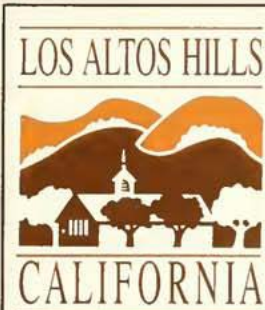


# Los Altos Hills Town Newsletter - December 2001

## Table of Contents:

<a href="#">Page 1</a>	Public Safety - Who is on the Disaster Council and what does it do?, Terrorism and Emergency Response, Safe pathways walk
<a href="#">Page 2</a>	City Manager's Report - Town's Insurance and ABAG Plan - Foothill College Briefing on Measure E, Update on new Administrative Services Director Sarah Joiner, Conferencing to begin at Taaffe House, Public Works and Engineering Report
<a href="#">Page 3</a>	Planning Department Report, Progress Report on New Town Hall, Library Report, Parks and Recreation - Kids Play Park to be installed at Little League Fields
<a href="#">Page 4</a>	Community Volunteers Needed, America's Fund for Afghan Children, 325 Gallons a day per person? Really!
<a href="#">Page 5</a>	A Proclamation in Support of the President of The United States of America, Pathways Report - Caroling in The Hills, Share the Roads and Pathways, Art Students paint pumpkins
<a href="#">Page 6</a>	Public Safety (continued from Page One), Dedication of Newsletter - To Citizens whose lives were lost in the terrorist attack September 11th.

## Page 1



Los Altos Hills

# TOWN NEWSLETTER

Volume XXIV No. 4

December 2001

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**December 20:**  
Holiday Caroling, meet at Town Hall at 7 PM, Refreshments.

**Mark Your Calendars: Pathways Walk Schedule - 9:30 AM, Call Town Hall at 941-7222 for meeting location: Dates: Jan. 5, Feb. 2, Mar. 2, 2002.**

**January 19 & 20:**

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Emergency Services

Los Altos Hills Municipal Code TITLE 4. PUBLIC SAFETY – CHAPTER 1. EMERGENCY SERVICES provides for the preparation and carrying out of plans for the protection of persons and property within the Town in the event of an emergency and to provide for the coordination of the emergency function of the Town with all other public agencies and affected private persons, corporations, and organizations.

### What is an Emergency?

An emergency is defined as the actual or threatened existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the Town caused by such conditions



## TERRORISM AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The quality of effectiveness of any organization can be judged by how it responds to unexpected. Following the events of September 11, 2001 the Los Altos Hills City Council the following steps to augment the Emergency Operations Plan:

- Authorized a mailing to residents requiring their voluntary sharing of e-mail addresses and fax numbers for emergency notification purposes;
- Formed the Emergency Communication Committee and merged the Safety and Utility and Information Systems Committees;
- Updated the Emergency Operations Plan

Friends of the Library Used Book Sale

**February 2:** Crab Feed and Auction, Hillview Community (Benefits Los Altos History Museum)

**Town Clean-Up Dates for 2002:**

- March 2
- June 8
- September 7

Locations and details will be sent to all customers by the Los Altos Garbage Company.

For additional information, please call City Clerk Pat Dowd at 941-7222.

as air pollution, fire, flood, storm, epidemic, riot, earthquake or other conditions, including conditions resulting from war or the imminent threat of war.



**Who Serves on the Disaster Council?**

The Los Altos Hills Disaster Council shall be made up of the Mayor, who shall be the chairman; the Mayor Pro Tem, vice-chairman; the City Manager, who shall develop emergency preparedness plans and organize the civil preparedness program of the Town and perform other duties delegated by the chairman; the Sheriff of the county and the Chief of the Los Altos County Fire Protection District or their designees; the Chief of Police or his designee and representatives of civic, business, labor, veteran, military, professional, or other organizations having an official group or organization with civil preparedness responsibility may be appointed by the Disaster Council.

**What Does the Disaster Council Do?**

The Disaster Council is empowered to review and recommend for adoption by the City Council civil preparedness and mutual aid plans and agreements and such ordinances, resolutions rules and regulations as are necessary to implement such

*(Continued on page 6)*

- Approved a contract Public Safety Officer position funded by COPS monies to do emergency planning and training and provide assistance to the merged Committee;

- Directed the City Manager, in the role Director of Emergency Services, to coordinate the Town's Disaster Council with other group individuals involved in provision of emergency services.

