



OUR TOWN

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS

MARCH 2013



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LOS ALTOS HILLS RESIDENTS BY THE NUMBERS

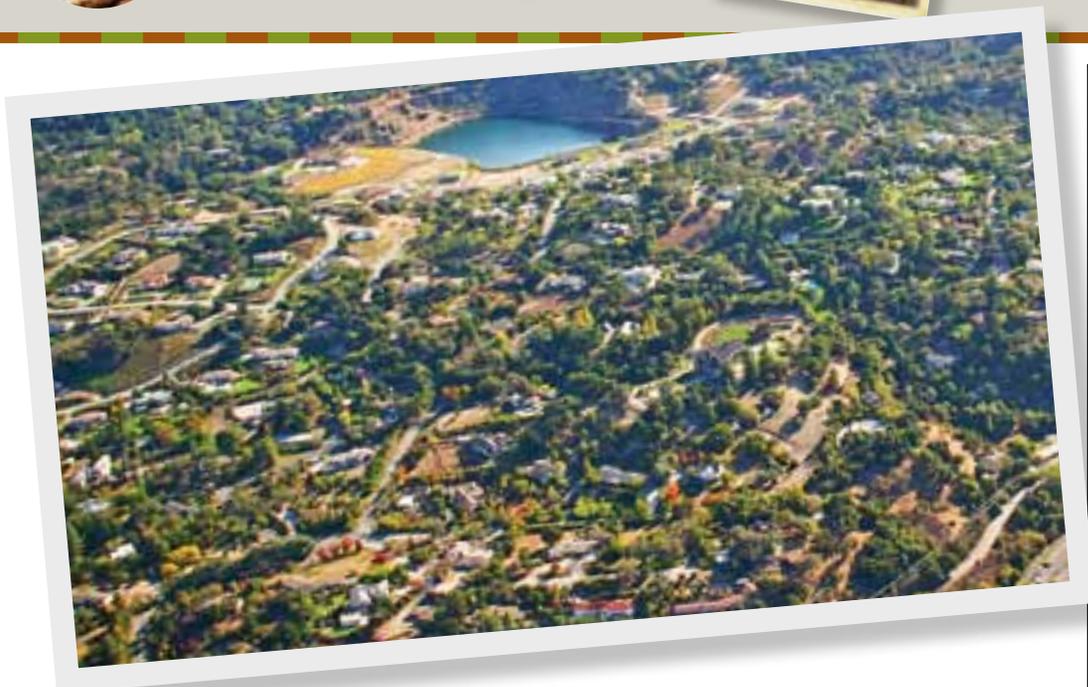
HOMES:
2,877

RESIDENTS:
8,046

NEW RESIDENTS THAT MOVE IN EACH YEAR
175

AGE RANGES:
UNDER 18: 22.9%
18-24: 4.3%
25-44: 13.7%
45-64: 36%
OVER 65: 23.2%

OWNERSHIP
91.3% OWNER-OCCUPIED
8.7% RENTERS



Who Lives Next Door?

The Town of Los Altos Hills is like a massive patch quilt blanket, draped across a hilly terrain over 8.8 square miles consisting of some 3,000 uniquely shaped 1-acre patches.

The threads that weave these patches together are the winding roads and pathways. Although the large lots allow its 8,000 residents to live with a high degree of privacy, it does present a slight challenge to easily connect with neighbors. Nextdoor, a social network for neighborhoods, addresses that challenge effectively for cities locally and across the country. [CONTINUED ON PAGE 2]



"Social networks in a neighborhood lower crime, improve public health, and raise test scores."

ROBERT PUTNAM, HARVARD PROFESSOR AND AUTHOR, *BOWLING ALONE* (2001)

The Nextdoor Revolution

Nextdoor was cofounded by Nirav Tolia in San Francisco in 2010 with the goal of creating a social network, with a certain level of privacy, that allows neighbors to connect easily by opting into predefined geographic areas, thereby creating a sense of community to each neighborhood. Tolia recognized that recent research showed that 28% of residents do not know their neighbors.

Clearly Tolia's vision resonated with residents as word of mouth spread, bringing Nextdoor to more than 175 neighborhoods in 26 states in a matter of months since its founding. Today, in more than 8,075 neighborhoods in all 50 states are using Nextdoor to meet one another, share goods and advice, create a virtual neighborhood watch, set up neighborhood social events, and post notices of interest to their particular neighborhood. More than half a million messages are sent each day on Nextdoor.

How Nextdoor Works

In order to protect an individual's privacy, the website is protected and encrypted. After landing on Nextdoor's

home page (<https://Nextdoor.com>), individuals can type in some preliminary information (email, street address, city, and state) to see if Nextdoor is available in their neighborhood. At this point, most if not all of Los Altos Hills has a designated Nextdoor neighborhood. Nextdoor includes several contiguous streets and assigns it a number. Individuals can join a geographic region only if their home address can be verified. Nextdoor also allows you to print out invitation flyers with verification codes to hand out to neighbors, which is the fastest way to get an entire street connected online. Only the individual and his or her neighbors can read what is shared, and that information cannot be found with a search engine, like Google or Bing. Also, the information is never sold or shared with third parties.

