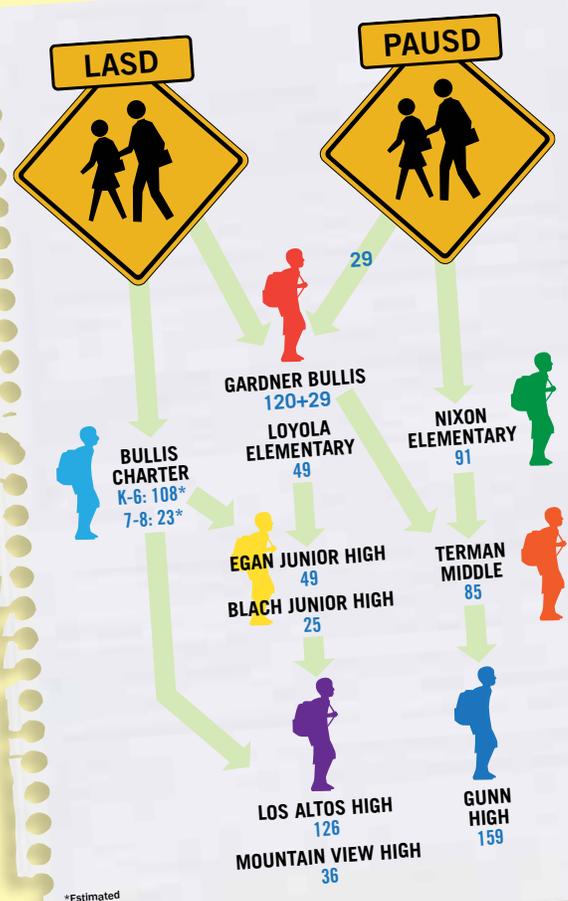


PUBLIC SCHOOL

CHOICE

Split between school districts, the choices afforded to parents and students of Los Altos Hills leave residents with more than the typical options. The education committee conducts an annual enrollment assessment to gather information about where the children who live in town attend school and to remind the various districts of the financial commitments the town's families make to public education. Data collection is underway for this year.

The diagram below shows the schools attended by the major portion of the 956 public school students in the 2011-12 school year. In addition to Nixon and Gardner Bullis, 25 Los Altos Hills students residing in the Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD) portion of town attended other PAUSD elementary schools (Hoover, Ohlone, and Escondido). Similarly, 17 Los Altos Hills elementary students residing in Los Altos School District (LASD) attended Almond, Santa Rita, Springer, and Covington.



For complete enrollment data visit:
<http://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/city-government/standing-committees/education/pec-presentations>

A watershed is a land area that drains into a specific waterway. Los Altos Hills has four watersheds: Adobe, Permanent, Barron, and Matadero. The Adobe watershed, for example, starts from Black Mountain and is contained by ridges on both sides and channels rain water and anything that gets into the stream, including pollutants, into Adobe Creek. Watersheds are vital for water supply, flood control, wild habitat preservation, and recreational opportunities.

The Silicon Valley Watershed Summit was recently held in September at Foothill College to address the threat to watersheds. More than 50 organizations — including council members from several cities, businesses, water districts, environmental groups, and government agencies — attended.

The Vitality of Watersheds

Maintaining Nature's Balance

Brock Dolman, Director of the Water Institute at the Occidental Arts and Ecology Center, noted that healthy creeks are not just pretty amenities, but fulfill a critical role in maintaining nature's balance in our backyards. On the edges of creeks, riparian plants such as willows, tules, and dogwoods slow water flows, giving the water time to soak in and recharge ground water. They also reduce erosion, improve water quality, and are essential for flood protection, both locally and downstream. Riparian zones are also critical to sustain a healthy balance and movement of fauna.

The diversion of rainwater is a constant threat to watersheds. Roads, roofs, tennis courts, and other man-made surfaces divert water from percolating through the soil and replenishing aquifers. Gushing water from gutters, parking lots, and storm drains swell nearby creeks, often carrying trash, fertilizer, oil, and other chemicals, flooding downstream areas in winter months.