**SAFE PATHWAYS WALK**



*Pictured above is Bonnie Finstlwait, owner/trainer with her beautiful German shepherd, "Thunder", enjoying the fall leaves on one of their favorite native paths in LAH.*

**Page 2**

**THE TOWN NEWSLETTER**

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

**Summary of Town Insurance Coverage's - ABAG Plan Corporation**

Los Altos Hills participates in and receives insurance and risk management/claims services through the ABAG Plan joint powers authority. The Town, along with twenty-nine other municipalities in the Bay Area, reaps significant financial savings through low premiums by participating in this pooled plan. Since its formation in 1986, the Plan has grown from 21 members to 30 with assets of over \$30M. Thanks to excellent loss prevention and risk management, members have received over \$20M in equity distribution in addition to low premiums. As LAH City Manager, I represent the Town as a Plan Board member and serve on the Plan's Executive Committee



*City Manager Maureen Cassingham*

at Town Hall after November 26th and I will be happy to introduce you to Sarah.

**Conferencing To Begin at Taaffe House**

The Packard Foundation has completed the restoration/improvements to the Packard home, now known as The Taaffe House, and will begin using it for charitable conferencing and meetings on November 5, 2001 under their Conditional Use Permit approved in December, 1999. Staff visited the site on October 29th and will work with John Pihl, Director of Workplace Services, to assure effective implementation and adherence to the conditions of the CUP.

*—Maureen Cassingham  
City Manager*

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

### Foothill College Community Briefing on Measure E Facilities Construction

On October 9th, members of the LAH's Town leadership and management, serving as members of the President Fong's Advisory Council, attended a Community Briefing to learn more about the College's facilities master plan, new construction and relocation/demolition of existing buildings due to the discovery of the actual path of the earthquake fault under the campus. Measure E and other locally funded projects are budgeted at \$121M including funding for a new Student Services Building, the renovated Center for Innovation, a new Student Center and Plaza and a Biotech Building. New construction per President Fong will have virtually no impact on the surrounding residences. The first vestiges of these projects will be the siting of portables on the campus beginning in November 2001. The few neighbors in attendance seemed accepting of the proposed projects and were satisfied with the answers the College staff provided to their questions.

### Update on Arrival of New Administrative Services Director

Sarah Joiner, the Town's new ASD, will begin her duties on Monday, November 26th. Under the direction of the City Manager, the Administrative Services Director oversees the Town's financial services and plans, organizes and directs the internal administrative activities of the town. This includes the maintenance and monitoring of financial and accounting systems, preparation and analysis of financial statements, personnel, employee benefits and contract administration, data processing, treasury functions and preparation of the Town's operating and capital improvement budgets. This position works with the Town's Finance and Investment Committee. She has initiated significant contact with our office in this interim period and has been provided a number of reports to assist her in "hitting the ground running." Please stop by when you are

*We wish all of the residents of the Town a safe  
Happy Holiday Season.  
We look forward to a Happy New Year!*

### PUBLIC WORKS & ENGINEERING REPORT

At this time, the Public Works and Engineering Departments use the winter months for planning. During this period, we work on next summer's construction projects.

Since we just started our 5-yr Capital Improvement Program, we are spending sometime to set the scope and schedule for our street rehabilitation and Pavement Management Program and other programs like sanitary sewer and storm drainage plans.



*Min-Tze Cheng, City Engineer  
&  
Director of Public Works*

Maintenance crews and some of engineering staff are also devoting time to ensure town wide erosion control measures are adequate for the winter.

*— Min-Tze Cheng, Public Works Director*

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

### PLANNING DEPARTMENT REPORT

Town Planning approvals for new development since September 2001, include the following: five new residences approved through the Fast Track review process, three major additions, one second unit, eight swimming pools and thirteen landscape screening plans.



### LIBRARY

The Great Decisions discussion series on foreign policy will be held on Monday mornings (10 a.m. to noon) from February 4 through April 1 in the Los Altos Library Program Room. No session on February 18. For more information, call the Adult Reference Desk at 948-7683 x3519.