Nextdoor in Action

At least 20% of Nextdoor messages deal with crime prevention. Gordon Strause, Director of Neighborhood Operations, noted, "Nextdoor was founded on the belief that the safest places to live

are communities where neighbors look out for each other." A perfect example of this was in January when neighbors in Menlo Park tracked two suspects who had robbed a nearby jewelry store and were being chased by police. Residents kept in touch for 3.5 hours and remained calm, knowing what was occurring minute by minute. Tolia explained to NBC Bay Area, "When neighbors get together, they actually band together as a virtual neighborhood watch and use technology to make their neighborhood safer."

Jan Clayton, who has lived in town for 57 years, is excited about how Nextdoor brings people together: "People are actually getting to know some of their neighbors. I have lived in my house for 53 years and have met 6 new neighbors directly as a result of the interaction that Nextdoor promotes — this is an excellent result." Clayton continues, "In the past, there have been things that I wanted to announce to the neighborhood, but I felt strange about placing a note in everyone's mailbox. With Nextdoor, all I need to do is post my information."

Mark Breier was an early proponent and user of Nextdoor: "At our home, we use it all the time to check in with neighbors, confirm power outages, or track wild animals that often threaten smaller animals."

Mark Bailey, an associate member of the town's Emergency Communication Committee, has been impressed with Nextdoor's success: "I have been pleasantly surprised at how well it has been received in our neighborhood. My wife, Laura, and I posted a notice for a holiday open house on Nextdoor and we had 20 people attend. A number of them thanked us for organizing the event. Apparently, there hasn't been much mixing across the streets in our neighborhood, so people were delighted to meet others nearby."

Through technology, Nextdoor is helping Los Altos Hills feel a little smaller, a little safer — and a lot friendlier.

OFFICIAL EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION

It is important to know that social networks, like Nextdoor, do not replace traditional emergency notifications from the town's manager, local fire department, or the sheriff's office. Residents will be notified through several different mechanisms simultaneously:

- 1. Rapid Notify** – Individuals can sign up via the Town's website: www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/ (See Emergency Notifications Button on Homepage).
- 2. Direct contact/notification** from law enforcement or fire personnel responding to the incident.
- 3. Alert SCC** (this system can be used to provide specific, detailed information/instruction to a very specific geographical area utilizing the land line telephone, cell phones, texting, or email). All residents are urged to sign up (phone number and/or email address) by visiting www.alertscc.com. All information remains confidential.
- 4. The Emergency Alert System (EAS)** utilizing television and radio broadcasts to notify residents (less specific in hitting a geographical target, but excellent for reaching a very large audience in a short amount of time). Additionally, the **Los Altos Hills County Fire District (LAHCFD)** broadcasts emergency notices via radio station **KFJC (89.7 FM)**. Of course, for reporting any emergencies, residents should immediately call **911**.



TO LEARN MORE:

Visit <https://Nextdoor.com>,
www.alertscc.com,
<http://www.lahcfd.org>

SUNDAY,
JUNE 2

16TH ANNUAL LOS ALTOS HILLS

TOWN PICNIC

The 16th Annual Los Altos Hills Town Picnic will be held on Sunday afternoon, June 2, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at Purissima Park on Viscaino Road. Last year, over two thousand residents attended. The popular attractions from the last few years, including the Classic Car Show, will return in addition to several new entertaining attractions. The picnic is a great way to meet neighbors and fellow residents. Recently, the Community Relations Committee has learned that our dedicated Firefighters Local #1165 (see highlight box below),



who have cooked and served the food, plan to take this year off due to staff retirements, access to equipment, and the closure of a key food supplier. Watch for the Town Picnic flyer to arrive in early May with new information about food for the picnic. As always, cold soft drinks, wine, beer, and ice cream sundaes will be available.

The Town Picnic is organized by the Town Community Relations Committee (CRC) with the help of many volunteers. Residents who would like to volunteer for a half hour or more during the picnic should call 650-947-2518.

KINGS OF THE GRILL

The key ingredient for a delicious picnic is not only the quality of the food, but the people who barbecue it. For the past 14 years, the Town has been fortunate to have the gracious and friendly firefighters from Santa Clara County Firefighters Local #1165, who volunteer to cook food and serve the residents

A day before the event, the members of the fire department begin the preparation of the salad, chili, garlic bread, and watermelon that will be served with the hot food.

While residents get to sleep in on the morning of the Town Picnic, the day begins very early for the firefighters. The fire-

fighters arrive at the Little League field at 7:00 am in order to set up large barbecues and begin the monumental task of cooking chicken for over 1,150 people, hotdogs for over 600, and veggie burgers for over 200, in addition to preparing chili, salad, and garlic bread.

