

OUR TOWN

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS

JUNE 2012



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Come Fly With Me



PUBLIC SAFETY BY THE NUMBERS

1,429

Number of sworn officers in Santa Clara County Office of the Sheriff

312

Number of non-sworn personnel

36

Percentage of burglaries in 2011 where confirmed point of entry was an open door or window

5

Number of burglaries in Los Altos Hills January to March 2012

71

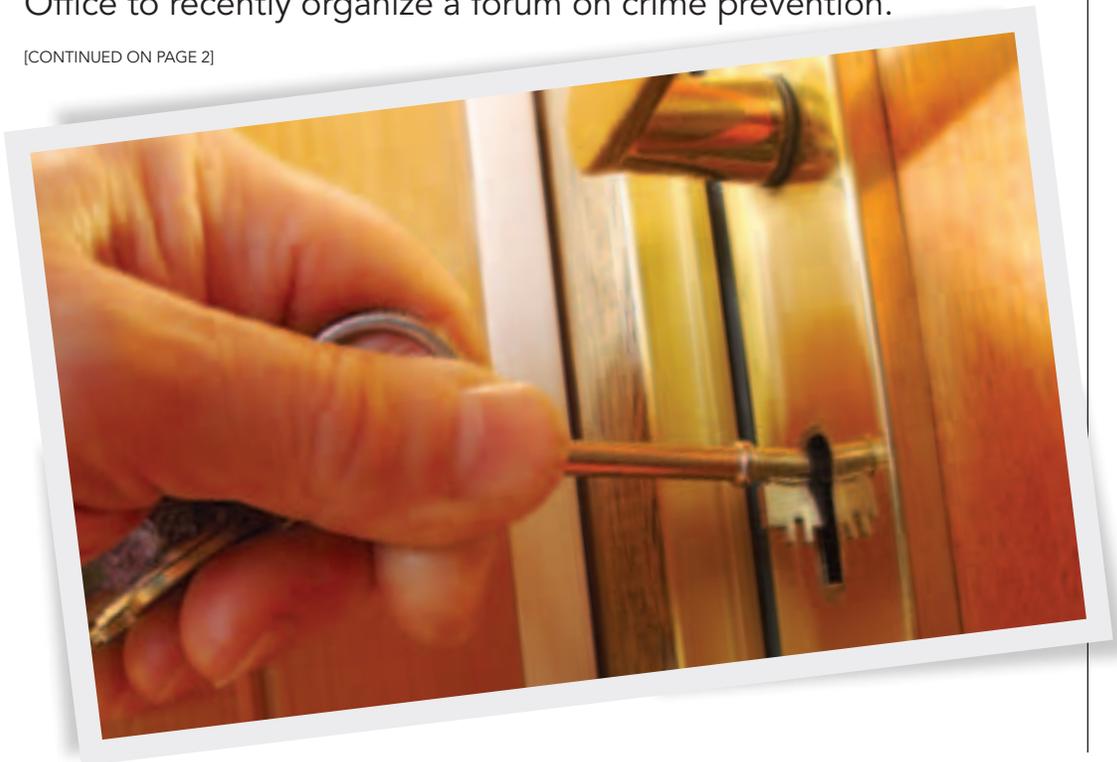
Number of burglaries in Palo Alto January to March 2012



Keeping Our Town Safe

Life in a rural town — with its serene rolling hills, abundant native trees and plants, the quiet disrupted by the enchanting melodies of birds, the occasional hushed voices of walkers or horse riders as they traverse the inviting pathways — can easily lull its residents into a false complacency. This complacency was shattered this spring by a string of burglaries, prompting the Town of Los Altos Hills and Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office to recently organize a forum on crime prevention.

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Be vigilant and report any unusual or suspicious activity or people to the police. Know your neighbors. Suspects are often stopped or caught as a result of information from witnesses.

Crime Prevention 101

On April 10, a standing-room-only crowd of over 200 residents attended the forum that gave effective tips on crime prevention. "The number of burglaries this year has been equal to or less than that in previous years," noted Deputy Tom Bond, School Resource Officer, calming fears that burglaries are not on the rise. During the first three months of 2012, five burglaries were reported in Los Altos Hills, which was three less than the year before.