The Friends of the Los Altos Library will hold a used book sale January 18-20 at Hillview Community Center, 97 Hillview Avenue, Los Altos. Hours are Friday, 7-9 p.m. for members only; Saturday 10-2; and Sunday 12-3.

The Planning Commission reviewed one lot line adjustment application, three variance requests and five conditional use permit requests for existing and proposed cellular antenna facilities.



*Planning Director Carl Cahill*

The Planning Commission continues to study the relationship between building height and setbacks with the assistance of two local architects. The Commission is exploring methods to allow minor increases in building height as an incentive to promote architectural diversity, greater setbacks and to prevent neighbors from losing views as a result of structural placement.

The Commission anticipates forwarding its recommendations to the City Council in January or February.

The Commission watched an American Planning Association training video on public meeting management on November 8th.

— Carl Cahill, Planning Director

## PROGRESS REPORT ON NEW TOWN HALL

City Council has approved the space concept and utilization for the new Mission style Town Hall. Besides updating the physical structure to meet current seismic and safety codes, the new space will provide for the ability to serve the public & residents more efficiently and also provide a more pleasant work environment for the staff. Space will increase from the current 5000 to 6500 square feet. The following additional space utilization will be provided for in the new Town Hall: an overflow room to accommodate city council meeting attendees of up to 100 residents. When not needed, this overflow space can be used for town committee and community meetings. In addition a spacious employee lounge with a catering kitchen for community receptions has been designed. The reception area where residents are greeted is much improved with a conference room nearby. A small space has been added for the use of council members and the part-time Parks & Recreation staff person. The U shaped shape has been designed for a wonderful out-door/indoor feeling with a large courtyard.

Cash only, please. On Sunday books will be sold by the bag. Membership applications are available at the Los Altos Library.

The Los Altos Library offers a variety of storytimes for children:

- Toddlertime (for children ages 18 months- 3 years) is Tuesdays 10:30-10:50 a.m. and 11:30 - 11:50 a.m. Includes stories, songs, and flannelboards.
- Preschool storytime (for children ages 3-5) is Wednesdays and Thursdays 10:30-11 a.m.
- Bedtime storytime (for children ages 3 and up) is Thursdays 7-7:30 p.m. Wear your pajamas!
- Woodland Branch Library offers a bedtime storytime on Mondays at 7 p.m. for children ages 4 and up.

For more information, call the Children's Reference Desk at 948-7683 x3525.

A talk on "Dreaming with Open Eyes: Dada and Surrealism," an exhibit at the San Francisco Palace of the Legion of Honor, will be held on Wednesday, February 27 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Los Altos Library Program Room.

## PARKS & RECREATION

At long last a "play park" will be installed at the Little League Baseball Field on Purissima Road. Using funds from the Roberti-Z' Berg-Harris Park Bond Act, the City Council approved funding in the amount of \$41,220 to develop a play area for the kids. The site is ideal for children to use while older siblings are playing in the Little League Fields and for families who reside on the west side of Los Altos Hills.



— Rebecca Hickman, Co-chair Parks & Recreation Committee

## THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

325 GALLONS A DAY PER PERSON?  
REALLY?!

Volunteers are needed for the following positions:

- Exhibit Curator
- Youth Commissioner
- Environmental Design & Protection Committee
- Parks & Recreation Committee

Applications are available in the City Clerk's Office at  
Town Hall

26379 Fremont Road during regular office hours  
(8:00 a.m. to noon, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.).

If you have any questions, please call  
City Clerk Pat Dowd at 941-7222.

### AMERICA'S FUND FOR AFGHAN CHILDREN

The City Council stated their support of  
President Bush's suggestion that every child  
in the United States send a \$1.00 donation  
to the children in Afghanistan.



The Council has asked the children in Los Altos Hills to  
participate in this program and send their donation to Town  
Hall to the attention of the American's Fund for Afghan  
Children. The donations will then be sent to the White  
House as a show of support for this worthwhile effort.



### 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  
2001 Newsletter will be published quarterly in the months of March,  
June, September, and December. Deadline for the next issue is  
January 31, 2002.

