

Los Altos Hills Town Newsletter - June 2001

Table of Contents:

- [Page 1](#) LUF Committee Report, New ordinance addressing MFA/MDA Minimums for small lots, Town Survey results available
- [Page 2](#) City Manager's Report - Budget status - Town Hall Building status - City Engineer recruitment status - IT needs assessment and goal setting - Council/Staff retreat, Introducing new City Manager - Maureen Cassingham
- [Page 3](#) Planning Director's Report, Public Works Report - Reconstruction of Elena, Editor's Message - Switzerland in our backyard
- [Page 4](#) Kids Camps in the Hills, Skyhawks Basketball - Baseball - Soccer, Fire Safety Precautions, Volunteers needed, Update on Fire Hydrants and Water Mains programs
- [Page 5](#) Art Exhibit invitation - art by Gunn High School students, Beware - Tick season is here, Sheriff's Corner - Deputy Jeff Hunter
- [Page 6](#) Update on undergrounding of utilities, Recreation for seniors - Golf Croquet, Farewell to Ethel Blank - Art Exhibit Curator
- [Page 7](#) Pathway Adventure Series 3 - route description
- [Page 8](#) Pathway Adventure Series 3 - route sketch map
- [Page 9](#) Urban Farmer - Vince Zunino, In Memoriam Alan Cranston
- [Page 10](#) Town sponsors Newcomers Reception for 150, Spring Family Picnic a big success

Page 1

LOS ALTOS HILLS



CALIFORNIA

Los Altos Hills

TOWN NEWSLETTER

Volume XXIV No. 2

June 2001

LUF COMMITTEE REPORT

The Council requested public input on the LUF Committee report at the May 17th City Council meeting at Bullis School. The report is the result of a four-month-long study by the special committee established by the Council February 1st to study the merits of the existing Lot Unit Factor (LUF) for lot development and assessment of its use in the slope dependent formulas for the Maximum Development Area (MDA) and Maximum Floor Area (MFA).

The council will take all the information, synthesize it, and come up with a new ordinance that will meet the current and future needs for planning.

The issue under debate has its origins in the planning commission's

NEW ORDINANCE

New ordinance addressing MFA/MDA minimums was passed by the Council on May 17, 2001. The Council listened to 45 minutes of community input, and the ordinance was passed on a 3-2 vote. The ordinance amends Sections 10-1.502 (Development Area - MDA) and Section 10-1.503 (Floor Area - MFA) of the Zoning Code. The new code guarantees at least 5000 square feet MFA and 7500 square feet MDA to all lots of more than .5 LUF (Lot Unit Factor). The code also establishes

attempt to redress the inequities of the town's complicated MFA and MDA formulas. As lots get steeper, the city currently requires more acreage for development, because among other factors the disturbance of the natural terrain to create a level surface for a home site is greater for sloped lots than for flat lots.

For lots with slopes greater than 10 percent - which means most lots in town - allowable development area can equal as little as 8 percent of the land. Lots with slope less than 10 percent are allowed 34 percent development. Many hillside homes required variances under the current MDA formula.

What is LUF?

LUF (Lot Unit Factor) is a measure of developable acreage on lots with slope.

A net 1.0-acre with slope of 10% or less has 1.0 LUF.

It is allowed Maximum Floor Area (MFA)/Maximum Development Area(MDA) of 6000/15000 square feet.

A net 1.0-acre with a slope of 30% has a LUF of 0.57. It is allowed MFA/MDA of 4000/5000 square feet.

The new ordinance will change this to 5000/7500 square feet.

In January, the Town Planning Commission, after four months of study, presented a recommendation to the city council to amend the existing code, to allow at least 4000 square feet of floor area and 6,500 square feet of development area for all lots with a LUF greater than 0.5. Additional recommendations were proposed for constrained lots with LUF of less than 0.5.

The Council has acted on these recommendations. (See New MFA/MDA Ordinance on the next column.)

Should additional MFA/MDA changes be proposed, Town residents will be notified regarding public hearings on the proposed ordinance.

1

LOS ALTOS HILLS

new allowances for lots with LUF of .5 or less.

Newcomer's Reception (see Page 10)



Newcomer's Nancy & Jerre Hitz of Scarff Lane enjoyed the Town sponsored reception held for the Newcomers on May 6th.

NOTICE TOWN SURVEY RESULTS AVAILABLE

The results of the recent Town of Los Altos Hills **Community Preferences Survey** are available at Town Hall for residents to review or request a copy of the printed version. All residents were mailed a postcard notifying them of the availability of the results.