Captain Ken Binder, Commander of the West Valley Division of the Sheriff's Office, assured residents that the town is more than adequately served by law enforcement, giving the audience an overview of the extensive operations of the division. There are 73 sworn personnel, including sergeants, detectives, and deputies assigned to the West Valley Patrol Division, which serves Los Altos Hills, along with Cupertino

and Saratoga. Five deputies are assigned specifically to Los Altos Hills.

Nevertheless, the burglaries are worrisome and require both residents and deputies to be alert. In addition, other crimes have caused alarm among residents. On March 21, a woman reported being robbed at knifepoint in

or suspicious activity or people to the police. Know your neighbors. Suspects are often stopped or caught as a result of information from witnesses," Bond said.

"One scam burglars are using is posing as repairmen or PG&E personnel, knocking on doors and offering services," Bond warned. Do not let anybody unknown or unexpected into your house," Bond advised. "Talk to them through the door to let them know somebody is in the house. If necessary, call the company they claim to represent to verify their business. If they refuse to show you their ID or don't have an appointment with you, call 9-1-1."

Keys to Crime Prevention

Speakers at the forum gave some basic advice for anyone who fears he or she is being followed: go somewhere where there are other people.

"If you think you are being followed, don't go home," emphasized Bond. "Go to a public place. If somebody is following you, the last place you want to lead them to is your home."

If you are driving, remember that fire stations are open 24/7. Other good options are police stations, town halls, and libraries during open hours and busy shopping centers. If you have a cell phone and fear for your safety, call 9-1-1.

Unless you have been involved in an accident, the only vehicle you have to stop for is a police car, reminded Captain Binder. You can call 9-1-1 to ask for a deputy to facilitate the information exchange, even in a case of a minor collision.

For more crime prevention tips see next page.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Sheriff's Office, West Valley Substation, Emergencies: Call 9-1-1.

Sheriff's Office, West Valley Substation, non-emergency dispatch: (408) 299-2311.

Sheriff's Office, West Valley Substation office: (408) 868-6600, 8am-5pm.

Town related questions, complaints and issues: Janet Shannon, 650-947-2506, jshannon@losaltoshills.ca.gov.

Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office: www.sccsheriff.org.

National Neighborhood Watch Institute: www.nnwi.org or call (888) 669-4872.

Reports of incidents: www.crimereports.com.

broad daylight while driving on Miranda Road. That same day, a resident found a burglar in his home off of Summer Hill Avenue. A week later, a young woman's daytime walk was blocked by an unknown man in a dark blue F150 Ford near Hillview Road. Earlier in the same day, a suspicious man had lunged at a 9-year-old girl at Bubb Elementary School in Mountain View.

Safety in Numbers

The speakers stressed that each resident is the first line of defense against crime. "Be vigilant and report any unusual



TO LEARN MORE:

A video recording of the presentations, the slide presentation and a Q&A session can be viewed at www.losaltoshills.ca.gov.



New Captain Joins the Office of the Sheriff

Law enforcement for Los Altos Hills has a new commander. Captain Ken Binder has taken the reins of the West Valley Division of the Office of the Sheriff of Santa Clara County from Captain Carl Neusel, who was promoted to Assistant Sheriff at the turn of the year.

Captain Binder is a 14-year veteran of the Sheriff's Office, where he oversaw the detective bureau until his promotion. He started his new post fresh from having completed the prestigious FBI National Academy training course in Quantico, Virginia.

In the detective bureau, Binder found himself to be a natural fit. Skills in interrogation and evidence collection as well as the ability to talk to witnesses and to figure out cases all proved to be invaluable.

"I wanted to do work that has a positive impact," explains Binder regarding his original decision to go into law enforcement. Prior to entering the field, he earned a business finance degree from San Jose State University. Binder is not the only one in his family with a goal to 'catch the bad guys'; his younger brother serves as a sergeant in the San Jose Police Department.

In his free time, Binder enjoys riding off-road motorcycles in Hollister Hills, Pismo Beach, or other parts of the State. He stays in shape by exercising regularly and playing in basketball and softball leagues.

For entertainment, the new captain prefers comedies or documentaries to police dramas. "After working as a detective for many years, watching police dramas makes my blood pressure rise," Binder laughs. "I start wanting to solve the case and begin thinking of the investigative avenues to do so."



CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

Stay safe

- Lock your vehicles and close all windows.
- Keep all items of value hidden from view.
- Lock your house, including all windows (even upper floors).
- For additional exterior lighting contact the Planning Department for further information.
- Use your alarm system.
- When travelling, give the alarm company a name of a local contact.
- Never store a key outside.