Internet Address: [www.losaltoshills.ca.gov](http://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov)

#### About Our Publication

The Town Newsletter is published with assistance from our  
Town Volunteer Committees.  
Editor: Dorothy Duffy Price

Associate Editors: Barbara Lamparter, Landa Seidel, Karen Emerzian

#### Los Altos Hills City Council

- Tom Casey, Mayor • Robert Fenwick, Mayor Pro Tem
- Emily Cheng • Steve Finn • Mike O'Malley



Recycled Paper

*(Erratum: In the last issue of the Town Newsletter, the water story incorrectly stated the volume of water consumed daily. The correct amount is 325 gallons per person daily, not per household. Dan Seidel, member of the PHWB graciously has written this article summarizing the need to conserve our water consumption. - Ed.)*

**YES—REALLY!** It is true that Los Altos Hills residents use more water than any other community on the Peninsula. A survey by the Bay Area Water Users Association covering 27 water utilities found the average per person consumption to be 96 gallons per day. That includes all uses from brushing your teeth to watering your lawn. Some of the high users were:

Daily gallons per person

1. Purissima Hills Water District ..... 325
2. Hillsborough ..... 290
3. Portola Valley ..... 160
4. Menlo Park/Atherton ..... 150

What does it mean? During the past four years we have experienced above normal or normal rainfall and water supply, and there have been no shortages. During the same period, the Purissima Hills Water District has seen a steady increase in consumption, some from growth, and some from general demand.

Over 90 percent of the water usage in our community is for irrigation. The District now exceeds its supply allotment from the San Francisco PUC by over 30 percent, and in the event of a drought, this excess consumption will have to be pared back.

In addition, the PUC could impose a further 20 percent reduction in water deliveries. Obviously, irrigation is the logical place to reduce consumption. As we enter the cool (and hopefully rainy) winter months, now is the time to adjust your automatic irrigation programs and cut back on excess watering.

It's also a good time to review your landscaping plans and irrigation systems and consider how your water consumption can be reduced for next year.

—Dan Seidel



*Pictured above is Dan Alexander standing next to the amount of water used by a single LAH household every day—325 gallons a day per person? Really?!*

### PG&E UPDATE

For energy saving tips and cashback rebate information please call the Smarter Energy Line at 1-800-933-9555 or visit [www.pge.com](http://www.pge.com).



# THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

September 20, 2001

## A PROCLAMATION IN SUPPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*In the wake of the events of September 11, 2001, the Los Altos Hills City Council shares in the emotions of shock, of grief, of anger, and with resolve that all Americans feel and with them we unite behind the President as our national leader.*

*We concur with the President's statement calling the attacks "acts of war." The nature of the attacks, and their likely source, make it abundantly clear that the terrorist's target was not some specific institution of the United States or our Middle East policies, but the target was our values, our way of life, and most obviously, our people.*

*The Los Altos Hills Council supports the President's aim at destroying the capacity of terrorist networks to function.*

*President George W. Bush: "America was targeted for attack because we're the brightest beacon for freedom and opportunity in the world. And no one will keep that light from shining."*

*-- Adopted by unanimous vote of the City Council*

## PATHWAYS REPORT

### Caroling in the Hills

All residents of Los Altos Hills are invited to participate in the Second Annual Holiday Caroling Party on December 20, 2001. Members of the Community Relations Committee will provide treats in the Town Hall at 7:00 PM, where participants are encouraged to gather and observe the gingerbread houses, which were made by children in a special holiday class sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Committee. Following a brief warm-up of voices and holiday spirit, the carolers will follow paths to many nearby homes for surprise holiday music. The evening will conclude with warm refreshments at Town Hall. This event was initiated last year with over fifty residents participating. All residents of the town are invited to join their neighbors for a wonderful evening of friendship and song.

*—Ginger Summit, co-chair Pathways Committee*

### Monthly Pathways Walkabouts

To introduce residents to not-so-well-known pathways in the town, the Pathways Committee is starting monthly Walkabouts on the first Saturdays of each month. For the coming months, the walks are scheduled for January 5, February 2 and March 2. They are planned to start around 9:30 AM and will last approximately one to one and one half hours. All ages are welcome. Because they will take place in different parts of the town, meeting places will vary. Call the Town Hall at 941-7222 for a schedule of meeting places and tentative maps for planned



*Scott Vanderlip and kids share the holiday spirit with neighbors.*

## SHARE THE ROADS AND PATHWAYS

With winter weather approaching our lovely and inviting Town, it is time to remember that many forms of transportation use our roads and pathways system. In sharing our system with both residents and out of Town users, it is important to remember that safety and courtesy are paramount to the success of our transportation system.