Additionally, the results may be viewed on the Internet at the following websites:

- Town of Los Altos Hills:
www.losaltoshills.ca.gov
- Hills 2000 – Friends of the Hills:
www.hills2000.org
- Los Altos Hills Civic Association:
www.lahca.com

Page 2

THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Since my arrival on March 1, 2001, much of my time has been devoted to getting to know the City Council, City Staff, current issues and projects and the community in general. I deeply appreciate the warm welcome and all the help I have received to acclimate as quickly as possible. My philosophy is to build on our strengths and our commitment to seeking new ways to better serve the community.

Budget

All departments are now engaged in estimating expenditures through the current fiscal year end and developing requests for the 2001-02 budget. A draft of the proposed budget should be

NEW CITY MANAGER - SHE'S A KEEPER!

Members of the Town Hall staff have declared our new City Manager, Maureen Cassingham – on the job for only two months, a “keeper.”

It is easy to understand why the staff appreciates Maureen's management style. She is articulate, sensitive to the needs of council, staff and residents and derives terrific satisfaction from teamwork. Maureen sees great virtue in the small staff of Town Hall working together creatively, harmoniously and being knowledgeable about each co-worker's role and responsibility.

Following a brief stint with law school at University of Southern California, where she had an interest in water

completed by mid-May.

Town Hall Building Project Status

On April 19th, the Council received a staff report seeking direction on the status of this project and input on related reviews and timing. The Council directed resubmission of architect proposals to them for a new Town Hall, which they will consider in June.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Recruitment

Given that fourteen of the Council's twenty most recent priorities are directly or indirectly affected by the vacancy in the above position, Council received a staff report and recommendation at their April 19th meeting to move this important recruitment forward. Estimated timeline to complete this process is July 1, 2001.

Information Technology Internal Needs Assessment and Goal Setting

In addition to the staff review of the Community Relations Committee website recommendations, we are embarking on an internal information technology needs assessment and goal setting process to more fully utilize our current information services and explore other applications to help us be even more productive in delivering Town services. Included in our efforts is a review of the Information Technology consortium being developed by the City of Palo Alto along with an analysis of our current consulting services from Aleuron.

Council/Staff Retreat Status

Dr. Marilyn Manning, an accomplished facilitator who is very familiar with local issues, has been engaged to assist us with our retreat at Mayor Finn's house beginning Friday evening, May 18th. The retreat will resume Saturday morning (8:30 AM to 5 PM) and conclude with dinner on Saturday evening. Dr. Manning's references are excellent and confirm her track record for achieving the desired outcomes in the allotted time. She will be interviewing members of the Council and participating staff prior to the retreat to enhance our program.

— Maureen Cassingham,
City Manager



City Manager Maureen Cassingham

management law, Maureen embraced the field of public administration. She long admired the concept of public service, where one could actually interact with the public and see the results of your efforts.

Following a career of over 30 years in government and representing foundations and corporations at the local, state, and federal levels, she was attracted to LAH because of the opportunity to continue public sector work at a level where she could bring to bear her past experiences.

Maureen's favorite guiding management axiom is, "Don't use time or words carelessly. Neither can be retrieved." When asked what she would consider her primary career achievement, she simply states, don't use the word "I" to describe anything. In my world, accomplishments are measured by a "team" approach - therefore the word "we" is more applicable." Based on her response, it is clear that we can look forward to teamwork at productive outcomes at all levels of service with Maureen at the helm.

Maureen is professionally active in the Santa Clara County City Managers Association, where the sharing of new concepts in management and development ideas are generated.

In her spare time, Maureen is an avid Giant's baseball fan. She attends as many home games as she can which often result in a "froggy" voice the next day from cheering for the team. She was thrilled to be in attendance the night that Barry Bonds hit his 500th home run.

We are delighted to have such an experienced steady hand at the helm and fully agree that Maureen is a "keeper."

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

Page 3

PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Town Planning approvals for new residential development, since February 2001, include the following:

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Switzerland In Our Own Backyard



Inine new residences, including eight approved through the Fast Track review process; two major additions, five secondary units, three swimming pools and five landscape screening plans.

The Planning Commission also reviewed one Conditional Development Permit for a major remodel and three variance requests.

The Planning Commission also discussed the basement definition and then forwarded its recommendations to the City Council.

The Commission completed its review of the amended constrained lot ordinance and Negative Declaration.

The Planning Department also oversaw the distribution of the Community Survey and the tabulation of the completed surveys. 1,145 completed surveys were returned to Town Hall.