Be prepared

- Make note of serial numbers of your laptops, cell phones and other electronic equipment. If stolen, the numbers can be entered into a database, which is checked when someone is found with suspected stolen property.
- Photograph or engrave your jewelry and other valuables.
- When you are out of town, you may contact the Sheriff's Office for vacation check request by calling 408-868-6600.
- Keep your travel plans to yourself — do not post on Facebook.
- Make your house number visible so deputies can find your house easily, even at night.

- Change all locks when moving into a new residence.
- If you have an alarm system, post the stickers on windows and doors.
- Sign up for the Town's Rapid Notify System (see page 4).
- Set up a neighborhood watch program. Instructions can be ordered from the National Neighborhood Watch Institute at www.NNWI.org.

Be vigilant and a good witness

- Report any suspicious person or activity by calling 9-1-1.
- Never let an unknown and unexpected person into your home.
- If somebody has entered your residence while you have been away, do not go in. Remain in a safe location and call 9-1-1.
- Do not take any risks trying to prevent a crime. The responsibility for apprehending criminals belongs to the police.
- Be a good witness. Make a mental note of the suspicious person: gender, age, hair color, build, clothing, and distinguishing features.
- Make note of a suspicious vehicle and license plate, take a photo if safe and possible to do so.

Expanding Town Boundaries

The Town is working on annexing two of five unincorporated County areas and all remaining pockets will be analyzed within the next few years. Annexation is the process by which cities extend their municipal services, regulations, voting privileges, and taxing authority to new territory. In Santa Clara County, annexations are controlled by the Santa Clara County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) established by the State's Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act.

In the 1970s, LAFCO adopted Urban Service Area boundaries for cities in Santa Clara County delineating incorporated and unincorporated areas authorized to receive urban services or proposed to receive urban services when they are available. The Los Altos Hills Urban Service Area contains five unincorporated areas totaling approximately 320 acres. These areas are surrounded by Town lands and are referred to as urban pockets or islands.

Annexation of unincorporated pockets is encouraged because it provides for convenient and accessible local government, cohesive development standards with the surrounding neighborhood, and retention of the tax dollars within a localized area.

Since 2000, the Town has annexed three unincorporated County pockets. The Ravensbury area containing 53 parcels was annexed into the Town in 2001. The West Loyola area with 62 parcels was annexed in 2007, and the La Loma area containing 11 parcels was annexed in 2010. In September 2011, the City Council approved a plan to annex the remaining five unincorporated Santa Clara County islands/pockets into the Town.

Islands/Pockets	Acreage	Approximate Number of Parcels
La Loma	8.9	1
Olive Tree Hills	32.8	25
Ravensbury	24.3	6
Moody Road	18.6	20
San Antonio Hills	236.9	215

As part of the annexation process, the areas subject to annexation will be evaluated for compatibility with the Town's land use and zoning. In addition, analysis will be done on fiscal impact, public service, and facilities. The annexation of the La Loma and Olive Tree Hills islands is currently underway and the remaining pockets should be annexed within the next two to three years.

Debbie Pedro, Planning Director

Town of Los Altos Hills



Rapid Notification ALERTS

Sending emergency and non-emergency alert notifications to a community quickly and efficiently is critical to help Town officials promote the safety of its residents. Residents can stay informed about potential dangerous situations, and in some cases the alerts can help prevent disasters. The Town uses a software system called Rapid Notify to simultaneously send an alert to thousands of people via phone — either landline or mobile phone. Below are answers to some common questions by residents:

HOW DID YOU GET MY NUMBER?

Contacts in the Rapid Notify System are completely confidential and have been obtained from the emergency services database of telephone numbers. Additionally, an individual can self-register a phone number on the Los Altos Hills website.

WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN I AM CALLED?

When you receive an automated phone call from the Rapid Notify System, please listen carefully to the message. The majority of the time the call will provide information of a non-emergency nature. However, in the event of an emergency you will be informed as to the nature of the situation and be given instructions on how to protect yourself.