Preventive Maintenance Key

What's more, the cost to maintain an established creek is significantly less than the cost to repair. Toward that end, strategies were proposed to remove non-native invasive plants which compete with our native flora. Other topics included trash removal, building concrete walls, and the use of man-made fish passage barriers with hopes of returning native steelhead trout.

Protecting Downstream Neighbors

Headwaters originate in the foothills in and above Los Altos Hills, flow through neighboring cities, and drain into the bay. "Presently, policies are set by municipalities rather than by watersheds," noted Phil Bobel, Assistant Director of Public Works, City of Palo Alto. For example, in Los Altos Hills the set-back for creek protection is just 25 feet, whereas Santa Clara County enforces 100 feet for this crucial habitat and water management area. With twice the rainfall of Palo Alto, the town's policies on lot coverage and riparian zones significantly affect flooding and ground water quality in downstream cities.

Discoveries

Watershed Summit participants were identified by the watersheds in which they live. Breakout sessions for each watershed facilitated collaboration between neighbors and organizations, upstream and downstream. The crucial takeaway was that towns and organizations need to work together to develop sustainable solutions, including awareness and education campaigns, to protect valuable — and many times fragile — watersheds for future generations.



New Principal at Gardner Bullis

The Los Altos School District recently named Courtney Cadwell as the new principal at Gardner Bullis School (GBS). With a record for innovation across the district, Cadwell communicates well with teachers and parents, but more importantly focuses on the needs of the students first. “She has made it crystal clear that she is, above all, an advocate for the children. Understanding that about Courtney — in conjunction with her leadership — made it easy for me to welcome her to the school,” said PTA President Nikki Selden.

After applying to the highly coveted NASA Educator Astronaut Program, Cadwell made it to the final list of applicants. “My experience as an Astronaut Candidate Finalist will help me connect with students and ultimately serve to inspire a future generation of explorers. I also hope that my connections, partnered with technological tools, will eventually extend learning beyond the walls of Gardner Bullis classrooms,” commented Cadwell, an advisor for

the Gates Foundation and the Intrepid Philanthropy Foundation.

Gardner Bullis has computers in every classroom, thanks to efforts by the PTA. “One of the most important things we can teach our students

regarding technology is how to discern which technological tool is most appropriate for their purpose,” said Cadwell. She was also instrumental in implementing the Khan Academy online program within the district curriculum, empowering teachers to individualize student

learning.

Cadwell plans to prepare students for the next step, coordinating education as students transition from full-day kindergarten to sixth grade and then onto middle school. “With its motivated students, talented teachers, and involved parent community, I feel that Gardner Bullis is in the enviable position of being poised for great things. I hope to do my part in making Gardner Bullis a school that leads the way in education reform by keeping students’ needs at the forefront of our mission,” said Cadwell.



Bullis Charter School’s sixth graders were recently seen conspiring with pirates. The pirates, in this case, were actually professional opera artists that are a part of San Francisco Opera Guild’s “Opera a la Carte” program. The performers came to Bullis Charter School (BCS) to perform an abbreviated version of Gilbert and Sullivan’s “Pirates of Penzance” with the students. The program is designed to offer student participants the unique opportunity of working with opera professionals on a

one-on-one basis to be coached in voice, technique, and scenery. The curriculum culminates with the students joining in a performance of their work for the entire school.

BCS students worked with school staff to prepare songs and memorize speaking roles in preparation for the 75-minute working session with the opera professionals before performing in front of an audience. BCS has participated in the guild’s program for the last nine years. This year, several other South Bay schools who are also participating in the program were invited to attend a session at BCS to learn more by observing the experience of BCS students working with the Guild’s artists.

Reilly Dennedy, a BCS student and Los Altos Hills resident who participated in the program, says that the experience was eye-opening — “Opera is a lot more than just high notes.” She was surprised at how big a job it actually was to be an opera singer.

