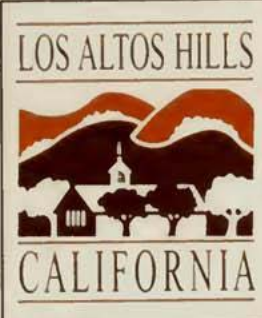


Los Altos Hills Town Newsletter - September 2000

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LOS ALTOS HILLS
CALIFORNIA

Los Altos Hills

TOWN NEWSLETTER

Volume XXVIII No. 3 September 2000

EVENT CALENDAR

September 9,10, Sat., Sun., **FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE**, Hillview Community Center, Sat., 10-3 PM, Sun. 12-3 PM Info: 948-7683

September 9, Sat., **ANNUAL HOE DOWN, WESTWIND BARN**, 5-9 PM, Westwind Barn, Altamont and Black Mountain Roads, Info: 650/ 328-6241

September 16, Sat., **PATHWAYS HIKE**, 10 AM, Meet at corner of

LAH CRIME STATISTICS ARE "AS GOOD AS IT GETS!"

The crime statistics in Los Altos Hills are without a doubt "as good as it gets," states David M. Clifford, Commander in the Office of the Sheriff of County of Santa Clara.

Santa Clara County is the 4th largest California County in population, but 15th lowest in crime. "Los Altos Hills crime rate is essentially almost zip," states Lt. Dennis A. Gregory of the Sheriff's Office. (See Table Insert Below)

Indeed, LAH is very fortunate to have such a low crime rate. In part, this is due to the rural nature of our Town's layout. The Town is not laid out in a typical grid format, but is a series of cul-de-sacs with interconnecting pathways. This

as his escape route. There are no known instance of burglars using town paths in Los Altos Hills contradicting misinformation frequently quoted

Safety and security is everybody's issue

Burglaries and break-ins occur usually between Monday and Friday, 9 AM-5 PM. A surprising reality is that "theft" is usually due to someone known by the homeowner coming into the house rather than a "break-in." Keys and security combinations are often given to contractors, ma cleaning services, and gardeners. Parties are held where guests not well known to the homeowner attend. It is not unusual for the Sheriff's office to investigate a call a few days after a party and learn t

Crime Statistics for LAH*

(Comparison 1998, 1999/Year to date June 2000)

TYPE OF CRIME	1998	1999	2000 YTD
Speeding	108	318	166
...	177	202	220

Taffe & Altamont Roads.
Info: 948-6455

October 11, 18, 25,
November 1, 8. **PUPPY
OBEDIENCE CLASS**
(Puppies age 3 months - 1
year). 6 - 6:45 PM, Series
of five classes taught by
Bay Area dog trainer and
behaviorist, Gidget
Walcher. Westwind Barn.
Cost: \$145 for the series.
Info: 949-1846

October 28, Sat. **Valley of
Heart's Delight Home
Gardener's Event**. Lucie
Stern Center, Palo Alto, 9
AM- 3 PM., Reg. Fee:
\$20-\$25. Info: 650/328-
7756

November 7, Tues.,
ELECTION DAY. Three
council positions to be
determined. **Don't forget
to vote!**

pathways. This
makes it very
difficult for burglars
to park their cars
and escape with
easy access to a
nearby thorough-
fare.

Since 1956, the
Town has contracted with the Sheriff of Santa
Clara County for police protection, which costs the
Town approximately \$500,000 per year. For that,
the Town receives around the clock protection.
While the Sheriff covers both incorporated and
unincorporated areas, we are only charged when
they are in the incorporated area. The Sheriff's
office also contracts with the cities of Cupertino
and Saratoga for police services. The deputies
operate out of the West Valley Sub-station in
Saratoga, where one captain serves as a police
chief for three cities.

Pathways Crime Misinformation

When asked about the possibility of burglars
using our pathways system, Lt. Gregory stated that
he personally interviewed officers who have
covered the area for the past 20 years, and found
that they could only remember one instance of a
burglar who used the Mid-Peninsula Open Space

Moving	172	302	220
Armed Robbery	0	0	0
Residential Buglaries	15	23	7
Grand Theft	21	19	9
Domestic Violence	5	6	6
Sex Crimes	1	5	1
Auto Theft	1	4	0

*Source: Santa Clara County Office of the Sheriff

sports paraphern
is missing. The
familiar "I just s
it a few days ago
and now it is
missing." is oft
reported followi
an event where
invited guests h

visited a home.