Planning Commissioner Eric Clow and two Planning Department staff members also attended the League of California Cities Planners Institute Conference held on March 21-23, 2001 in Monterey. The Planners' Conference offered a fine array of seminars on a variety of local planning and land use topics.

— Carl Cahill, Planning Director



Carl Cahill, Planning Director

Each year when I travel to Crans-Montana, Switzerland, I look forward to hiking the scenic paths (promenades) that connect chalets and villages. There is no better way to appreciate the beauty of the country, the fresh air, the vistas, or the wild life. It refreshes my spirit, and also provides excellent recreation and physical exercise. Usually you meet the "locals" and sometimes you are invited into their homes for a cup of hot chocolate or tea.

Last week as I explored the Westwind/Artemas Ginton/Byrne Park pathways walk with friends visiting from New Hampshire, I realized we actually have Switzerland in our own backyard. All you have to do is take any of the three Adventure Series Pathway Walks that we have published in the Town Newsletter. So, don't waste a minute. Grab your walking stick and try the latest adventure walk published in this issue.

Many thanks to Jan Fenwick and Scott Vanderlip and the Pathways Committee for making this walk available to us.

Building on their success from last year, the Parks and Recreation Committee have created another great summer program for our children. They have engaged the Skyhawks to run a sports program at Bullis School and will offer a series of recreational programs at Westwind Barn. We are very appreciative of the work that Rebecca Hickman and Patty Radlo and their committee have done for the children of our Town.

Have a great summer! Don't forget to try those pathway walks. Your spirits will definitely be refreshed.

—Duffy Price, Editor

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

The Town has embarked on a very ambitious project - the reconstruction of Elena Road from Robleda Road to Purissima Road. Elena Road is one of the major north-south roads in Town and is a major collector street for residents traveling to either Page Mill Road or El Monte Road, and thus to the 280 Freeway or shopping in Los Altos or Mountain View.

The project, identified in 1998, envisioned fixing some of the drainage issues along the road, repairing damaged pavement and resurfacing the entire street. In addition, the project planned to construct or reconstruct a pathway along the full length of the road. This is one of the largest construction projects undertaken by the Town with a combined budget of \$1.5 million dollars.

Drainage included installing a new culvert underneath Elena Road at what has been referred to as the "horseshoe" bend, a little south of Foothill Lane. Road-edge drainage was accomplished with "V" ditches along the edge of the pavement. These road-edge improvements required the construction of short, wood retaining walls to protect adjacent properties. The pathway is being constructed with a new material that will provide a more stable surface less subject to erosion. The goals were to provide this tougher surface while still maintaining the informal look of the pathways. After much discussion, a mix of materials was determined that should provide years of good service.

The project was delayed during the winter for the construction of a sanitary sewer line in Elena Road up from Purissima Road to Natoma Road. We wanted to make sure the sewer was constructed before we resurfaced the street. This part of the project was a joint effort by many residents in the area and the Town. The Town wants to encourage the construction of sanitary sewers for Town residents and offered to administer the construction for a major part of this trunk line as part of the road reconstruction project.

The project is now nearing completion. Sewer main construction has started and will be complete during May. After this, the street resurfacing will start. By the time you read this, the project should be complete. The Town will have accomplished several goals: the reconstruction of one of the major streets in Town, a full length pathway for the use of residents with a new maintenance-friendly surface, and a major extension of the sanitary sewer system to serve many additional residents.

—Jim Rasp, Public Works Manager

THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

Kids Camps in the Hills

Children in Los Altos Hills will have the opportunity for the first time in the history of the Town to participate in eight summer day camps. The camps are part of the recently implemented Los Altos Hills Recreation Programs sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Committee.



Three of the camps, Session 1 and Session 2 of the Ohlone Camp, and the Westwind Horse Camp are full, but names are being taken for waiting lists for Hills residents only. Five sports camps are now open for applications. Applications are available at the Town Hall and the Bullis-Purissima Elementary School office. For further inquiries, contact our Programs information line at 941-7222 Extension 306.

Mini-Hawks Multi-Sport Camp, AGES 4-7

Session 1 June 25-29, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Session 2 July 9-13, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Intro sports camp for children 4 to 7. Mini-Hawks promotes a philosophy of fun while learning soccer, baseball, and basketball. Mini-ball and T-shirt included. Located at Bullis-Purissima Elementary School, 25890 Fremont Rd., Los Altos Hills.