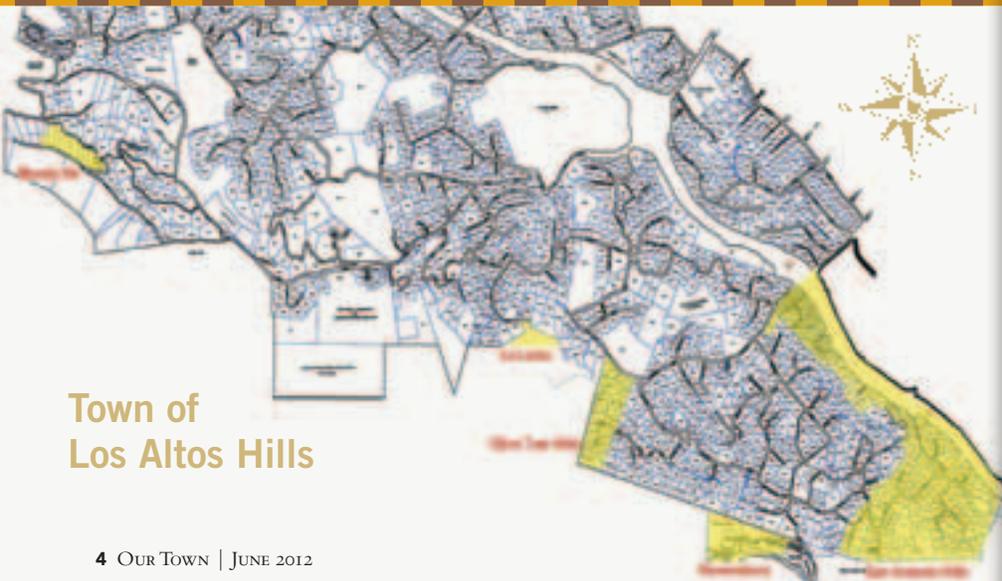
WHAT IF I MISS THE CALL?

If you do not answer your phone, the system will attempt to reach you with two additional calls. The system will leave a message on your voicemail.

WHAT IF MY NUMBER IS UNLISTED?

If you wish to add your cell phone number or other contact information, please visit www.losaltoshills.ca.gov. Your information will not be shared with anyone.

Participation in the Rapid Notify System is not mandatory. Your contact information can be removed from the system upon request. If you have further questions, please contact City Clerk Deborah Padovan: dpadovan@losaltoshills.ca.gov or 650-941-7222.



Focus on Fire Season

Hot summer days are a time to relax, but not when it comes to fire safety. Fire season becomes especially severe when a lack of rain results in dry vegetation. Dry vegetation increases risks of wildfires, so take the steps to protect your home, property, and family. The Los Altos Hills County Fire District and the Santa Clara County Fire Department urge everyone to follow these guidelines:

- Be careful with fire. It is estimated that people cause 90% of wildfires.
- Create a defensible space around all structures by clearing flammable vegetation to a minimum of 100 feet or to the property line.
- Remove tree limbs within 10 feet of chimneys and stovepipes.
- Remove pine needles and leaves from roofs, eaves, and rain gutters.
- Remember that lawnmowers are for use on lawns. Do not use them on dry grass or weeds; doing so can start a fire.
- Always mow before 10:00 am. Dry grass has the highest amount of moisture during the morning hours.
- Dispose of cigarettes properly. Do not discard cigarettes on roadsides or in dry grass.
- Be alert and immediately report small fires by calling 9-1-1.
- Avoid activities in or adjacent to dry grass or brush-covered areas, such as weed mowing or disking, metal cutting, grinding or welding, using chain saws or any other activity that could produce a spark or flame.
- Park vehicles with hot catalytic converters only on paved or dirt areas; not on grass.
- Most important: Have a plan for gathering family members, pets, and valuables in case an approaching wildfire requires evacuation.



Santa Clara County Fire Department, Los Altos Hills County Fire District, and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Santa Clara Unit participate in alerting the community of "Red Flag Warnings." The Red Flag Warning flags will be flown at all of the Fire Stations for the entire duration of High Fire Danger weather, which is a state of low humidity, higher than normal winds, and high temperatures. In these conditions, fire will easily ignite and spread very quickly. When flags are up, residents need to be extra careful when using any kind of machinery while working outdoors, and be extremely vigilant in reporting any kind of fire.