How You Can Help the Officers

The Sheriff's Office relies on residents to be
eyes and ears and to contact the sheriff's office
whenever an emergent situation arises. If you a
concerned about a suspicious car, unusual activ
or fear that prowlers are in the area - do not hes
to call the Sheriff.

Emergency: Dial 9-1-1.

Non-emergencies: Dial (408) 299-2322

Should you want to leave a non-emergent
message for the officers, contact Town Hall
941-7222.

It is important that your home address be cle
marked on houses, gates, and mailboxes. Some

(Continued on page



LOS ALTOS HILLS

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THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Your Town Council hired me as interim City Manager to
help keep local government services going while a search
is conducted
for a new City Manager.
Other vacated positions
are Planning Director
and City Engineer. I am
very pleased with the
support, knowledge and
work ethic of all of the
staff and especially
those who have assumed
additional duties during
this period.

You noticed a radar
trailer at the side of
Town roads recently.

This equipment was purchased by the Town with Federal "Cops
Funds" and is utilized by the Sheriff's deputies assigned to Los
Altos Hills. We plan to have the trailer out daily on streets where
either the deputies have observed a need or via complaints from
residents.



Bob Quinlan, Interim City Manager

PLAN YOUR WORK, THEN WORK YOUR PLAN!

That's the motto of the Town's interim city manager, Bob
Quinlan. And that's how this personable and competent
executive approaches his daily challenges at the head of the
Town Hall staff team. Bob joined us in June and is planning
to stay until the council has completed its search for a new,
permanent city manager. While the most important part of
his assignment will be to ensure that the day-to-day business
of the Town is carried on, he will also be assisting council
members in attracting applications for the city manager
position, and using his own long experience in city manage-
ment to evaluate the quality of applicants.

Bob, who grew up in the Middle West, got his undergradu-
ate degree in business and political science from Washburn
University at Topeka, Kansas, and graduated from the
University of Kansas with a Master's degree in Public
Administration. In his first city manager job, at Midwest City
in Oklahoma, he underwent a true baptism of fire almost on
arrival; the three-square-mile "city" was expanded by
annexation to sixty-four square miles within six months. Bob
says he had to become an expert on town planning, drainage
and public utilities almost overnight!

Residents.

Soon you should see major road overlay work on Elena. The Town Council at the Aug. 17th meeting will consider bids. This is the first major project to be done under the new Pavement Management Program.

In early August a major sewer line that serves the Liddicoat Circle area off Page Mill Road collapsed from the invasion of tree roots. The 30-year-old line was replaced at a cost of about \$85,000. The project was financed from sewer fund reserves. We must expect to see more such occurrences as our infrastructure ages.

It has been a pleasure to work with the Town Council and staff during this interim period. If you any questions on any of these items please give us a call at 650/941-7222.

Sincerely,

—Bob Quinlan, Interim City Manager

RECYCLING LIDS AVAILABLE

As the rainy season approaches, you should be aware that lids for our recycling bins may be purchased from LAGCO for \$5 each. The lids fit securely and will allow paper to be put out during the rain. They keep animals from getting into the glass and plastics, and make the bins stackable. To order lids, call LAGCO at 961-8040

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

In response to a lifelong desire to take the famous advice to "go west, young man," Bob found his way to Cupertino, by way of 2 years in city management in Colorado and 4 years in Wisconsin. He arrived in Cupertino in 1971, and spent the next eighteen years building a formidable reputation as city manager of this city that was one of the fastest growing in Silicon Valley.

Asked for his initial impressions of the government of Los Altos Hills, he immediately responded with his views on the need for the Town to develop a long-range drainage plan. Staff, Planning Commission, and City Council have in the past always taken meticulous care to resolve drainage issues as individual lots and subdivisions have been developed. Now, as the Town gets more intensively built out, there is an imperative requirement that an overall strategy to avoid flooding and serious land erosion problems be brought into play.

All residents will want to wish him great success during his limited stay at the City.