For 14 years, the firefighters have stepped up to the plate and kept pace with the dramatic increase in picnic attendees — from a few hundred in the early years to more than 2,100 last year. The town and residents are very fortunate and grateful for the firefighters' dedication and service that have made each Town Picnic so successful and memorable. On behalf of all residents, the CRC thanks them for all of their hard work, and hope they will be able to return to the Town Picnic in future years.



who attend the Town Picnic.

Weeks in advance of the picnic, the firefighters begin planning for the event. Members of the fire department must order all of the food, condiments, supplies, and arrange shifts for those who will be cooking and serving. The firefighters do not receive any compensation from the town for all their work; however, they are reimbursed for the wholesale cost of the food they order for the picnic.



FROM THE PLANNING DIRECTOR

General Plan Circulation Element Update

The Town of Los Altos Hills is currently in the process of updating the Circulation and Scenic Roadways Element of the General Plan. The Circulation and Scenic Roadways Element, last amended in 1999, is one of seven mandatory elements of the General Plan. The purpose of the Circulation Element is to provide a safe, efficient, and adequate circulation system for the Town and designate the location and extent of existing and proposed major thoroughfares, transportation routes, and local public utilities and facilities.

The California Complete Streets Act (Assembly Bill 1358) requires all cities and counties to integrate "Complete Streets" goals and policies into the Circulation Elements of the General Plans before January 1, 2014. The intent of the state law is to provide for

Complete Streets that are safe and convenient for all users including bicyclists, pedestrians, equestrians, and vehicles. In addition, Complete Streets promote street design and land use policies that can help encourage safe transportation modes, decrease pollution, and foster healthy, active living.

A great example of a Complete Streets project currently under construction is the



Fremont Road Safe Route to School project. The \$1.08 million infrastructure improvement project will provide new paths along both sides of West Fremont Road beginning at the intersection of Concepcion and Fremont Road and

ending at the Edith Avenue bridge. The existing pedestrian pathways adjacent to the roadway will be modified to provide 5- to 6-foot wide bike paths within the project area. The new paths will serve as incentive for parents to encourage their children to walk or bike to school, thereby reducing traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution. The improvements will also provide pedestrians, equestrians, and bicyclists with a safe travel route that connects to Pinewood School, Gardner Bullis School, and downtown Los Altos. The target completion date of the project is March 2013.

Planning and Engineering staff are undertaking the Circulation Element update project with input from the Traffic Safety Committee and Pathways Committee. Once the draft document is ready for public review and comments, the Planning Commission and City Council will hold public hearings prior to its adoption.

Debbie Pedro, Planning Director

Recycling Perfected

In 2008, Los Altos Hills selected GreenWaste Recovery, Inc. (GWR) as the town's recycler. A recent tour of the company by members of the Environmental Initiatives Committee (EIC) indicates that it has lived up to its high standard of recycling excellence, driven by the principle of "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle." Currently, the company has reached a recycling level of about 98% for recyclables collected from the town. It is now even finding markets for used materials that can be reused without requiring processing through a recycling line. Also, the company is finding new markets for their recycled raw material within the

United States rather than shipping it to China, avoiding the costly consumption of transportation energy.

GWR is driving to be a net zero energy-consuming company, something other companies can only dream about. Moreover, in addition to their photovoltaic installation that generates significant electricity necessary to run the company, it has managed to fund and permit their new dry fermentation anaerobic digestion affiliated company that will create recyclable byproduct while producing roughly 5 megawatts of electricity. GWR and its affiliated companies will be phasing out bio-diesel driven machinery by converting them to electricity.

GWR processing lines still requires a lot of hand sorting. Much of the mixed product that arrives by truck to each processing line contains mixed commingled material which gets sorted out of each line and processed appropriately in the other line running parallel to it.

GWR noted that the town's residents are the most recycle-conscious community that they currently service. Because residents carefully sort their recyclables, the company has been able to reach a 98.9% recycle rate. Nevertheless, a GWR representative informed the tour attendees that the following practices will improve the recycle rate: shredded document paper is better processed by putting it in a clear plastic bag and tying the end; all bottle and container caps need to be removed and placed in a clear plastic bag with its end tied in a knot; and recyclable food containers should be scraped cleaned of excess food, but it is not necessary to wash them out with water.



RESTORING ADOBE CREEK

The Town of Los Altos Hills was recently awarded \$83,000 from the Santa Clara Valley Water District's (SCWVD) Environmental Enhancement Implementation Grant Program. These funds are being used to restore Adobe Creek at Edith Park to native riparian habitat and to provide educational outreach to local students. Debbie Pedro, Planning Director for the Town of Los Altos Hills, and Jon Laslett, Project Manager at the Santa Cruz-based habitat restoration firm, Ecological Concerns Incorporated, worked together to secure the grant and plan the project. The native habitat in Edith Park had become overgrown with invasive species; compromising the area's biodiversity. Through removal of invasive species, and planting of natives, the project will greatly

increase native plant diversity along the restored stretch of Adobe Creek and improve habitat quality along this wildlife corridor. The installation of native plants was finished in mid-December and maintenance and monitoring of the work will continue through 2016.