- In addition to flying red flags on extreme fire weather days, the Santa Clara County Fire Department is teaching wildland fire safety awareness to community members as part of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training.
- For additional information about fire safety and fire-resistant landscaping, contact Santa Clara County Fire Department or log onto the following websites:
- Santa Clara County Fire Department: www.sccfd.org
- Los Altos Hills County Fire District: www.lahcfd.org
- CAL FIRE: www.fire.ca.gov
- Santa Clara County FireSafe Council: www.sccfiresafe.org

To request a free home fire safety check, contact Mike Sanders, Emergency Services Coordinator, Santa Clara County Fire Department/Los Altos Hills County Fire District at mike.sanders@cnt.sccgov.org or 650-922-1055.





Community Comes Together for Earth Day

More than 400 people attended the recent Earth Day event held on a beautiful, warm day on April 22, at Westwind Community Barn. The event featured fun, family-oriented entertainment, information booths that promoted eco-friendly products, and resources, and featured local farmers and vintners. The event was sponsored by the Open Space and Parks and Recreation Committees.

Each year, the biggest draw are the big cat presentations. Children and their camera-equipped parents eagerly await the majestic felines that are presented by Rob and Barbara Dickey from the Wild Cat Education and Conservation Fund (WCE&CF). The goal of the nonprofit organization is to educate the public about the decreasing population of the 36 wild cat species around the world, provide funding for worldwide wild cat conservation projects, and offer safe refuge for captive wild cats. WCE&CF makes more than 100 presentations each year to schools, libraries, and park and recreation programs. Their ambassador cats (a cheetah, cougar, lynx, leopard, serval, and ocelot) have been seen by more than 600,000 Bay Area residents. The Dicelys also discussed ways children can raise money to help save wild cats through bake sales and aluminum can collection drives.

Back by popular demand was the electric vehicle lane where residents, the Electric Auto Association - Silicon Valley Chapter (EAASV), and ELV Motors showcased their innovative and earth-friendly vehicles. Other exhibitors included the Bay Area Amphibian & Reptile Society, Hidden Villa, various Town committees and many more green-friendly vendors and organizations.



Active Senior Living

All Los Altos Hills seniors are welcome to participate in the wide variety of classes and opportunities at the Los Altos Senior Center, located in the Hillview Community Center.

The Los Altos Senior Center offers a welcoming environment to active adults from age 50 and older. Activities range from classes, trips, special events, and travel to in-home repair, notary service, resource center, and referral services. Activities include options from ping-pong, line dancing, and shuffleboard to Tai Chi and meditation. For game enthusiasts, the center offers many card games as well as mah-jongg. Monthly speakers and an Artventures class will provide participants with new perspectives. Many special interest classes, such as Yogalates, Creative Writing, Needle Arts, Genealogy, Hiking, and foreign language instruction are provided on site by Mountain View-Los Altos Adult Education.

There are also several resources at the center that seniors can use to find affordable housing and health insurance, as



well as information on issues from AARP, tax preparation, recycling eyeglasses, and batteries.

The cost of membership for Los Altos Hills residents is \$40. A newsletter subscription is available for \$5 per year. Titled "The Spotlight," this bi-monthly publication is your guide to all the programs and events at the Los Altos Senior Center. Members get useful benefits and access to members-

Senior Scholarship Fund

The Town Council has created a \$500 scholarship fund applicable toward Parks and Recreation Department and Los Altos Senior Center programs for Los Altos Hills residents age 50 and over. The funding is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. For more information contact Sarah Gualtieri, 650-947-2518 or sgualtieri@losaltoshills.ca.gov.

only programs. Discounts are given on luncheons, programming, and day trips, as well as on notary services – and if you have a sweet tooth, don't forget those See's Candies one pound gift certificates.

To become a member, send your information and payment (make check payable to City of Los Altos) and mail it to: Los Altos Senior Center, 97 Hillview Avenue, Los Altos, CA 94022.

Residents are invited to visit the Senior Center at Hillview Community Center, rooms 10-12, located at 97 Hillview Avenue, in Los Altos. The Center is open

from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm, Monday through Friday. For more information call 650-947-2797 or visit the website: www.losaltosrecreation.org.

15TH ANNUAL LOS ALTOS HILLS

TOWN PICNIC

As spring arrives, it is a reminder that summer is around the corner. There is no better way to begin summer than attending the popular Town Picnic, now celebrating its 15th year. Mark your calendar for Sunday, June 3 from 1:00 to 4:30 pm. The Town of Los Altos Hills hosts the picnic, free for all residents, as the major annual community event. Last year more than 2,000 residents attended — establishing a new record.