Divas for a Day

Walking Safely to School

On October 5, students from Gardner Bullis School joined councilmembers in a groundbreaking ceremony of the “Safe Routes to School” project. The \$1.08 million project, funded by the Valley Transportation Authority and the Town of Los Altos Hills, will provide an off-street pathway for children traveling to schools along the busy Fremont-West Edith corridor. Since parents consistently cite safety and traffic issues as the main reasons that their children do not walk or bike to school, the “Safe Routes to School” program effectively teams with local agencies to provide local solutions.

The new pathway for pedestrians and bicyclists will be six feet wide, and begin at Fremont Road at Conception and end at West Edith near Foothill Expressway. At the S-curve, the pathway behind the guard-rail will be widened, leveled and surfaced with porous concrete to prevent erosion. For added safety, cross walks will be improved for pedestrians and striping added to Fremont Road for road bikers. Utility poles that are too close to the roadway will be removed. To maintain the rural character of the town, the remainder of the pathway will be created with decomposed granite, new landscaping, and railroad ties. The project is expected to be completed in February of next year.

The Duvenecks



Franks and Josephine Duveneck are best known in the Los Altos Hills community for developing Hidden Villa, nestled in a valley near the intersection of Moody Road and Moody Court. The valley was originally inhabited by Ohlone Indians followed by Franciscan missionaries, the first Europeans, who planted an olive tree grove that is still there today. The “White House,” originally a stage coach house, is the oldest building on the property. Passengers from San Jose would stop in Mountain View, stay overnight in the White House, and continue to Pescadero the following day.

A large house on the property was completed in 1930 by Frank and Josephine Duveneck. The Duvenecks were Boston aristocrats. Frank Duveneck’s father, Frank Duveneck Senior, was a noted American artist and art teacher. Frank Junior was born in 1886. His mother Elizabeth, also an artistic talent, died when he was two. Frank Senior left Frank Junior in the care of Elizabeth’s aunt in Waltham, Massachusetts. Josephine (née Whitney) was the daughter of Henry Whitney, who established the first electric transportation system in the United States in 1888. Josephine’s mother Margaret Green Whitney, 21 years younger than Josephine’s father and from a much less affluent family, pushed her children to enter Boston society. Josephine, born April 12, 1891, the last of five children, was her father’s favorite.

Josephine Whitney and Frank Duveneck met at a “coming out” party. They would not meet again for two years, but Frank had resolved to marry Josephine as soon as he saw her. Frank earned a master’s degree in engineering at Harvard, and was working about 60 hours weekly for \$60 monthly — not much for a Boston aristocrat — but he had taken the job to be near Josephine, as she learned later. Josephine was striving for independence from her family, particularly from her mother, and was about to go to New York when Frank asked her to marry him. She turned him down, then reconsidered. Frank’s low-key persistence was rewarded when Frank and Josephine married in June 1913.

After a brief honeymoon in the Adirondack Mountains, New York State, the newlywed Duvenecks embarked on a long voyage, sailing



from Canada to England, then France, Germany, and Italy. Returning to Boston, they headed for the western United States. In California, they visited Josephine’s sister Laura near Santa Barbara, then went up to San Francisco, which they found unlike any other city in the U.S. or Europe.

The Duvenecks eventually settled in California in April of 1917. Their first home was near Santa Barbara. A year later they moved to a rented house at Addison and Cowper streets in Palo Alto. By then the Duvenecks had three children.

Although a pacifist, Frank got caught up in war fever when the United States entered World War I. He enlisted in a California Signal Service regiment, where his engineering skill would be useful. Later in 1917 Frank was sent to the European theatre. While Frank played his role in the Great War, Josephine sought out and finally bought a five-bedroom house on Newell Road just outside the Palo Alto

city limits for \$7,500 in early 1919. She had written Frank in Europe for his approval, but the letter not having arrived, the first he heard was a second letter with “Well, I bought the house.” Frank, serving in the army of occupation in Germany, did not get home until August 1919. The Duvenecks’ fourth child, Bernard, was born at the end of 1922.

