

Los Altos Hills Town Newsletter - September 2001

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LOS ALTOS HILLS



CALIFORNIA

Los Altos Hills

TOWN NEWSLETTER

Volume XXIV No. 3

September 2001

CALENDAR

September 8, Saturday,
5-10 PM, WESTWIND
BARN ANNUAL HOE
DOWN; Food catered by
Armadillo Willy's BBQ,
Entertainment- Pony
club, Drill team. Live
music & more! \$20
Adults; \$16 Children;
Reservations: Call 650

A New Town Hall for the 21st Century

A unique plan is being undertaken by the City Council to fund a new and much needed Town Hall with resident donations. On August 2, 2001 the City Council authorized \$44,500 from the general fund to initiate preliminary design plans and a total construction cost estimate for the new building.

expected to be Spanish mission style and the size will be about 6,000 square feet and its cost is estimated to be \$3 million.



Residents will be able to contribute a restricted gift to the Town for the new building. A precedent was established in the 1950s when Mr. & Mrs. C. Earl Dawson funded the existing Town Hall and John Fowle donated the

Reservations: Call 650-941-6113

September 19, Wednesday, 7:30 PM, ANSEL ADAMS AT 100, Art Lecture by Docent from San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Program Room, Los Altos Library. (Art Exhibit at SFMOMA August 4- January 13, 2002)

October 6 & 7 Sat., Sun., LOS ALTOS FALL FESTIVAL, South Parking Plaza between San Antonio Rd. and First St. Downtown; 10 AM-5 PM including a Classic Car Show. Sponsored by Los Altos Chamber of Commerce. Info: 948-1455

November 4 - December 28, ART EXHIBIT TOWN HALL CHAMBERS, KATHY SHARPE - PAINTINGS; MASAKO ONODERA - GLASS; Opening Reception 2-4 PM at Town Hall on Sunday, November 4; Public Invited.

The current Town Hall is in very poor condition. It is 50 years old and besides being too small at 2,200 square feet for the main building and 1,600 square feet for the council chambers, it suffers from termite infestation, poor wiring, plumbing problems, and does not meet current building codes. (Note: During August it underwent tenting so that the termite infestation could be controlled.)

The architect selected by the City Council for the project is John Goldman of San Francisco. The new building is



Original Town Hall built in 1956

property. To fund a Town Hall by donation is rather unusual. however it could work in Los Altos Hills because the Town residents are so generous and civic minded as demonstrated by the number of residents who participate in local government activities.



Town Hall undergoing fumigation

It will be a very unifying community effort for the residents to participate in fund raising efforts to build a new Town Hall of which we can all be proud!

GRADING MORATORIUM

Pursuant to Section 10-2.404 of the Town site Development Ordinance, the grading moratorium takes effect during the rainy season, which officially begins on November 1st and ends on April 1st.

Most grading operations in Town are restricted and new grading permits are generally not issued during this period. The Town grading inspector will inspect all active construction sites during mid-October to ensure that winterization and erosion control measures are fully and properly installed.

For further information, please contact City Engineer Min-tze Cheng at 941-7228 x228.

NOTICE

At the September 20, 2001 City Council Meeting, a public hearing will be held to discuss an ordinance amendment changing the time of Presentations from the Floor and Public Hearings at City Council and Planning Commission Meetings from 7:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

This public hearing will be held in the Council Chambers at 26379 Fremont Road and will begin after the hour of 7:00 p.m. Anyone interested in commenting on this issue is welcome to attend or may send correspondence to the City Clerk at Town Hall or email their comments to pdowd@losaltos hills.ca.gov.



LOS ALTOS HILLS

THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Status of Administrative Services Director Recruitment

Administrative Services Director Carol Ferrell's last day with us was Friday, August 10. We have launched an extensive, regional recruitment, which includes print ads, Internet postings, professional association contacts, mailings and phone calls to colleagues. Deadline for submission of applications is August 31st. A



City Manager Maureen Cassingham

NEW CITY ENGINEER AND DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

On July 23rd Los Altos Hills welcomed the appointment of Min-tze Cheng as the new City Engineer and Director of Public Works.