Up the street from the restoration site, Gardner Bullis Elementary School 6th graders have been studying environmental sciences all year and were eager to partner on this community project. Ecological Concerns Inc. provided

planting demonstrations and lessons in ecology on site. The curriculum came full circle when 51 students planted approximately 600 native plants in just two days. Courtney Cadwell, Principal of Gardner Bullis, was pleased with the opportunity, stating: "This was an excellent opportunity for our students to experience the science curriculum in context by exploring local ecosystems while serving the community and the environment."

The SCWVD has recognized the importance of enhancing wetlands, riparian habitat, and stream conditions to secure safe water for future generations, awarding grants worth \$3.4 million for projects in central California. Since 2000, there have been 385 acres of tidal and riparian habitat restored in Santa Clara County. The program has resulted in the protection of endangered species as well as in the creation of safe passage for fish native to California's waterways. Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar said, "Water is the lifeblood of our communities, and we must care for our watersheds and urban waterways around the nation."

To learn more about habitat restoration, contact Michael Friedman at mfriedman@ecologicalconcerns.com or 831-750-2362.





SPRING EVENTS

Hoppin' Hounds Easter Biscuit Hunt

Dogs and their owners are invited to attend the tenth annual Doggie Easter Biscuit Hunt in Los Altos Hills on Saturday, March 23 (9:00 - 11:00 am), at Byrne Preserve. Dogs will hunt through the preserve in search of dog-healthy Easter biscuits in the company of fellow canine



companions. This exciting on-leash event is held to benefit the Palo Alto Animal Services shelter. A \$5 donation is recommended. All proceeds will go directly to Palo Alto Animal Services. For more information, contact Sarah Gualtieri 650-947-2518 or sgualtieri@losaltoshills.ca.gov.

Easter Egg Hunt

Later in the day (March 23), from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at Purissima Park, humans will get a chance to go looking for hidden easter eggs. There will be separate zones for different age groups. Over 5,000 eggs will be hidden, ensuring a fun time for everyone. Eggs can be redeemed for



prizes, snacks, and goodies. Families are encouraged to bring their own hard-boiled eggs to decorate at tables set up with dye kits. It's the perfect opportunity to socialize with neighbors — bring a packed lunch and enjoy a beautiful afternoon at the park, among eggs and friends.

Earth Day Celebration

This year's Earth Day Celebration will be held on Sunday, April 21, at Westwind Community Barn from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. There will be a "Live Wild Cats" education presentation by Leopard's Etc. (pictured above). Presentations of the wild cats are scheduled for 1:30 pm and 3:00 pm. In addition to exhibits by Los Altos Hills Committees, local environmental organizations and school groups electric cars will be on display. Bring cash or a checkbook to do a little green shopping. Los Altos Hills hats, lotion, seeds, wine glasses, produce, and much more will be on sale. Residents should consider reducing their carbon footprint by walking, biking, or carpooling and bringing a reusable water

bottle. For safety reasons related to the wildcat presentation, dogs are not allowed at this event. For more information, contact Sarah Gualtieri 650-947-2518 or sgualtieri@losaltoshills.ca.gov.

12th Annual Pathways Run/Walk

The 12th Annual Pathways Run/Walk will be held at Westwind Community Barn on Saturday, May 11. The event begins at the starting line at the barn, at various times (depending on the event) and continues through the Byrne Preserve and the Los Altos Hills pathways system. The run features a 5K and 10K Pathways Run/Walk that begins at 9:00 am. The fee for



this event is \$20, or \$25 on the day of the race; group registrations of 10 or more are \$20 per person. A less taxing 1-Mile Fun Run will begin at 10:30 am. The fee for this event is \$15 or \$20 on the day of the race. To register, volunteer, or for more information, contact Sarah Gualtieri 650-947-2518, sgualtieri@losaltoshills.ca.gov or visit the event website at www.lahpathwaysrun.org.

Despite being an annoyance at picnics, the yellowjacket is a very beneficial insect. By understanding its life cycle, residents can implement simple and effective control measures to minimize colonies near homes. However, considering the yellowjackets' benefits to the garden, some residents may choose to tolerate their activities rather than eliminate them altogether.



YELLOW JACKET

Not all yellow and black wasps are yellowjackets, nor do they behave like yellowjackets. The yellowjacket is a vespid wasp that lives in colonies typically established in an existing burrow in the ground. There are many other yellow and black wasps that are solitary and establish their paper nests in plants or attached to eaves. These wasps do not have the large populations typical of the yellowjacket in the "pest" phase of its life history. All wasps are the natural enemies of other insects, which they feed to their larvae. Wasps help control flies, beetles, caterpillars, and aphids, among others. They also help the decay cycle by eating carrion. They are not pollinators like the honey bee, but like the honey bee, they are important to California's agriculture industry.