IN MEMORIAM

Joan Earnest

It is with great sadness that we recently learned of the death of Joan Earnest, who passed away in her sleep at home July 13th. Joan, and her devoted husband, Les and family lived on Dianne Drive and were 35-year residents of the Hills. Over the years, Joan served on many Town committees and gave unselfishly of her many talents while serving on the Community Relations Committee. "She was always there to offer a helping hand and support for so many of our community events," stated Councilmember Elayne Dauber. A celebration of Joan's life took place on August 27th at home. Many of Joan's friends and neighbors remembered her genuinely wonderful personal qualities and offered a toast to a life well lived.

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WESTWIND BARN

A Dream Job Come True for New Barn Manager

LeeAnne Kraus always dreamed of a career in equine facility management. When she found the Westwind Barn job opportunity listed on the Internet, she was just sure this was the opportunity she was seeking.

As a child living in Ohio, LeeAnne was nine years old when she took her first riding lessons and by the age of 15 was able to convince her



EDITOR'S MESSAGE

OUR TOWN

Whether we like it or not, our portion of God's Little Acre is gradually being subjected to the proclivities of our urban neighbors. It is a reality that there is more traffic and intrusion from cars, bicycles, and noise. However, it is very reassuring to know that our safety and security still remains "as good as it gets." We are indeed fortunate to have low crime rates. Please take a few moments to digest the LAH crime article and statistics on page 1. We think that you will agree that we really do have it pretty good in LAH!



parents to buy her a horse, which she named "Charlie Brown." She boarded her horse with John & Patty McNerney's Brio Farms in New Albany, OH, and it was there that she grew to love the idea of someday owning her own equine boarding facility or becoming a veterinarian.



LeeAnne Kraus, Westwind Barn Manager

Following her family's move to California, she began her journey to fulfill her dream by attending University of California at Davis to study animal science and management. In June 1998, she received a Bachelor of Science degree. During the summers, she worked as a riding director, veterinary technician, and as a veterinary intern. Her first interview for a job was with Westwind Barn board member, Susie Holic.

The interview went very well - until she was asked if she had any problem with "working on pipes." At that point LeeAnne said, "I've done a lot of things in barn management - but I don't know anything about pipes. However, if you give me the tools or show me how, I would be willing to try." Well, sure enough her references all said that she was a "can do" kind of person and she got the job offer.

"LeeAnne's job is diverse beyond anyone's imagination. The manager's job is to assure the safety of the humans and the horses. Her determined approach has been to learn to do every task that needs doing. She's done an extraordinary job with both planned and unplanned events, some of which no academic education can prepare you for," comments Susie Holic.

When asked what her greatest accomplishment is, LeeAnne says, "Just learning to prioritize the things that need to be done as established by the Westwind Board of Directors and performing the tasks efficiently." She is delighted with the leadership of the Board and that the Westwind Barn functions like a family. All of the members regard the establishment like a family barn.

"Many of the young people who use the facilities of Westwind Barn regard LeeAnne as a role model to emulate. She is very hard working and effectively contributes to the mission of the barn," states Dan Alexander, President of Westwind Board of Directors.

In the future, LeeAnne would like to develop an affiliation with UC Davis and provide educational opportunities for animal science interns. "Combining my love of horses with education would definitely culminate my dream," says LeeAnne.

The June issue of the Town Newsletter received feedback from **Wayne & Alice Abraham, Jimi Barnolt, Barbara Epis, and William Trabucco**. A range of concerns were expressed including: advocating for the enjoyment of pathways walks, dismay at the loss of rural environment in LAH - houses too big, desire to have utilities underground, and a street name incorrectly listed on maps. It is always a good to hear what residents are thinking and we appreciate them taking the time to share their concerns with the Town.

The Town makes every effort to respond to resident's needs and to provide community activities and services that build a better community.

Kindest regards,

— Duffy Price, Editor

PUBLIC WORKS

Los Altos Hills has been using the San Jose Conservancy Corps to do much of this year's pathway and open space maintenance and cleanup which was completed by June 30, 2000. Staff is already preparing a request for bids next year's work.

Public works is also going out to bid for sewer repair projects identified during the 1999 TV Inspection Project. Most of the required repairs are on La Loma Drive and near Bullis School.

This year's pavement project will cover Elena Drive from Robleda to Purissima. Included in the pavement replacement will be correction of drainage problems and rebuilding of the pathways along the road. The project is quite extensive and is anticipated to use up more than double the average pavement management budgets allocated in recent years. A major sewer installation project on Elena near Purissima will be constructed before re-pavement of Elena. Timing is very tight to complete the project. If any significant delays occur, the entire project will have to be delayed until the spring of 2001.