For the past two years, the Town has functioned without a Town-appointed City Engineer and Director of Public Works. The needs were met by contract employees or by staff who worked out of class.

Min-Tze was seeking a career change that involved more responsibility and opportunity.



significant challenge to the success of these efforts is similar vacancies in six neighboring cities (Atherton, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Santa Clara and San Carlos). It may be possible to have a new ASD on board by mid-October or hopefully no later than November 1. In this interim period, we may identify an appropriate temporary Finance Director to assist us.

Engineering/Public Works Office Moves

The relocation of the Public Works Manager to the Corporation Yard, Assistant Engineer to the Heritage House and our new City Engineer to the office across from the Planning Director is virtually complete. Now the Public Works Manager will be housed with the staff he supervises. Likewise, a full-time in-house City Engineer needs separate office space with the necessary equipment and in proximity to Planning and Building, which has been accomplished with this move. While portables were considered, the costs were similar with no permanent benefit to the Town.

Foothill College Team Building Trainings


Thanks to Foothill College President Bernadine Fong, I have been in contact with Lorie Prouty, Director of the College's Business and Industry Institute, to develop a series of customized team-building workshops for our staff. The results we are seeking include greater organizational effectiveness, communication, customer service and morale. The Institute provides successful training programs for many Silicon Valley companies and public agencies at very affordable rates, on site or off-site. As of this writing, we are considering half-day or full-day sessions on pre-announced Fridays to allow all staff to participate. Frequency may be quarterly or every four months. Reduced hourly rates for Institute trainers are \$225 with the first two hours at no cost to the Town. Books and other related training manuals are an additional expense. Venue will most likely be at Foothill College or another in Town.

Council Chambers Sound System Repairs

To eliminate the feedback and radio frequency disruptions which are affecting our meeting tapes and internet meeting videos, Sounds Natural of Soquel will be transitioning us from wireless microphone technology to a hard wired public address system on or about August 16, 2001. The cost will be \$1685. These improvements are portable and can be used in the new Town Hall.

—Maureen Cassingham
City Manager

responsibility and opportunity for career advancement in the public sector utilizing her knowledge, skill and previous experience. In Los Altos Hills she found a match with her career goals. Citing "teamwork and a sense of commitment to delivering excellent service to the residents of the community," Min-Tze Cheng accepted the position.



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

Min-tze's resume is very impressive – she received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from the National Taiwan University, a Master of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Master of Engineering Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley. Previously, she was the Senior Engineer, for 10 years with the City of San Mateo, Public Works Department where she managed the Engineering Services Section and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) with an annual operating budget of \$840,000 and a CIP of \$12 million dollars. She has also worked for CalTrans where she managed a federally funded multi-modal demonstration project, Route 61/I-880 Transportation Corridor Planning /Study (from Route 237 to I-80 Bay Bridge) with a budget of \$8 million.

Min-Tze has always loved the practical side of engineering. Perhaps it is in her genes. She described her great grandfather as a Taiwanese surveyor who would be called upon to resolve many difficult land/boundary disputes. Analytical skills are her forte. She enjoys resolving complex engineering issues and explaining solutions to residents.

Min-tze lives in Foster City with her husband, Andrew Lau who is an Information Technology engineer with Gilead Bioengineering and their 3 children (ages 19, 13, & 8), where they enjoy walking the paths along the shoreline. In her spare time, Min-Tze volunteers her time and serves as the school principal for the North Peninsula Mandarin School, a non-profit Chinese school in San Mateo every Saturday morning.

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

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Since May 2007, include the following: thirteen new residences, including nine approved through the Fast Track review process; five major additions, three secondary units, thirteen swimming pools and nine landscape screening plans. The Planning Commission reviewed one 6-lot subdivision, a site development permit for a 13,000-square foot accessory structure, two variance requests, one rezoning request, two conditional use permit renewals for cellular antenna sites, two new conditional use permit applications for cellular antenna sites and two miscellaneous requests for right-of-way vacations.