Life Cycle and Behavior

The yellowjacket life cycle includes a queen that lays eggs, female workers, and males that are produced at the end of the summer for mating. Typically the colony dies once cold weather sets in, except for the new queens that mate, overwinter, and emerge in the spring to establish a new colony. The new queen, or "foundress," will find a suitable burrow, start the nest, and produce a few non-reproductive workers. Once those mature, the queen stays in the nest to lay eggs, while the workers tend her, enlarge the nest, and gather protein and

sugar to feed the larvae. From spring to mid-summer, the nests grow in size and the larvae require mostly protein. By late summer, nest growth slows and the wasps focus on gathering sugar to maintain the queen, workers, and reproductives (new queens and males). By fall, the males and future queens leave the colony to mate. The males die, the new queens find a place to overwinter, and the cycle begins again. In mild climates some yellowjacket colonies survive for several years, contain multiple queens, and become quite large. Colonies can reach 15,000 individuals.

The wasps subdue their insect prey by stinging repeatedly with barbless stingers. The vespid wasps also chew the captured prey before feeding it to the larvae. Wasps are not usually aggressive unless they are disturbed. However, they vigorously defend their nest and are able to attract their sisters with an aggregation chemical.

They may also release this chemical when they are swatted at the picnic table.

Summertime Activity

During the summer, the workers constantly forage to support the colony. They work especially hard at the end of summer to prepare a queen so that the cycle will start again. Their activity increases in late summer because there are more of them and they have an important goal to meet. They also seek sugar late in the season because they are done raising larvae and are no longer getting a sugary juice that the larvae produce. At a picnic, barbecued chicken and open soda cans attract yellowjackets because they are a gold mine of protein and sugar.

Effective Trapping

In order to catch queens and reduce the number of colonies, homeowners should set out yellowjacket traps in February or March, and bait them with protein, such as turkey ham. Traps set out later in the year will catch the workers that are attracted to the chemical provided with the traps. Use protein bait until mid-summer, and apple juice or honey bait in late summer and fall. Yellowjackets forage one-quarter mile from their colonies, so it is not possible to control all of them. Place traps away from open eating areas.

For more information: www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7450.html.

FAST FACTS

Many other insects mimic the coloration of yellowjackets in order to deceive predators.

Nests are built out of wood fiber chewed into a paper-like pulp. Nests are rarely used twice.

Yellowjackets are a source of food for skunks, bears, and birds.

The larvae secrete a sugar material relished by the workers.

THE BEAUTY OF

Greywater

Greywater is the water produced from water from washing machines, bathroom sinks, showers, and tubs — that can be recycled directly on site for use as landscape irrigation in the garden. Over 50% of water used inside the house is suitable for greywater use, a potential and significant reduction in sewer and septic demands. Wastewater from toilets or kitchen sinks, designated as blackwater because it contains waste, is never recycled in greywater systems. Unfiltered greywater cannot be stored more than 24 hours or it is classified as blackwater. Since greywater is recycled, it is less expensive than imported tap water.

The most common use of greywater is in the garden. It can be routed outside through a subsurface drip system to water plants and shrubs. Dirt, soap, oils, hair, and certain cleaning products in greywater are safe and even beneficial as irrigation water. If released into creeks, the nutrients in greywater become pollutants, but to plants, they are valuable nutrients.

The simplest method of greywater reuse is to capture shower warm-up water in a bucket and use it to flush toilets or water plants. The most



common residential greywater system is laundry-to-landscape. California law allows laundry-to-landscape and single-fixture (shower or bathroom sink) to landscape use without requiring a permit. More complex systems require permits and inspections. The Packard Foundation's LEED platinum building in Los Altos re-routes sink basin and HVAC condensation water to flush toilets and irrigate plants.

Laura Allen, founder of Greywater Action, notes the importance of finding out what chemicals are in the products you use: "When I built my first greywater system I investigated the contents of my soaps and detergents and found they contained toxins and

carcinogens, even though they were advertised as 'all natural.'

I changed all the products I used so they would be good for me and for my plants." Boron, bleach, and other common chemicals in laundry soaps are toxic to plants and not so good for humans, either.

Conservation is still the best approach to reduce your water budget. In Los Altos Hills, irrigation accounts for nearly 70% of residential water usage. Climate-suitable plants, such as California native plants, significantly reduce water requirements. Make a water pledge and reduce your draw of water from California's sensitive watersheds.

To learn more about water conservation, visit greywateraction.org, whollyh2o.org, or valleywater.org. Residents are also invited to attend a greywater workshop, sponsored by Los Altos Hills Water Conservation Committee and GreenTown Los Altos, on March 23 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Contact Kit Gordon at water@greentownlosaltos.org for more information.