LAH Resident: \$95.00 Non-resident: \$105.00

Skyhawks Basketball Camp, AGES 6-14

July 16-20 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

For the beginning and intermediate player. Campers will learn and refine passing, shooting, dribbling, and defense skills. Basketball and T-shirt included. Located at Bullis-Purissima Elementary School, 25890 Fremont Rd., Los Altos Hills.

LAH Resident: \$105.00 Non-Resident: \$115.00

Skyhawks Soccer Camp, AGES 6-14

July 23-27 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

For the beginning and intermediate player. Campers will develop fundamental skills with scrimmages, games, and exercises. Basketball and T-shirt included. Located at Bullis-Purissima Elementary School 25890 Fremont Rd., Los Altos Hills.

LAH Resident: \$105.00 Non-Resident: \$115.00

Skyhawks Baseball Camp, AGES 6-12

August 6-10 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

For the beginning and intermediate player. Campers will work on throwing, hitting, and fielding skills with the goal of developing the skills required for success in youth baseball. Baseball and T-shirt included. Located at the Los Altos Hills Little League Field on Purissima Road across from Viscaino Drive in Los Altos Hills.

LAH Resident: \$105.00 Non-Resident: \$115.00

—Rebecca Hickman, Co-Chair
Parks and Recreation Committee

FIRE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS



We are now into the dangerous fire season. We have our normal winds and low humidity.

Homeowners were all sent a Safety Checklist by the Santa Clara County Fire District. Please use this a guideline to help prevent a fire on your property and possible damage to your neighbors.

One neighbor who is careless can cause a great deal of damage to their whole neighborhood. Once a fire gets a good start it can spread rapidly to include event those who have taken precautions. Please don't be the person who neglects their property and endangers others.

If you have any questions or need more information, please call Santa Clara County Fire District at 408-378-4010 or 1-800-800-1793 (this is correct, there are two 800's)

—Tom Turner, Chair
LAH Safety Committee

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

There are eight Town Standing Committees: Community Relations, Environmental Design & Protection, Finance, Investment, Pathways, Parks & Recreation, Safety and Utility & Information Systems. In addition there is a Youth Commissioner position. Applications and information about these committees are available at Town Hall. For more information about these volunteer positions, please call City Clerk Pat Dowd at 941-7222.

UPDATE ON FIRE HYDRANT AND WATER MAIN PROGRAM

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



In cooperation with the Purissima Hills Water District, new water hydrants are being installed and some existing hydrants will be relocated from a lesser pressure zone to a higher-pressure zone. In total -18 new hydrants and 3 relocations will take place.

The Santa Clara County Fire District sites specific locations for the hydrants. Most will be located in public rights-of-way. If it is necessary to locate a hydrant on a resident's property, notification will be provided and easements secured. The streets affected will have signs and residents will be individually notified if located on private property. West Valley Construction Company is performing the work. The temporary equipment yard is located at the

the work. The temporary equipment yard is located at the corner of Purissima and Arastradero Roads.

Timetable for completion: Mid-August

4

LOS ALTOS HILLS

Page 5

THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

ART EXHIBIT INVITATION

The Town of Los Altos Hills cordially invites you to view a new exhibit featuring Gunn High School Art Students in the Los Altos Hills Council Chambers



*Exhibit open to the public
Exhibit Dates: June 10 - August 31, 2001
Monday - Friday
8 AM - Noon and 1 - 5 PM*

Information: Please call Ethel Blank, Exhibit Curator at 948-5840

TICK SEASON IS HERE!



Beware of the little "devils."

It is hard to believe that such a small tick can cause so much damage. Our own personal experience is worth noting. A few years ago, after John and I returned from hiking in England, a small "bullet like swelling" developed on John's lower leg. It was accompanied by arthritic-like severe neck pain, so bad that he could barely lift his head. After consultation with a physician, it was determined that he had what appeared to be the classic symptoms associated with Lyme disease. The disease was treated successfully, but it must be recognized and treated as early as possible. Lyme disease is caused by a bacterium called *Borrelia burgdorferi*. The disease was first recognized in 1975 because of close geographic clustering of cases in the small community of Lyme, Connecticut. The little tick that carries the disease and bites you has been feeding on the white-footed mouse, the white-tailed deer or other mammals and birds. The tick can be in its nymph state (in the spring) or adult stage (in the fall). There are fewer cases of Lyme disease in the fall because the tick in its adult stage is easier to identify and remove; whereas in the nymph stage, it is barely visible so you can't see it to remove it quickly. The Western blacklegged tick is found in 56 of California's 58 counties. It hangs out in woody areas of the coastal range and the foothills of the Bay Area. To avoid tick bites: cover your skin, wear light colored clothing, check your clothes and skin for ticks, tie back long hair when you garden, use insect repellent containing DEET on your skin and clothes if you are picnicking off-trail or in overgrown areas. (DEET can be toxic, so follow directions).