Planning Director Carl Cahill

At the direction of the City Council, the Planning Commission also reviewed the net area definition and then forwarded its recommendations to the City Council. The current net area definition is defined as the gross area of any parcel or lot of land, less panhandles and all public and private easements for vehicular access (right-of-way) within the parcel or lot, excluding easements primarily for emergency access. The revised net area definition will enable property owners to include that portion of their property within a public or private right-of-way, which is not paved or an otherwise impermeable surface, when calculating development area and floor area. The proposed revision will not increase the current proportion of impermeable surface to permeable surface on a particular lot as determined by the LUF formula nor decrease the Town's standard 60-foot right-of-way width.

— Carl Cahill
Planning Director

KEEP YOUR DOGS ON A LEASH

In response to recent resident calls expressing concern about unleashed dogs, the Town reminds residents that dogs are required to be held under leash by an able-bodied person.



Los Altos Hills Municipal Code, Sec.6-1.409 Leash required. States that:

"No person owning or harboring any dog shall allow or permit such dog, whether licensed or not, to be upon a public street, sidewalk, park, school ground, public place or upon any unenclosed lot or land except when held under leash by an able-bodied person."

LAH's Greatest Resource

After reading Robert Putnam's recent book, "Bowling Alone," detailing the collapse of the American communities – I agree with his basic thesis – that our greatest resource are involved citizens. They and they alone can rebuild a sense of community and oneness. The "social capital" Putnam speaks of includes networking by participation in clubs and meetings, and family dinners.

In the past 25 years, Putnam states that among many trends showing a disintegration of the social fiber is a 25% decline in attending club meetings, a 33% decline in family dinners and a 45% decline in inviting friends over for dinner, fewer political discussions, attending church gatherings, and writing letters to the editor.

In LAH by contrast, we certainly do not see any decline in people being involved. In our community we note the strong positive interest in developing programs for our handicapped, supporting children and students by attending their events and helping them participate in new recreational learning experiences and enjoying nature through our parks and recreation and pathways. We see our LAH Town Volunteer committees working diligently to improve our pathways, developing social events for the community and being involved in Town governance.

We observe civic organizations working like mad on plans that may or may not pass muster with the voting public – all in effort to create something for the greater good.

This involvement is more important than money or scenery – this demonstrates that our Town's greatest strength is in its involved citizenry.

As we move forward with our plans for a new Town Hall and plans for expanding our Parks and Recreation programs – we need all of our citizenry to be involved. Whether you are a working contributor, retiree or a stay-at-home mom/dad, our Town respects and needs your involvement to maintain the social fiber of our community.

Sincerely,
— Duffy Price, Editor

PARKS & RECREATION HORSEMANSHIP PROGRAM A GREAT SUCCESS

Los Altos Hills Parks and Recreation Committee, in cooperation with the Westwind Riding Institute, held its Second Annual Horsemanship Program, July 31-August 4. Friends of Westwind hosted the event while the Westwind Riding Institute provided the horses.

Jenny Whitmore, a British Horse Certified Instructor taught the class. Jenny is a superb riding instructor. The Town is proud that it can offer such a high caliber of instruction, far exceeding standards found in more commercial barns.

THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

4-H HANDICAP RIDING PROGRAM

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

If you enjoy being in the great outdoors, need gentle exercise, love children and horses why not consider volunteering with Westwind Riding for the Handicapped?

Westwind 4-H/Westwind Riding Institute (WRI) is a non-profit organization offering a program of horseback riding lesson to children with physical handicaps, especially the orthopedically handicapped. Riders range in age from 5-19 and come from many Bay Area Communities. The program is held year-round.

The program builds confidence and self-esteem, develops coordination and balance, affords freedom of mobility not usually available to the handicapped, offers outdoor fun and a sense of accomplishment, allows disabled and able bodied people in the community to work together, and allows riders to participate in horseshows.