The Town currently contracts to have our streets swept twice a year. We plan on increasing that to monthly. We have had the grass on town owned property cut twice this year. We feel that will take us through the year 2000 fire season.

— Jim Rasp, Public Works Director

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LOS ALTOS HILLS

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THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

GIDDY-UP! HORSEMANSHIP IS ALIVE AND WELL IN LAH!

Judging by the number of applicants to the first LAH Horseman's Association summer recreation program, it has a

(Correction: Les Earnest, the Town's representative on the Santa Clara County and VTA Bicycle Advisory Committee, recently commented that the Bicycle Safety Tips article published in the June 2000 Town Newsletter was either contrary to the Vehicle Code or to safe cycling practices or both. At this time, we are pleased to publish 12 Tips for Sharing the Road Safely compiled by Les Earnest, et al. The following list of safety tips, include suggestions from Diane Barraver and from John Forester, the author of

winner. The program's capacity of 14 students left another 10-15 on a waiting list that it was unable to accommodate. Next year the Recreation & Parks Committee will try to get the Pony Club to sponsor a second session. The age level accepted was 7-17.



Student riders perform new skills at a Ring Show following a weeks Horsemanship Class.

"We are so lucky to have **Jennie Whitworth**, who is a certified British Horseman's Association instructor," said **Jane Kawasaki, President of the Horseman's Association**. "In one week, the students learn basic riding and horsemanship skills."

On the last day of the program, the students demonstrated their newly acquired skills in a ring show for an audience of parents, grandparents and friends. "We are amazed at the skills that our granddaughter, **Katie Daw** learned in just 5 days," said grandmothers **Mimi Daw** and **Jeanne Cuneo**. The two grandmothers who were on "grandma-duty," accompanied Katie each day, observing the training sessions while seated under the shade of old pine trees and enjoying the beautiful vistas of Byrne Park next to the Westwind Barn ring. Their granddaughter, Katie was one of the lucky students who first learned about the program when she attended the LAH Spring Family Picnic. "We signed up immediately for the program and even took advantage of a tour of Westwind Barn on June 24th," stated Katie's mother, **Joann Cuneo Daw**. "We love living in Los Altos Hills and moved here because of the wonderful schools and amenities such as this program that the Town offers. We wish there was another continuation level of this program," said Joann. There will be, next year! Congratulations to the LAHHA and the new Recreation & Parks Committee for sponsoring a winning program.

"Effective Cycling" which is the most widely used book on safe cycling practices (MIT Press.)



BICYCLE SAFETY TIPS

Sharing the Road Safely

For both Bicyclists and Motorists:

- (1) Always follow the rules of the road;
- (2) Share the road courteously with other vehicles.

For Bicyclists

- (3) When moving slower than other traffic, ride as far to the right as practicable when the rightmost lane is wide enough to be shared with overtaking traffic, but do not ride within a door width of parked vehicles;
- (4) If the rightmost lane is not wide enough to be shared, ride in the middle of the lane so that overtaking motorists will be aware that they must have clearance to pass in an adjacent lane rather than being tempted to try to brush by you;
- (5) When moving faster than other traffic, clearly signal your intention and move to the left when it is safe to do so in order to pass;
- (6) When you reach a major road, yield to crossing traffic;
- (7) When approaching an intersection where you plan to turn left in a vehicular manner, look for a break in overtaking traffic and move left into a position to make the turn before you reach the intersection;
- (8) When riding at night, use a bright headlight, a red taillight reflector, and wear light colored clothing or reflector stripes;
- (9) Always wear a properly fitted and secured helmet because anytime you fall you can hit your head, and a helmet is then the best insurance against severe brain injury.

For Motorists

- (10) When opening a door on the street side, look for nearby overtaking traffic, both bicycles and motor vehicles;
- (11) Do not attempt to pass a cyclist unless there is sufficient visibility ahead to ensure that you can pass with adequate side clearance (at least a yard at the point of closest approach) and return to your side of the road before oncoming traffic can reach you;
- (12) When approaching an intersection or driveway where you plan to turn right, look for cyclists riding to your right and merge into the rightmost lane when it is safe to do so — do not pass a cyclist and then turn right across his or her path.

Town Newsletter - Statement of Purpose

To communicate current issues, services, and activities in Los Altos Hills to the residents of the Town and to facilitate, encourage and improve interaction between the residents and Town government.