The oil and acrylic paintings of Los Altos Hills resident Ry Smith will be featured at Town Hall March 19, 2013 – August 28, 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

THE ART OF RY SMITH

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.



RECEPTION
MARCH 31
2:00-5:00 PM



When students heard that parents and teachers are fundraising this year for science lab equipment, the kids threw up their hands and cheered. Gardner Bullis School is passionate about science. Students start by studying nature in kindergarten and by sixth grade, students come to understand complex ecosystems. Putting theory into practice, 51 sixth graders planted about 600 native plants along Adobe Creek at Edith Park as part of Santa Clara Valley Water District's habitat restoration project. With proper science equipment, students will delve more fully into physical sciences and explore the microscopic world of nature.

A former middle school teacher, James Thurber teaches fourth grade at Gardner Bullis School. Science allows students to work physically together to try something new and to see what happens, better preparing them for middle school. Thurber says, "We go to school for three things: one, learn to play with other kids; two, learn how to work with others; three, discover what you love to do. And hopefully, a few will discover a love for science."

Crazy for Science

On March 20, Gardner Bullis School will host the second annual Science Fair Open House. By participating, students hone their skills to question, assemble evidence, and reason. According to parent organizer Vladimir Ivanovic, "Studying science helps us ask the right questions, understand what counts as evidence for or against a particular question, and what is a valid argument and what is not." Ivanovic encourages all students to participate in the fair because "studying science prepares us to think critically and helps us make better decisions."

Gardner Bullis School invites the community to the Science Fair Open House on March 20 (see magnifying glass, right) and to view a short video on the web site about the school. Also, Gardner Bullis School welcomes community donations to purchase science lab equipment. For details, please visit the web site at www.gardnerbullis.org.

SCIENCE FAIR OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, March 20

6:00 to 7:00 pm
(awards at 6:30 pm)

Gardner Bullis School
Multipurpose Room
25890 W. Fremont Rd.

TEACHERS RECEIVE NATIONAL CERTIFICATION FOR PROFESSIONALISM

In a day and age when many teachers seem to have more and more hurdles to surmount in helping their students reach their potential, Bullis Charter School (BCS) is fortunate to not only have teachers who are committed to overcoming these challenges but also reaching new heights as professionals in the teaching field. BCS faculty members Jo Lansdown and Jennifer Anderson-Rosse recently joined the 3% of all California teachers who are certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). NBPTS is the source for the highest standards and best practices that lead to improved teaching, leading, and learning.

"I am honored to join a group of educators that is so highly valued for professionalism and commitment to the craft of teaching" said



Anderson-Rosse. National Board Certification is another part of education reform that is advancing student learning, improving teaching and making schools better. Teachers who achieve certification have met high standards through study, expert evaluation, self-assessment, and peer review. "Taking on this challenge forces you to fully examine your teaching practice and repeatedly ask yourself, 'Could I do that better?'"

Lansdown added, "The most exciting part comes in realizing you can, working on it, and then seeing it payoff when students become impassioned about learning." Receiving this certification is a part of the professional expectations of all BCS educators, which also figures into the staff-developed, performance-based compensation model that is in the process of being implemented.

Lansdown and Anderson-Rosse now join the 12% of the BCS teaching faculty that have already received their certification as well as a number of other faculty already well on their way to being certified. This is truly a testament to how BCS faculty and students alike continue to exhibit a commitment to educational excellence.

Above: Jo Lansdown works with BCS students on executing and reflecting activities as a part of their physical education curriculum.

A New Leash ON LIFE

Los Altos Hills is committed to effective, courteous, and responsive animal care and control services for the residents of our community.

The Town recognizes that it has some of the most beautiful pathways and open space lands available in the Peninsula area for use by residents

and their four-legged companions. The lands are also inhabited and used by other domesticated animals and wildlife. The goal of the Town is to provide and protect the health and well-being of all people and animals through the enforcement of ordinances governing the ownership of animals. Equally important to the success of enforcement is public awareness through education of our animal