Sheriff's Corner

(Ed. Note: LAH supports community policing. Each issue of the Town Newsletter we will include a short biographical sketch of our Deputies in their own words.)

Deputy Jeff S. Hunter #1545



Hello, my name is Jeff Hunter. I grew up in Los Altos Hills. My mother still resides in town. I am married and my wife's name is Nancy and we live in Scotts Valley. We have three fantastic children. My life long call to serve the public motivated me to apply with the Sheriff's Office. I was sworn on March 25, 1985.

After graduating from the academy, I was assigned to the jails for several years. In 1993, I was finally assigned to patrol. When the opportunity to work in Los Altos Hills arose, I seized it. I have been here ever since, now celebrating my eighth year. I guess you could say I've come full circle, from a young kid standing on the edge of the road in awe of the local deputy to returning years later and taking over that very position. I really enjoy working in the Hills, the country setting, the people and the chance to make a difference. There's always time to follow up on cases and check in on folks or just say I'm really lucky as this job assignment affords a deputy the chance to experience every aspect of what it means to be a

Town Newsletter - Statement of Purpose

To communicate current issues, services, and activities in Los Altos Hills

Wash your clothes and spin them for at least 20 minutes in a dryer after you get home.

If you need to remove a tick, don't panic. Carefully place tweezers around the tick and pull it steadily outward and away from the skin. (Do not use alcohol, jelly, or a lighted cigarette or anything else to remove it.) Don't squeeze, crush or puncture the tick's body because it may cause infectious organisms to flow into your body. After the tick is removed, dab the area with alcohol or other disinfectant. Each day, inspect the area for about one month to see if any rash develops. If so, then visit your health care provider for diagnosis and treatment.

It is "tick season" so be vigilant and smart about how you deal with the little "devils!" — Duffy Price, Editor

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 July 31, 2001

Internet Address: 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, Linda Seidel, Karen Emerzian

Los Altos Hills City Council

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



Recycled Paper

5

LOS ALTOS HILLS

Page 6

THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

UPDATE ON UNDERGROUNDING OF UTILITIES

The Utility and Information Systems Committee met in early May to analyze the results of the two studies the town has funded. These studies were conducted by McGuire-Woods and R.W. Beck and encompassed the following as technical, regulatory, economic, political, legal and financial points:

- Cost analysis for undergrounding electricity, telephone, cable and fiber optic services
- Economic impact
- Analysis of possible funding options
- Analysis of possible options regarding system ownership, operation and administration
- Analysis of legal issues - state, federal, CPUC, and all regulatory issues
- Analysis of political issues re: P.G.&E. and to some extent, PacBell

The multiple benefits of undergrounding and upgrading our current power/communication/information infrastructure have been outlined in a prior newsletter. The Utility Committee has accomplished a great deal, but there is still much more to do.

—Amir Rosenbaum, Chair

Technology & Information Systems Committee

Town Bids Fond Farewell to Ethel Blank, Exhibit Curator — Extraordinaire!

Ethel Blank has served as the Town's Exhibit Curator since 1995. In this capacity Mrs. Blank

has coordinated the rotation of ongoing art shows in the Council Chambers and has worked closely with the artists in setting up their shows. With the able assistance of her husband Jules and friend Pat Ley, Ethel has organized the receptions held at Town Hall for the artists at the opening of their shows.



Ethel has done an outstanding job and is commended for her accomplishments. Due to other commitments, Mrs. Blank has, however, given notice that she will be leaving her position as Exhibit Curator at the end of the year. If anyone in Town has an interest in art and would like to assume this position, information is available at Town Hall. Please call City Clerk Pat Dowd at 941-7222. You may also call Ethel Blank at 948-5840.

*Announcing Recreation for Seniors
Learn to Play Golf Croquet!*

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

Pre Std Sort
U.S. Postage
PAID
Los Altos, CA
Permit No. 306



*Pat La Metre & Jeanne Strong
demonstrating Golf Croquet at the
Spring Family Picnic*

Los Altos Hills Recreation Programs are offering instruction the game of Golf Croquet. If you'd like to explore this wonderful sport, please call: Jeanne Strong at (650) 493-3322 or Email: jcroquet@aol.com.

Instruction is scheduled to begin at the Little League lawns in July.

6

LOS ALTOS HILLS

Page 7

THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

PATHWAYS ADVENTURE SERIES NO. 3

The Road Less Taken...