The Duvenecks, like others born into privilege, were determined to make a contribution to society. Settling into a permanent residence for the first time since marrying gave Josephine an opportunity for community involvement. The City of Palo Alto had created a community center, one of the first such municipal bodies in the United States. Josephine served as an employment referral counselor, although she had no experience, with mixed success. Discovering a gift for organization, she ran for the Palo Alto City Council and was elected to a four-year term. Frank became active in Democratic Party state and county politics.

The Duvenecks had always greatly loved open spaces. In their Model T Ford, they chugged over the Santa Cruz Mountains — quite a hazardous drive in those days — and camped out in redwood forests, on the Big Sur coast, and as far as Sequoia National Park, where they experienced a bear raiding their campsite. They had dreamed of an open space of their own, and scouted places to buy on their rambles. In 1924 they were driving home one afternoon by way of Los Altos, when they saw a sign advertising a thousand acres for sale. The property was behind a gate, above which were metal flags with the writing “Hidden Villa.” A thousand acres was far bigger than what they had ever considered, but they opened the gate and drove in. They found the Franciscans’ olive grove, a pasture with cows grazing, bay trees, and at the end of the road the old white house, barn, and outbuildings. A stream ran down the hills towards the road. The Duvenecks were completely thrilled with the place, and contacted the sales agent whose name was on the gate.



TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS
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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 — to facilitate, encourage, and improve interaction between the residents and the town government. The newsletter is published quarterly. **Deadline for the next issue is January 4, 2013.**

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www.losaltoshills.ca.gov

Our Town

Our Town is published with assistance from Town Volunteer Committees.
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Los Altos Hills City Council

Rich Larsen, Mayor
Gary Waldeck, Vice Mayor
Jean Mordo
John Radford
Ginger Summit

CALENDAR



Dec

2

Sunday, 1:00-4:00 pm
Holiday Barn Lighting
Arts & crafts, petting zoo, community and school groups perform, visit Santa in antique horse carriage, demonstration by YRRP, 4-H, and Pony Club. To learn more, contact Sarah Gualtieri at 650-947-2518.

20

Thursday, 7:30 pm
Caroling in the Hills
Parks and Recreation Committee member, Scott Vanderlip

leads this annual caroling event. Kids, adults, and families meet at the Parks and Recreation Building for a brief rehearsal and then tour nearby neighborhoods. Dress warmly and bring a flashlight. Cookies and cider will be provided. For more information, contact Scott at 650-793-0475 or scott@inet-sciences.com.

Jan

8

Beginning Tuesdays from 10:00-11:15 am
Project Memoir

Have you been thinking about writing down your life stories to pass on to your grandchildren, nieces, or nephews? This P&R six-week course will supply you with a tool box of techniques! For

more information, contact Bonnie at 650-948-9523 or bgikis@aol.com.



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Saturdays in the Snow
Sign up for Blue Angels Youth Ski and Snowboard Program or Freestyle Ski/Snowboard Camp! These courses includes 5 full days of age- and level-specific professional supervision on and off the slopes. For more information, contact Sarah Gualtieri at sgualtieri@losaltoshills.ca.gov or 650-947-2518.

Feb

16

Sat, 9:00 am-1:00 pm
Personal Emergency Preparedness
To learn more, see page 8.

19 & 21

Tuesday & Thursday, 4:00-6:00 pm both days
Senior Personal Emergency Preparedness
To learn more, see page 8.

Calendar events are also posted on Town's website: www.losaltoshills.ca.gov

March

20

Wed, 6:30-9:30 pm
Personal Emergency Preparedness
To learn more, see page 8.

23

Sat, 9:00-1:00 pm
Senior Personal Emergency Preparedness
To learn more, see page 8.