The next 8-week session will begin after Labor Day and will be preceded by an orientation for new volunteers. A commitment of 1.5 hours a week is all that we ask and can be on either Mondays or Thursdays at 3:45 PM. Please call (650) 947-8680 and leave your name and number so that we can contact you with details. You must be 14 years old unless coming with a volunteer parent. Volunteering is very rewarding and fun.



—Alison Collin
Program Coordinator

Los Altos Hills Lifestyle

ENJOYING BYRNE PARK "A-BACK!"



Residents enjoying an afternoon outing in Byrne Park. Pictured above are Rylee, the

SHERIFF'S CORNER IN HIS OWN WORDS

Deputy Louis Valdez

I am 52 years old and married with three grown children, two daughters and a son. We have six grandchildren, four boys and two girls. My wife and I met while in high school and have been married for thirty-three years.



Deputy Louis Valdez

I was born in Trinidad, Colorado and moved to San Francisco in 1957. I graduated from Mission High School in 1967. After High School I joined the U.S. Army. I got married after completing basic training. I was a Paratrooper while on active duty and was sent to Vietnam. While in Vietnam, I was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. After returning from Vietnam I was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Unit in North Carolina.

After leaving active military duty, I went to work for the San Francisco Giants Security Office. Additionally, I worked for the Pacific Telephone, Triad Electronics, subsequently joining the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office. I have been with the department for seventeen years. I worked in the jails for ten years, one year in Court Services and the past six years at the West Valley Patrol Division. Five of these six years, assigned work in Los Altos Hills on day shift working Friday, Saturday and Sunday there. After joining the Sheriff's Office, I also returned to San Jose City Collage to further my education.

In my free time my hobbies are baseball, football, and golf, which I enjoy playing, and hockey and basketball. When my children were young, both my wife and I coached their baseball and softball teams for over thirteen years. We enjoy traveling having taken several cruises to the Bahamas, Hawaii and Mexico. It is a pleasure spending time with my children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews at Disneyland.

I've enjoyed my career with the Sheriff's Department being Deputy in Los Altos Hills serving the residents and the community.

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 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

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THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

ART EXHIBIT INVITATION

The Town of Los Altos Hills cordially invites you to the Opening Art Reception

September 9th 2-4 PM

featuring

Faith Dubring - Ceramics

Jean Struthers - Paintings

in the Los Altos Hills Council Chambers

Exhibit open to the public

Exhibit Dates: September 9 - October 26, 2001

Monday - Friday

8 AM - Noon and 1 - 5 PM

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



Jean Struthers



Faith Dubring

PONY CLUB HALLOWEEN HORSE SHOW ALL KIDS INVITED

Pacific Ridge Pony Club, comprised mostly of kids from Los Altos Hills, is sponsoring a Halloween Horse Show. This schooling show will feature equitation classes, jumping classes, best-groomed classes and awards for the best costume for horses and riders. All of those dressed in costumes receive recognition.

The show will be held on October 21st at Westwind Barn, the Hills greatest community asset, and is open to all horses, riders and ages.

Even if you do not own or ride a horse, come, watch and enjoy autumn in the Hills. Food and beverages will be available. For more information contact Jane Kawasaki at 947-9104.

HOEDOWN EVENT

Westwind Barn is holding its annual Hoe Down Saturday, September 8th, from 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM.

Members of Pacific Ridge Pony Club will begin the evening by demonstrating their equestrian skills while playing games. These pony clubbers are Hills residents and range in age from 8-18. Come support our own. The Westwind Drill Team will also perform.

Dinner, catered by Armadillo Willy's, begins at 6:30 PM. There will be live music, bar and entertainment during dinner and after.

325 GALLONS A DAY PER HOUSEHOLD? REALLY?!

Yes, it's true. Customers of the Purissima Hills Water District (PHWD) use an annual average of 325 gallons of water per day. Most of the water (85 - 90%) is used for landscape irrigation. More homes are being built in the area served by the District, and the average water use per new household, that is, per capita use, is increasing—a serious concern for the PHWD, because it already exceeds its allotted portion of water by 20%.