(Researched by Scott Vanderlip and Jan Fenwick)

Los Altos Hills' real natural beauty can still be explored in its creekside pathways and rolling hillside trails. The route listed here will take the walker to places where the song of birds and the babbling of the creek can be heard, and cars and houses can't be seen. This pathway adventure includes some of the most scenic pathways in Los Altos Hills and is not the fastest route between two points but is instead.... **the road less taken...**

Before attempting this walk, one should be prepared with water, a LAH Pathways Map (available from Town Hall), and good walking shoes. The route may have some poison oak next to the trail in several locations so be careful not to touch or rub against any unidentified plants. Allow about 2-3 hours for this walk.

This circle route walk

The trail will intersect with 4 trails. Turn Left at an intersection of four pathways and head up the hill. Take this pathway for about 400 yards up the hill and when it reaches a dirt road, turn right to reach Byrne Park Lane. Turn left on Byrne Park Lane for about 500 yards until it intersects with Taaffe. Continue straight onto Taaffe all the way down to Elena Road (about 1 mile).

Turn left onto Elena and continue on the new Elena roadside Path for 800 yards until the road drops down into a sharp bend. Cross the road at this point and head up the creekside path at the Pathway marker. Continue on this path for about 700 yards along a creek and up the hill until it intersects with Black Mountain Road. Turn left onto Black Mountain Road for about 200 yards to connect with Natoma. Turn Right onto Natoma Road and take Natoma for about 900 yards and cross the road and turn left onto Byrd Lane. Walk down Byrd lane all the way to the end of the Cul-de-sac. At the end of the Cul-de-sac, there is a pathway that goes down the driveway at



starts at the Intersection of Page Mill, Country Way and Three Forks or pick up the route near your house and circle around.

Walk up Three Fork Lane about 75 yards and take the pathway on the right at the Pathway Post. Continue on this heavily wooded pathway for about 400 yards to where the pathway splits. Take the route to the left and head up the paved fire access road for about 40 yards. Then take the path off the paved road to the left at the sign that says Motorcycle Barricade.

Continue on this path until it pops out onto Edgerton Road. Turn left and walk up Edgerton Road about 300 yards and cross Black Mountain Road to reach the pathway on the top of the bank of Black Mountain. Turn right and head up Black Mountain Road for about 400 yards to Altamont Road.

You are now overlooking Byrne Preserve (big open field) and Westwind Barn. Continue your trek by going into the Westwind Barn driveway (27210 Altamont) and passing around the left of the barn and then take the steep dirt road that heads down below the barn. After passing the horse pastures on the left, turn left and follow along parallel to the fence and proceeding straight into Byrne Preserve through a small opening in the fence and take the trail that heads to the right.

Continue on this trail for about 400 yards. You will walk through one gate or simply walk through the person-size opening.



goes down the driveway at 13140 Byrd Lane. The path will pass by a nice open garden filled with

poppies and numerous fruit trees. While researching this route, we ran into Paul Reneau, who eagerly showed us his great garden that he has nurtured for many years now. Take this path straight down for about 150 yards and make a short jog left and then right where it becomes a fire-road. Take the fire-road / pathway for another 100 yards. You should now be at the end of Middle Fork Lane. Continue down Middle Fork and turn right at the bottom of the steep road onto South Fork. Continue on South Fork, which turns into Three Forks Lane back to the starting point.

You should be back at your starting point. Consider yourself a "Pathway Expert" if you have successfully completed this route. Please share it with your friends and neighbors.

Happy Trails!