The picnic includes a choice of chicken, all-beef hot dogs or vegetarian meals that will be cooked by our terrific firefighters from Santa Clara County Firefighters Local #1165, all served with firefighters' chili, tossed salad, and garlic bread. Volunteers will be serving soft drinks, beer, and wine. For dessert, enjoy delicious ice cream sundaes.

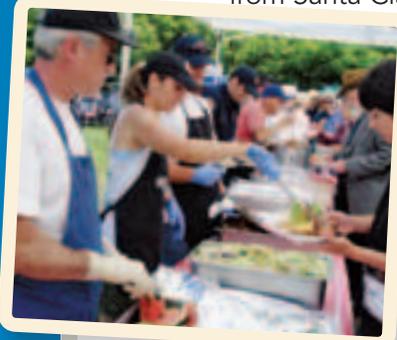
A shuttle service will be provided on a continual basis from the Town Hall parking lot to and from the event.

The Community Relations Committee organizes the Town Picnic, with help from many residents who volunteer. We invite you to volunteer for a 30- to 60-minute shift to help with registration, games, serving drinks or ice cream. There will be many canopy tent covers with tables and chairs.

Remember to bring your proof of Town residency and a copy of your online confirmation. For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation department at 650-947-2518.

PICNIC HIGHLIGHTS

- **FOOD:** A complimentary lunch with your choice of all-beef hot dog, veggie burger, chicken, chili, tossed salad, garlic bread, and ice cream sundaes.
- **DRINKS:** Sodas, beer, and wine
- **CLASSIC CAR SHOW:** Over 40 vintage and electric cars
- **GAMES:** A variety of exciting games including the velcro wall, obstacle course, and jumper house.
- **MUSIC:** The terrific Touch of Class will perform for your listening and dancing pleasure.
- **TRAINS:** The Lionel Train Association will be running model trains under a tent.
- **PONY RIDES:** Children can enjoy pony rides in the round pen next to the Car Show.



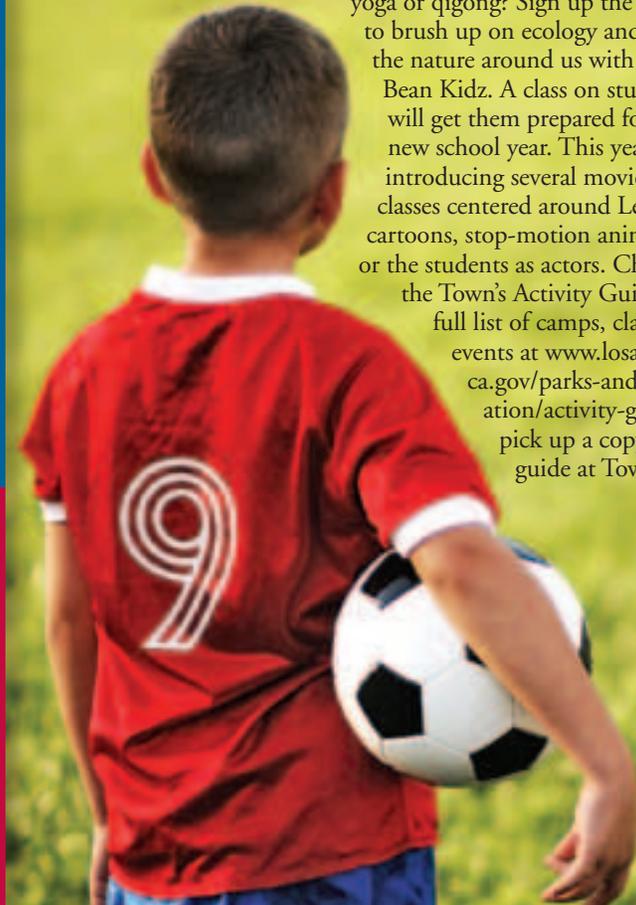
How off your red, white, and blue and celebrate Independence Day with a fun activity for the entire family. Residents are invited to gather at Town Hall on Wednesday, July 4, at 9:30 am for the Fourth Annual Los Altos Hills 4th of July Parade. Parade participants take off at 10:00 am, heading up and down Fremont Road and ending at Gardner Bullis School. Refreshing beverages and juicy watermelons will be served.