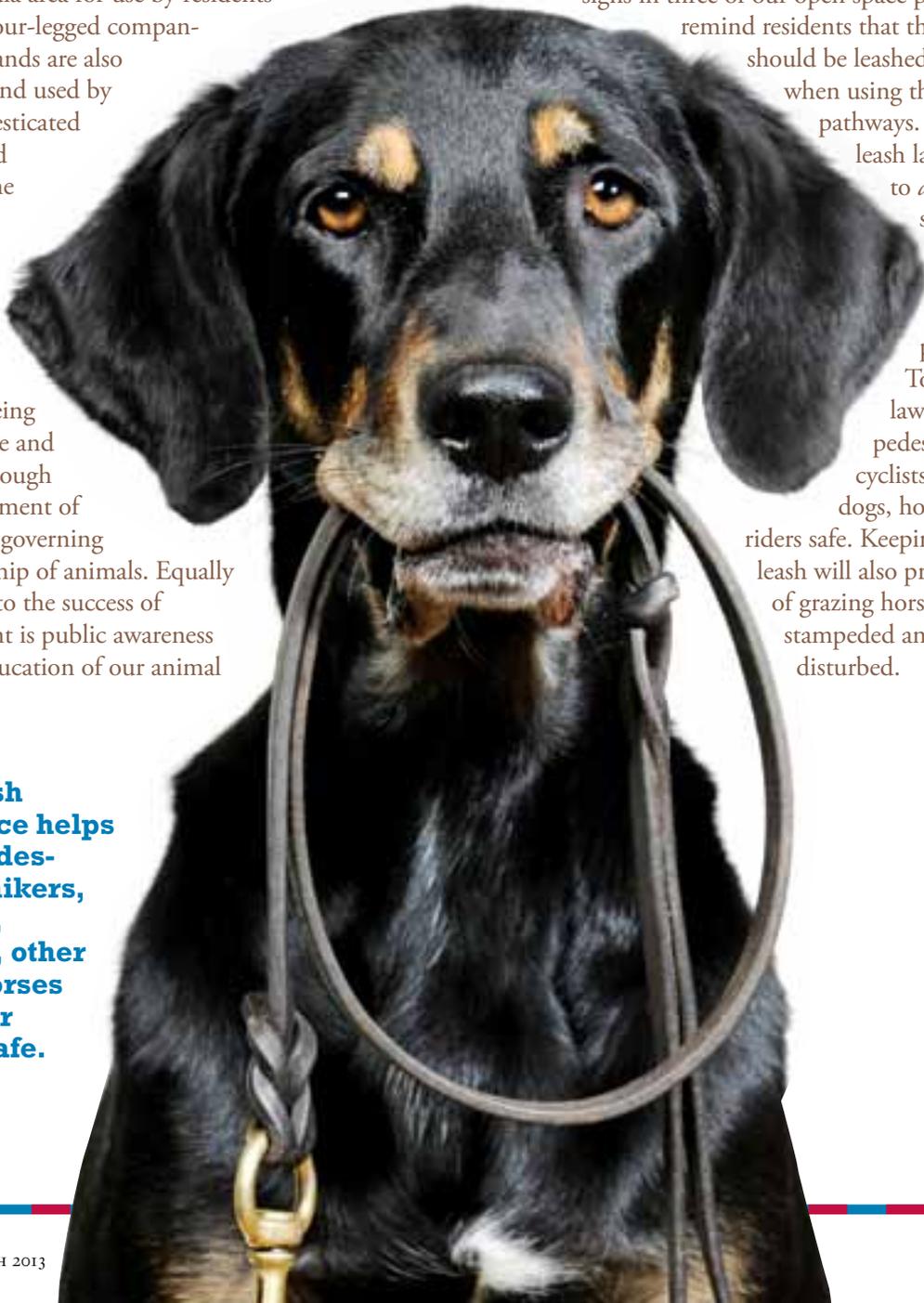
ordinances — to demonstrate to residents that the community cares for their protection by solving animal-related issues with solutions that work.

With that end in mind, the Town, at the request of the Open Space Committee, has recently posted new signs in three of our open space preserves to

remind residents that their animals should be leashed at all times when using the preserves and pathways. However, the leash law also applies to *all* pathways, sidewalks, streets, and public areas.

The purpose of the Town's leash law is to keep pedestrians, hikers, cyclists, wildlife, other dogs, horses and their riders safe. Keeping dogs on a leash will also prevent incidents of grazing horses being stampeded and wildlife being disturbed.

The leash ordinance helps keep pedestrians, hikers, cyclists, wildlife, other dogs, horses and their riders safe.



The Duvenecks

PART
TWO

Once construction was completed on their new Spanish Mediterranean house in 1930, the Duvenecks moved in, permanently settling in at Hidden Villa. This was the most significant event in their lives, and it took on great significance for the community and the country.

In her autobiography, *Life on Two Levels*, Josephine wrote: "One evening not too long after the move, I was alone sitting... by the open fire. As I looked around the room... it seemed to me that our dream had materialized. The room was indeed a lovely setting. Yet something was missing; it was still only a backdrop with... no soul. I realized that human relationships provide the only real dynamic in an environment. The subtle essence that we call atmosphere was still to be created by those living within the four walls and by the friends or strangers who would pass through. What happened here would make the difference between just a house and a home. This thought laid on me a deep responsibility for the development of the quality that I desired."

Following the Duveneck's desire to fill Hidden Villa with human relationships, Hidden Villa developed into a hub for social, educational, environmental, and humanitarian activities. One of the first projects to attract people to Hidden Villa was initiated in 1937 with the founding of the Pacific Slope's first Youth Hostel. World War II refugees and Japanese-American victims of the World War II "relocation" – internment – were released to Hidden Villa. Gatherings included religious groups, Native American dances and feasts, interracial parties, and fundraisers. Minority groups were welcome and organizers like Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta used Hidden Villa as a safe place to organize California's first farm workers strike. While the hostel was a big step toward bringing people together, it was only the beginning.