Over the past decade, the district has been strongly urging conservation: the use of drought tolerant plants, and water conserving irrigation methods. In times of drought—and droughts will occur—the District's water supply will be cut back by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), our water provider, by about 30%. This will mean loss of landscaping for many, especially those that are high water users.

San Francisco PUC is the sole provider of water to most districts in the Peninsula, as it is to the Purissima Hills Water District. The SFPUC has been slow to even recognize a



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 household? Really?!

For tickets call the barn manager extraordinaire: **Alicia Restivo** at 941-6113.

CROQUET IS OK !

Free instruction of Croquet continues weekly at the Little League Field 2 Saturdays at 10 AM. Call 650-493-3322 to reserve or E-mail **Jeanne Strong** at JCroquet@aol.com

pending crisis in the system. Although they have known there is an impending shortfall in water supply, they have done nothing to augment water supplies. The 70-year old system needs structural work and much seismic upgrading. The funding for all the needed repairs has not yet been identified. BAWUA (Bay Area Water Users Association—a consortium of agencies who purchase water from SFPUC) is working pro-actively with the SFPUC on all these issues. This association's membership buys about 70% of the SFPUC water. The member districts enjoy the unparalleled high quality of the Hetch Hetchy system water and are anxious to usher in the needed capital improvements.

—Jan Fenwick

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THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

RESIDENT'S REPLY CARD

Let's Hear What You Think

- 1. We'd like to hear from you. Please let us know what is on your mind about Los Altos Hills.*
- 2. What issues would you like to see addressed in future Town Newsletters?*
- 3. Would you like to volunteer to help with the Spring Family Picnic? How about spending some time scooping ice cream or helping with the games?*

WE THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone / e-mail: _____

Please use this card or answer on a separate sheet. Send your responses to Town Hall, 26739 Fremont Rd. LAH, CA 94022 or Fax: 650/941-3160

**NEW BYRNE PRESERVE PICNIC
AREA COMMUNITY PROJECT**

Thanks to all those

**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

that came to the Byrne Preserve/Westwind Barn picnic area community project activity on May 19th and May 20th. The mini-picnic area with its three picnic tables and trees can now be enjoyed for a great picnic lunch or evening event with a great view or maybe a bike rest to stop or sketch the Byrne Preserve open space. The picnic area is already being used as a drop-off and pick up area for the Ohlone Summer Camp program provided by the Los Altos Hills Parks & Recreation Committee.



Volunteers pictured above working on the new fence: Les Earnest, Harry Emerzian, Ginger Summit, Ross Bilger and James Hickman.

The picnic area can be enjoyed at Westwind Barn entrance at 27210 Altamont Road.

THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

PATHWAY ADVENTURE SERIES NO. 1 KID-FRIENDLY PATHWAY WALKS

It's time to pull out that Town Pathway map you received with the last newsletter and grab your son or daughter or pet for a short (about 1 mile) adventure hike.

One of my favorite pathway walks with my two children is a very nice scenic walk near Westwind Barn and Byrne Preserve. This pathway adventure starts at Westwind Barn (27210 Altamont Rd.) where there is ample parking for those not close enough to walk there directly. Our hike usually starts with a walk around the barn where we usually find some friendly horse riders who let us pet the horses or feed them carrots.

To start the hike, walk to the middle of the barn and head down the hill. At the bottom of the hill where the horse fence ends, turn left and head toward the Byrne preserve. Once you enter the preserve, turn right onto the trail.

As you start on the trail, this is a good time to impress your kids with your botanical knowledge by correctly identifying poison oak (*toxicodendrom diversilobum*) and warn them of the dangers of touching this plant. Poison Oak has shiny green leaves in distinct sets of 3 leaflets. The leaves are lobed and they turn red in the fall. Continue down this path as it heads along the creek. When you reach a large green gate, proceed through the opening for people. Before long, the trail travels along a wooded creek under a huge canopy of mature oaks.



Elise and Hailey examining banana slugs on pathway.