JOIN THE PARADE

This is a perfect time to dust off that vintage red Radio Flyer wagon and decorate it with the most extravagant patriotic bunting, flags, and balloons you can find. Decorated bikes, skateboards, and rollerblades festooned with patriotic decorations are also welcome. For safety reasons, fossil-fueled vehicles and horses will not be allowed. For more information contact Sarah Gualtieri, 650-947-2518 or sgualtieri@losaltoshills.ca.gov.

Fun Summer Classes

Possibilities to have fun and learn abound in the summer months. Sport classes are available in soccer, lacrosse, fencing, and horseback riding. How about refreshing with yoga or qigong? Sign up the children to brush up on ecology and explore the nature around us with Green Bean Kidz. A class on study skills will get them prepared for the new school year. This year we are introducing several movie-making classes centered around Lego bricks, cartoons, stop-motion animation, or the students as actors. Check out the Town's Activity Guide for a full list of camps, classes, and events at www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/parks-and-recreation/activity-guide. Or pick up a copy of the guide at Town Hall.



Walk and Report

Summer is a great time to enjoy the Town's unique pathway system. While you are taking in the pleasures of the beauty around you, make note of any maintenance work that might be needed. After a long winter and a wet spring, the paths residents use may be in need of repairs. The Pathways Committee tries to walk all the trails in Town, but they could certainly use some assistance to get every path in shape for summer use.

When walkers or horse riders see something that needs to be fixed along a pathway, please contact Town staff or Pathways Committee Chair Eileen Gibbons (e.gibbons@gmail.com). The Pathways Committee is also compiling a list of construction projects to be prioritized in the long term, so please contact the committee with any input on which pathways should be improved first.



Foothill College, located at 12345 El Monte Road in Los Altos Hills, offers students more choices this summer. To give you more options to fit your busy schedule, Foothill will offer two of its popular six-week summer sessions: June-Start Summer Session is June 11–July 20; and July-Start Summer Session is July 2–August 11.

“Foothill’s convenient summer session offer students the opportunity to take core transfer and career classes in six weeks. This is a great option for recent high school graduates looking for an early start and university students returning for summer break needing to complete a class toward their degree,” says Kurt Hueg, Foothill’s associate vice president of external relations.

Each session is packed with general education courses for university transfer students, university students returning for summer break who need to pick up a class, and recent high school graduates who want to get an early start. Foothill College units transfer to UCs, CSUs and most private colleges. Classes are offered on-campus or online in areas like math, English, biology, foreign languages, history, chemistry, and more.

Founded in 1957, Foothill College is recognized internationally as one of the nation’s most outstanding community colleges. Students of all ages enroll at Foothill for a single class, one- or two-year degree programs, or to complete general education requirements for a transfer to four-year universities. The academic programs lead to Associate in Arts and Associate in Science degrees. They also meet freshman

and sophomore requirements of University of California, California State University, and private education systems. Foothill is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community & Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools & Colleges. To learn more about the summer sessions and the school, visit www.foothill.edu.

Foothill College SUMMER SESSIONS

Making physical activity a priority for children from an early age is important and can help them to develop the skills they need to continue being active throughout their lives as well as achieving better academic performance. That’s why each year, Gardner Bullis participates in the Los Altos School District (LASD) Junior Olympics.

Chaired by a committee of representatives for all seven LASD elementary schools, the Junior Olympics is a wonderful, spirited tradition in the LASD with more than 1,500 participants, hundreds of cheering fans, and tremendous community support. Fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-graders from all the elementary schools gather for a day of fun, food, and friendly competition.

The event is managed by parent volunteers with the support of PE specialists. Throughout the year, the PE specialists train and prepare the kids for the various events. Student athletes demonstrate their school spirit in a parade, wearing their official school t-shirts and holding up their unique school banners. After the parade, the children compete in track and field events throughout the day as they are cheered on by their classmates and the school community.

This year at the Junior Olympics kick-off training season, the Gardner Bullis students had a special guest — Ally



LET THE GAMES BEGIN

Wagner, a two-time Olympic soccer champion. Wagner was a member of the U.S. women’s team in Athens in 2004 and Beijing in 2008. Wagner, speaking to an eager audience, proved to be an inspirational speaker emphasizing the importance of preparation, dedication, and hard work in becoming a top sports player. Wagner, wearing her Olympic medals around her neck, stressed “it’s the work you do when nobody’s looking that really counts.”

When asked about the Olympics, Wagner described the excitement of entering the

Olympic village where so many cultures and countries come together for one great unifying experience.