Pedestrians and equestrians should use the pathways in lieu of the street when and where possible; bicyclists should obey traffic laws and ride single file when not passing and cars should share the roads and control their speeds. It is clear that our beautiful Town attracts many outdoor users as one would hope. Cooperation and patience will lead us to many more enjoyable walks, rides and drives through the hills.

*—Ken Olcott, Member Pathways Committee & Liaise  
Santa Clara County Bicycle Advisory Committee*

## ART STUDENTS PAINT PUMPKINS



*Painted pumpkins are art students from Susan Burchow's Basic Drawing class at BHS.*

hikes.

—Nancy Ewald, co-chair Pathways Committee

PHOTO ABOVE ARE ART STUDENTS FROM SHILOH MIDDLE SCHOOL DRAWING CUES AT THE school. The giant pumpkins are in front of Vince Zunino's home on Ascension Drive. grows the pumpkins from seeds and competed in the Pumpkin Festival in Half Moon. His pumpkin weighed in at 831 pounds. The winner weighed in at 1,016 pounds.

**Page 6**

**THE TOWN NEWSLETTER**

*(Public Safety continued from page 1)*

plans and agreements. The Disaster Council shall meet as least semiannually.

**Who Is Our Director of Emergency Services?**

The City Manager serves as the Director of Emergency Services. The Planning Director serves as the Assistant Director of Emergency Services. If the Planning Director is not available, the Director of Finance steps in.

**What Is the Role of the Director of Emergency Services?**

The Director of Emergency Services proclaims the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency and the termination of such an emergency, subject to confirmation by the City Council at the earliest practicable time. Also, the Director may request the Governor through appropriate channels to proclaim a state of emergency when the resources of the Town are inadequate to cope with the emergency. Additionally, the Director controls and directs or

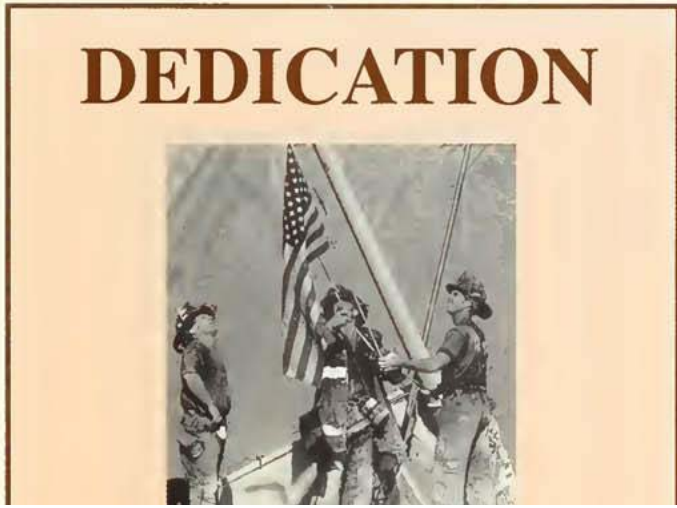
provides for the Emergency Services Organization of the Town for the accomplishment of the emergency services.

**How Does The Director Get Resources?**

The Director of Emergency Services makes and issues rules and regulations on matters related to the protection of life and property as affected by an emergency and obtains necessary resources to address the emergency.

**Are Citizens Involved?**

The Director may command the aid of as many citizens of the community as needed in the execution of his/her duties. These citizens shall be entitled to all the privileges that State laws provide regarding benefits and immunities as for registered disaster service worker volunteers.



RD - THOMAS E. FRANKLIN - AP

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

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*We dedicate this Town Newsletter  
to all of our fellow citizens whose lives were lost  
or forever changed by the terrorist massacre on  
September 11, 2001.*

*We support our government's efforts to eradicate  
terrorism around the globe in order to build a  
safer world and a more peaceful future.*