In response to the state of race relations, the Duvenecks decided to found the Nation's first multicultural residential summer camp in 1945. Josephine strongly believed that she could help prevent the development of deeply ingrained cultural prejudices by bringing children together from different backgrounds and providing them with opportunities to build



healthy and supportive relationships. Therefore, the Duvenecks recruited privileged children as well as minority and disadvantaged children and counselors. While the ground-breaking idea of a multicultural camp lacked popularity at its inception, Hidden Villa Summer Camp turned out to be extremely successful.

By 1960, Hidden Villa's programs and activities continued to grow and Duvenecks decided to incorporate Hidden Villa's educational operations as a nonprofit organization. Hidden Villa charged reasonable fees for the camp; scholarships were provided for children who could not afford the fees. The Duvenecks paid all the taxes, utilities, maintenance, and capital improvement costs for the camp.

In the late 1960s, the Duvenecks recognized another emerging community need as local teachers increasingly requested class field trips to Hidden Villa. As the Bay Area was being rapidly urbanized, opportunities for agricultural and wilderness experiences had virtually disappeared, and there was concern that this would lead

to children losing perspective of their place in the world and an important element of self-understanding. Encouraged by their success with Summer Camp, Josephine and Frank worked with local teachers to launch the Hidden Villa Environmental Education Program (HVEEP) in 1970, providing school children with ranch and wilderness experiences and creating opportunities to develop awareness for the relationships among all living things and their connection with the natural world. HVEEP went on to become their largest program at Hidden Villa and to date has served over half a million students, teachers, and parents. Josephine and Frank Duveneck maintained other interests: helping to found the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club, serving in leadership roles with local Friends groups, the Palo Alto City Council, and the Palo Alto Community Center. They were also very involved with the Peninsula School, which opened in 1925, offering a progressive, Montessori program. It was a family affair: all the children attended the school, Josephine was school director for 16 years, and Frank taught mathematics, shop, and served on the board.

Josephine Duveneck passed away in 1978 and 7 years later, Frank Duveneck passed away. Soon after the death of their parents, the four children — Elizabeth, Francis, Hope, and Bernard — transferred a majority of their inherited land at 26870 Moody Road to the nonprofit organization incorporated by their parents. The Duvenecks left their programs, land, and legacy in the care of the Bay Area community, which continues to support approximately 50% of their \$2.8 million annual operating budget with generous donations (the other 50% is raised through program fees, rentals, and agricultural products). The educational organization continues to operate core programs, like Summer Camp and HVEEP, and has added many new programs in response to changing community needs. Hidden Villa remains the Duvenecks' greatest living legacy, embodying their vision, action, and generosity. Their inspiration continues to shape the character of the town of Los Altos Hills.



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 April 1, 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

Gary Waldeck, Mayor
 John Radford, Vice Mayor
 Courtenay Corrigan
 John Harpootlian
 Rich Larsen

CALENDAR

March 23

Sat, 10:00 am-1:00 pm
DIY Greywater Workshop
 Contact Kit Gordon at water@greentownlosaltos.org for more information.

Saturday, 9:00 am
Hoppin' Hounds Easter Biscuit Hunt
 Bring your dog to Byrne Preserve for an on-leash biscuit hunt benefiting Palo Alto Animal Services shelter. A \$5 donation is requested. Call 650-947-2518 for more information.



Sat., 11:00 am-1:00 pm
Easter Egg Hunt
 Bring hard-boiled eggs as decorations and dye kits will be available. Pack a picnic lunch and bring your camera. Visit www.lahfamily.com for more information.

Sat., 9:30 am-1:00 pm
"ENCORE! Investigate Your Passion and Get Involved" event
 Sponsored by Los Altos Rotary. Visit <http://www.rotaryPeg.org> to register

27
Two sessions: March 27, April 3, 6:30 pm (Wed.)
Large Animal Evacuation Training
 Learn about large animal evacuation plans. Held

at El Monte Fire Station. Free. Contact Mike Sanders at 650-922-1055.

31
Sunday, 2:00-5:00 p.m.
Art by Ry Smith
Reception at Town Hall
 For more information, please call 650-941-7222. Exhibit dates March 19 – August 28.

April 21
Sunday, 1:00-4:00 pm
Earth Day Celebration
 Farmers market, electric vehicle car show, wild cats and reptiles and much more. For



more information, call 650-947-2518.

May 11

Saturday, 9:00 am
Pathways Run/Walk
 For more information and to register, visit www.lahpathwaysrun.org.

June 2

Sunday, 1:00-4:00 pm
Town Picnic at Purissima Park
 Open to all residents of Los Altos Hills. Must make reservations to attend. For more information see page 3 and look for flyer in May.

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