When the trail reaches a 4-way junction, take the trail that travels to the left back up the hill.

Watch your step! The banana slug hunt is about to





Kids' favorite pathway walk

begin. For the next few hundred yards, you will be in banana slug country where kids will have a great time searching for banana slugs on the ground, and in the trees. Another easy plant to identify is the bay tree with its aromatic leaves. At the right time of day, you might be sharing the trail with the deer that are common in the area. You will certainly hear the chatter of scrub jays (without the crest) or Stellar's jay (with the black crest), and notice their vibrant blue color.

Continue up the trail until you finally come out of the dense oak woodland next to a grape vineyard. Turn LEFT onto the dirt road. Continue through another gate back into Byrne Preserve. Follow the dirt road to the top of the hill where you will get a great 360-degree view of the bay area. To the west, you might see the fog working its way over the wooded foothills. To the north on a clear day, you can see Stanford, San Francisco and even the Mount Tamalpais. To the east there is Diablo and San Francisco Bay, and Mount Hamilton, to the south.

To finish the hike, continue the path down the hill back to Westwind Barn.

Coming in the next issue of the Town Newsletter will be a Los Altos Hills History Pathway Walk.

—Scott Vanderlip, Pathways Committee Co-chair

JOIN IN TOWN PATHWAY HIKES

To explore the LAH pathway system and meet your neighbors join the Pathways Committee for interesting and neighborly hikes around Town. Please bring good walking shoes and water. Each walk typically takes 1-2 hours. Dogs, children, and equestrians are always welcome.

Hike Dates: **September 16th** - 10 AM. Meet at the corner of Taffe and Altamont Rd.
October 1st - 4 PM. Annual Fall Pathway Hike. Meet at Westwind Barn (27210 Altamont Rd.)
November 4th - 3 PM; Meet at Town Hall

Information: Call Scott Vanderlip at 650/948-6455

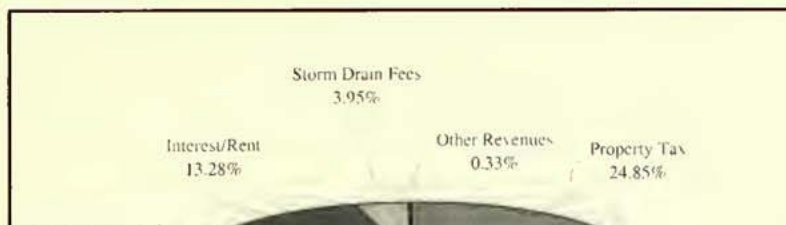
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TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS

On June 15th, 2000 the Council adopted the Town's Operating Budget for the 2000-2001 fiscal year, which began. The charts below indicate the Town's General Fund revenue and expenditure mix according to the new budget, as a comparison of the budgeted amounts to last year's actual amounts. The new budget anticipates that the Silicon economy will continue to grow, albeit at a more moderate clip than experienced last year. Funding has been increased significantly to allow for an increased maintenance effort in the Town's pathways, streets and storm drainage systems. In addition to the increasing expenditures shown, \$1.4 million was spent last year on capital improvements, mainly for infrastructure projects.