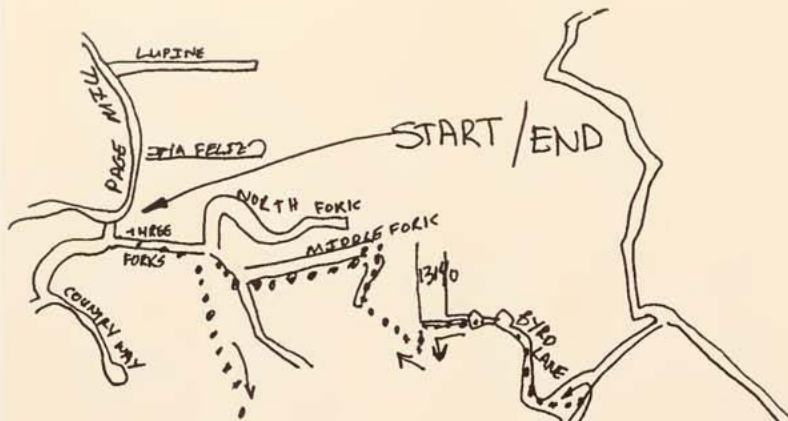
— Scott Vanderlip

LAH Pathway Committee Co-chair

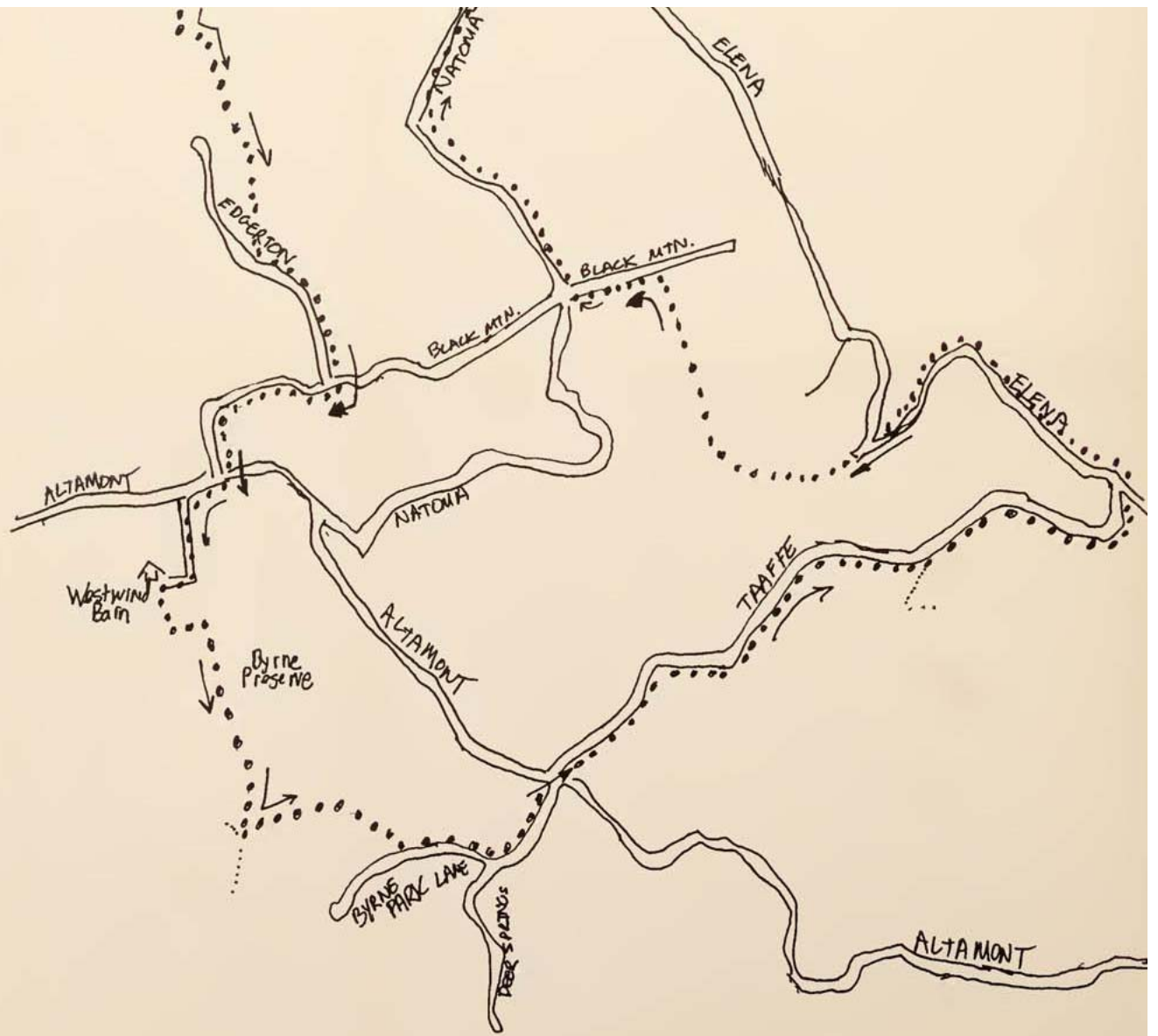
See map on back page.

Page 8

THE TOWN NEWSLETTER



Pathway Adventures Series
● = Pathway route
→
MAY 2001
MAP BY SCOTT VANDERLIP



Page 9

THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

URBAN FARMER



Growing a garden in Los Altos Hills can be more like full-scale warfare than a relaxing outdoors pastime. The Ray Area has

clocked it sailing through the soil at over two inches every 10 seconds – that's over 60 feet an hour!

outdoors past time. The Bay Area has some some of the finest weather on the planet and virtually anything can be grown here. That is, if the critters will let you. The hills are teeming with furry and feathered neighbors who are all hungry and demand a share of the harvest.