The 2000 Newsletter will be published quarterly in the months of March, June, September, and December.

Deadline for the next issue is October 30, 2000.

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

Los Altos Hills City Council

• Steve Finn, Mayor • Tom Casey, Mayor Pro Tem
 • Elaine Dauber • Bob Johnson • Emily Cheng



Recycled Paper

Environmental Factoid

61 MILLION - The number of tons of material that the US diverted from landfills and incinerators in 1997. Help protect the planet, recycle as much as possible.



THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

Art Exhibit Invitation
The Town of Los Altos Hills
cordially invites you
to view a new exhibit featuring local artists on display in
the Los Altos Hills Council Chambers
Opening Reception Sunday, September 10th, 2-4 PM. Public Invited



MARGIE MILLER UTZINGER - ANIMAL DECORATION

GERHARD C.F. MILLER - PAINTINGS

DAVID GERHARD UTZINGER - PAINTINGS

Exhibit open to the public

Exhibit Dates: Sept. 10 - Oct. 27, 2000

Monday - Friday

8 AM - Noon and 1 - 5 PM

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



SANTA CLARA COUNTY CITIES ASSOCIATION RECOGNIZES COUNCILMEMBER BOB JOHNSON

At the Town Council Meeting on July 20th, a delegation from the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara County Cities Association presented **Councilmember Bob Johnson** with a proclamation to mark the fact that he was a founding member of the Association in 1990, had served ten years until 2000,



Pictured L. to R.: Mayor Tom Springer, Gilroy; Mayor Liz Kniss, Palo Alto, LAH Councilmember Bob Johnson - recipient of award; Mayor Henry Manayan, Milpitas; Councilmember Ralph Faravelli, Mountain View and President of SCCCA; Councilmember Kris Casto, Los Altos; & Mary-Kate Franci, Executive Director, SCCCA.

and had held every office in the Association including President. In addition, he received a beautiful clock with a plaque commemorating the occasion.

The Santa Clara County Cities Association was formed in 1990 for the purpose of representing the mutual interests of the diverse fifteen cities of the County, and to act as a unified voice in dealing with other agencies, organizations and levels of government. In its role as an advocate for the cities, the group monitors legislative activities at the state and federal level, and provides a forum for dissemination of information of general interest and mutual concern to city officials.

CRIME STATISTICS (continued)

the numbers are so small as to be invisible and that slows down the response time when there is an emergency call. This will impact both the fire and medical emergencies response times.

Neighborhood Watch Programs are a first step and first line of defense in residential safety.

Burglars are less likely to enter into an area where the Neighborhood Watch program is posted. To organize a Neighborhood Watch program, call Community Services division of the Sheriff's Office at (408) 299-3238.

Residents have made certain trade-offs to reside in the rural atmosphere of LAH - there are no streetlights and roads are difficult to navigate. Yet, it is very reassuring to know that our crime rates are "as good as it gets." Let's keep it that way by working together with our Sheriff Deputies in their community policing efforts.



Pictured above are Officers of the Sheriff Department that serve LAH: L. to R.: Commander David Clifford, Lt. Dennis Gregory, Deputy Jim Post, and Communications Director Jim Hirokawa.

THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Openings exist for the following committees: Community Relations, Environmental Design, Finance, Pathways and Safety.

Applications are available in the City Clerk's Office at Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road during regular office hours (8 AM - Noon; 1-5 PM). For additional information, contact City Clerk, Pat Dowd at 941-7222.

FREE MEDIATION SERVICES AVAILABLE

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

GENERAL ELECTION - REMINDER TO VOTE



Don't forget to vote on Tuesday, November 7, 2000. Polls are open 7 AM - 8 PM. The General Municipal Election is to elect three Councilmembers each for four year terms.

WARNING ALERT

MAIL THEFT - CHECKS

Recently three incidents of tampering with checks have been reported in LAH. Criminals are stealing checks out of bill payment envelopes from mail boxes or the post office, washing out the pay to order & amount, and substituting their names and amount and then processing the checks.



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

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Los Altos, CA
Permit No. 306

ACTION NEEDED:

The Sheriff's Office requests that residents exercise vigilance when reconciling your bank statements. If you find any discrepant checks, notify the Sheriff immediately by calling (408) 299-2322.