General Fund Revenues by Source

Budgeted for the year ended 6/30/2001

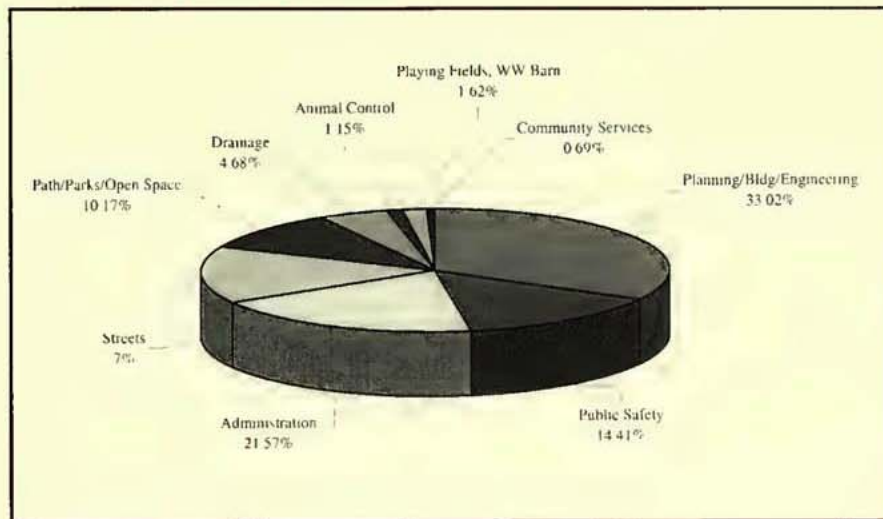




Revenues	1999-2000 (Unaudited)	2000-01 Budget	Increase (Decrease)
Property Tax	1,168,460	1,171,700	3,240
Other Taxes	555,853	499,630	-56,223
Franchise Fees	282,005	291,550	9,545
Gas Tax	166,155	162,600	-3,555
Permits/Fees for Service	1,433,975	1,338,175	-95,800
Intergovernmental	446,561	423,100	-23,461
Interest/Rent	551,419	626,190	74,771
Storm Drain Fees	153,571	186,000	32,429
Other Revenues	11,880	15,550	3,670
Total Revenues	4,769,878	4,714,495	-55,383

General Fund Expenditures

Budgeted for the year ended 6/30/2001



Expenditures	1999-2000 (Unaudited)	2000-01 Budget	Increase (Decrease)
Planning/Bldg/Engineering	1,116,839	1,327,956	211,117
Public Safety	553,431	579,500	26,069
Administration	619,861	773,031	153,170
Streets	236,241	605,040	368,799
Path/Parks/Open Space	265,692	409,067	143,375
Drainage	99,531	188,297	88,766
Animal Control	35,358	46,240	10,882
Playing Fields, WW Barn	47,910	65,148	17,238
Community Services	27,094	27,931	837

Total General Fund Expenditures	3,001,958	4,022,210	1,020,252
Capital Improvement	<u>1,404,820</u>		
Total Government Expenditures	4,406,778		

* Capital Projects Budget is approved in October

THE TOWN NEWSLETTER



IDENTITY THEFT

*By Deputy Robert Bosworth
Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office.*

WHAT IS IDENTITY THEFT?

ID theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in the USA. With a minimal amount of valid identifying information a skilled thief can quickly assume an individual's identity enabling him to open a new bank account, open credit card accounts, obtain loans, cash advances, establish phone service, defraud insurance companies and obtain employment. The thief may even rent an apartment or buy a car.

SOME INFORMATION ABOUT THIS CRIME

Last year, over 500,000 people were victims of ID theft. The crime is so rampant that 1 in 3 people may become victims.

Disabled or elderly persons are often targets as they can be incapacitated. They often have good credit and are sometimes cared for by a large number of people (attendants, medical staff, drivers, service personnel)

Some of the most common methods of gaining information for ID theft are:

Dumpster Diving - Thieves count on the fact that most people (and businesses) throw out unshredded documents that are filled with personal data such as bills, receipts, bank statements, pre-approved credit card applications, etc.

Mail Theft - Unlocked or unattended mailboxes may contain pre-approved credit card applications, bank statements, tax forms or checks.

Inside Sources - A dishonest employee with access to personnel records, payroll information, insurance files, account numbers and/or sales records can wreak havoc, especially if that employee can get their hands on Social Security numbers, driver's license numbers and birth dates.

Online Data - The Internet has opened new doors for identity thieves. On the simplest level, they have quick and easy access to identifying data that consumers tend to share through phone listings, directories, memberships, etc.

Purse/Wallet Theft - Stolen purses and wallets usually contain plenty of bankcards, and other personal identification.

Imposters - Many identity theft victims have been taken in by an individual who posed as someone who had a legitimate or legal reason to access the victim's personal information.