Between the birds, deer, gophers, moles, rabbits, slugs, snails, and the legions of bugs and plant diseases, sometimes there are very meager pickings left for the grower. From the air, from the land and from below the ground, the attack on a garden is relentless. If you want some of the harvest, you're going to have to do battle with the critters for a fair share



Amanda & Olivia enjoying their "sugar snap pea carousel" grown by their dad on the corner of Ascension Drive.

The story that follows is a tall tale I refer to as the Battle of the Snaps. It is just one battle by an urban farmer in our somewhat rural town, but it's a good example of what to expect in the constant struggle for control in the garden food chain.

This year I decided to plant sugar snap peas in the area in front of my house where last year I had a pole bean teepee. First, I tilled in over a cubic yard of compost to prepare the soil for planting. Growing anything well in the heavy clay soils of the town, means amending planting areas with as much organic matter as you can get. Then, I planted a 10-foot circle of sugar snap peas and built a trellis supported by a center pole at the site.

In about a week and a half, dozens of plants were emerging from the soil. Within a day, the birds and snails had found them and they were disappearing faster than they were germinating. The first skirmish had begun! Out came the snail bait and the bird netting and the young plants had a chance to see a second sunrise.

The next food fight was a stealth attack. Entire plants were disappearing during the night. I went out after dark with a flashlight on reconnaissance. I found large grubs were emerging from the underground and felling the seedlings by chewing through the trunks and hauling them off. Over the next week I removed over a dozen grubs in nightly flashlight raids.

When the plants were about six inches high, a rabbit came to visit. Luckily, there was some crimson clover growing nearby which rabbits love. The clover was sacrificed as rabbit fodder and the snap peas survived with only minor munching.

The next attack was from the terror of the deep – a mole. In a few short hours, this furry digging machine pretty much dug up the entire patch. At this point I was ready to just surrender the site to the critters, but while filling in the tunnels, I saw the mole burrowing through the soil! The soil was heaving up as the mole moved forward like a bow wave in front of a ship. I

I dug up the mole with my bare hands and after a short negotiation it agreed not to come back. I sometimes wonder if all the effort is worth the small harvest that remains, but when my kids go hunting for fresh strawberry treasures or pick tender sugar snaps off the vines and eat them like candy, that's when all the hard work and critter wars become worthwhile.

—Vince Zunino
Ascension Drive

IN MEMORIAM

Alan Cranston

1914-2000



If ever there was a favorite son of Los Altos/Los Altos Hills – it was Alan Cranston! He was born here, he grew up here, and he chose to return here after he left the U.S. Senate.

He suffered an apparent fatal heart attack on December 31, 2000.

Upon hearing the news, it was a shock to many of us. We were all so used to seeing his lean tall figure jogging, or more recently walking along the paths of Los Altos Hills. He was a strong supporter of preservation and for protecting open space and the natural beauty of the foothills. For those of us, who are natives in Santa Clara Valley, Alan Cranston will always be remembered as a hometown son who achieved greatness in the world of politics.

When Senator Cranston left the Senate he expressed gratitude for his opportunities to make a difference on behalf of California and people throughout the world:

"It has been a privilege I have cherished and for which I can never adequately thank the people of California. It is my hope that many of the accomplishments achieved over these past 24 years in the areas of the world peace, the environment, and in the effort to secure a better quality of life for millions of Americans will survive and serve as the basis of continued progress by others in behalf of future generations."

His son Kim Cranston, daughter-in-law Colette Penne Cranston, granddaughter Evan, and sister Eleanor Cranston Cameron survive Senator Cranston.

—Duffy Pri

THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

TOWN SPONSORS A NEWCOMER RECEPTION ON MAY 6TH TO WELCOME OVER 150 NEW RESIDENTS TO OUR COMMUNITY



Laura & Todd Mozer with their children pictured in the garden of the Fenwick's Home

SPRING FAMILY PICNIC 2001 - BIG SUCCESS!

Over 800 residents enjoyed a wonderful day on the green on Sunday, June 3rd. Games, magic show, Astrojump and delicious BBQ cooked by the Santa Clara County Firefighters Local #1165. Pictured below are families and attendees who enjoyed the wonderful day organized by the Los Altos Hills Community Relations Committee!