WHAT A VICTIM OF IDENTITY THEFT FACES

In most cases of identity theft, it takes months before the victim is aware of any wrongdoing. The victim typically learns of the crime when he or she receives a collection letter or is turned down for a loan due to a negative credit rating.

TIPS FOR PREVENTION

1. Don't carry your Social Security card (or number) with you
2. Be careful with receipts
3. Do not leave outgoing mail in your home mailbox (not only can it be stolen but it signals burglars that you are not home)
4. Shred EVERYTHING!!!!!!
5. Review all statements (bank, credit card, etc.)

STEPS THAT A VICTIM OF IDENTITY THEFT CAN TAKE

1. Contact the fraud departments of each of the three major credit bureaus to: Report the theft and request a "fraud alert." This ensures that the victim is contacted before any new accounts are opened or an existing account is changed (a "fraud block" prevents any activity and the victim will not be able to do anything with their own

...making account is changed to fraud check prevents any activity and the victim will not be able to do anything with their own accounts-the "fraud alert" is a much better option) Request copies of credit reports. Credit bureaus are required to provide free copies of credit reports to victims of identity theft.

2. Contact the fraud departments of all creditors.

RESOURCES

EQUIFAX

1-800-525-6285 (Fraud)

1-800-685-1111 (Report order)

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

1-877-ID-THEFT (438-4338)

202-326-2502 (TDD)

www.ftc.gov

www.consumer.gov/idtheft

www.consumer.gov/knowfraud

IDENTITY THEFT RESOURCE CENTER

www.privacyrights.org



LOS ALTOS HILLS

THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

Inside Town Hall



FINANCE DIRECTOR RESIGNS

After serving the Town for over 5 years, **Finance Director Carol Ferrell** has resigned, effective August 10th.

She leaves to become finance director for the city of Cupertino.

Carol is commended for her hard work and contributions to the Town, Finance Committee, residents and co-workers. She will be missed. We wish her the best of luck in her new position.

PRODUCTIVITY ON THE INCREASE!

NEW BABIES

Don't know what's in the water but our Planning and Engineering Departments are sure productive! New additions to the following families occurred in July:



Carl Cahill, Planning Director and his wife Heather are enjoying a new addition to their family. Laura Elizabeth was born on July 3rd, joining her older brother, Caleb, who is 2 _ years old.

John Chau, Assistant Engineer and his wife, Linda are also enjoying a new addition to their family. Hannah was born on July 13th.

NEW OFFICE SPECIALIST



Victoria Wright has recently been appointed to the Office Specialist position vacated by Kiersa Haller. Victoria relocated

TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Appointments to be filled:

- North County Library Authority (Four Year Term)
- Youth Commissioner
- Joint Volunteer Awards Committee
- Town Standing Committees (Four Year Terms): Environmental Design & Protection, Pathways, Parks & Recreation, Safety and Utility & Information Systems

The City Council will hold interviews for these appointments at their Thursday, October 18th Council Meeting. Applications are available in the City Clerk's Office at Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022 during regular office hours (8 AM to Noon: 1-5 PM). For additional information, please call the City Clerk, Pat Dowd, at 941-7222. The deadline for applications is Wednesday, October 10, 2001 by 5 PM.

FOUND -- A SMALL WATCH

A small watch was found after the Spring Family Picnic on June 3, 2001. Please contact Pat Dowd, City Clerk at 941-7222.



from Beverly Hills, Michigan to Silicon Valley. She previously worked for the Village of Beverly Hills in municipal government. Please stop by and say hello.

NEW ENGINEERING ASSISTANT



Phu Nguyen was appointed to the position of Engineering Technician. Phu obtained a degree in civil engineering from San Jose State University. He was employed previously by the City of Menlo Park in the Engineering Department. Phu's main duties in LAH include infrastructure surveys, research, drafting, construction inspection and mapping.

PG&E UPDATE



PG&E Public Affairs advises that residential energy consumption for localized areas will soon be posted on PG&E's website at: www.pge.com

The timing of the posting of this information is dependent on the finalizing of a contract between PG&E and the Governor's Office.