HONORING

Mary Davey

Mary Davey played an active role in numerous civic and governmental groups and was the first woman to be elected as a council member in Los Altos Hills. Davey was not only the president of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's board of directors, but she was also one of the driving forces behind its creation in 1972. She was also active in numerous other environmental and open space-related causes.

Upon her passing in October 2010, the Town decided to erect a memorial in her name to recognize her many contributions to our Town and community.

Coinciding with Earth Day, April 22, 2012, the memorial was dedicated in the presence of more than 45 family members, friends, and fellow advocates from some of the organizations where Mary played such a significant role. Speakers included representatives from Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, the Committee for Green Foothills, Acterra, Hidden Villa, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, and members of the Town Council. The speakers consistently recognized and commended Mary for her many accom-

plishments as a tireless advocate for the environment and social justice issues.

The location chosen for the memorial plaque was significant. It is in the shade of a buckeye tree on a hillside overlooking Byrne Preserve. Mary was in large part responsible for the Town acquiring and



dedicating the 55-acre parcel of beautiful and scenic open grassland as permanent open space back in the mid-sixties.

After the original donation of the land to Nature Conservancy by Dr. Albert Byrne, a forward-looking Council and Town Manager negotiated with the Western Director of Nature Conservancy to acquire the 55 acres as Town open space. The cost to the Town was \$99,950 to be paid over a period of several years. However, the transaction was conditioned upon the Town securing a corridor of land linking this open space to Hidden Villa Ranch and thus effectively linking it in turn to other open space reaching all the way to the ocean. Councilwoman Davey was instrumental in securing donations from local residents and working out a land swap with a local developer to complete the purchase of the portion of the 21-acre Byrne corridor needed to fulfill the requirement. In Mary's own words, following the successful transfer of the land to the Town – "It will be a lasting tribute to the Town's concept of keeping the area as unique and natural as it was intended."

Education Innovation: Building Apps

There is little likelihood of "Angry Birds Classroom" showing up in the App Store anytime soon, but the eighth-graders at Bullis Charter School (BCS) have plenty of great ideas about how mobile apps can be used to help children learn. These students had the opportunity to design and create educational apps through a three-week intensive unit focused on mobile app creation using the design-thinking process.

The eighth-graders worked alongside experts in the field with the creators of innovative platforms such as Educreations, Embark, and Class Dojo, conducting market research, researching user interface, and creating mock-ups and wire-frames. Students also had the opportunity to tour Stanford's d.school and participate in activities to hone their understanding of the design-thinking process, which they put to work designing, creating, and testing their app prototypes on users.

The students also toured the Google complex to interview designers and engineers. The class

concluded with the students giving formal business "pitches" at the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation in front of several technology entrepreneurs who evaluated the students' apps.

The eighth-graders also got a chance to hear from a younger generation of app designers. BCS fourth-grader, Tyler Poon, gave a demonstration of "Balloons and Bombs," a mobile app he designed. Brian Park, Los Altos Hills resident and BCS parent, volunteered his time to help with the unit. Park was impressed at how hard students pushed themselves with the project. "I considered building a

mobile game last year but thought it would be too difficult. But after seeing how much progress our students made, I felt like I gave up too quickly."

This type of intensive curriculum unit, involving educators, experts, and parents is typical of the approach that the BCS middle school takes with "intersessions," where students develop a deep understanding of a particular subject area, take risks outside of the classroom, and engage in active learning in the real world.



Come FLY *with* Me

Beneath the grass and trees of idyllic Esther Clark Park lies what once was a busy airstrip, in effect the Los Altos Hills Airport in the early 1930s. The airstrip was created by a Town resident named Ruolf Isenberg.

Rudolph (“Ruolf”) Isenberg was born in San Francisco in 1899, to a distinguished German immigrant family. Some time around 1922, Gerda Isenberg, a cousin, visited the family. Ruolf, apparently smitten, asked Gerda to marry him. She politely declined.

Ruolf persisted and followed her back to Germany, where he stayed with an uncle in order to court Gerda. Gerda’s parents were skeptical of Ruolf — although he was affluent, he didn’t have a steady job.

Ruolf’s answer was to return to California in the mid-1920s to pursue a job. Using his family’s wealth, he bought land in Carmel Valley, a spot where the La Playa Hotel had planned a recreation center for guests. Unfortunately for Ruolf, the hotel was not built and he had to find another use

for the land. Ruolf switched from property development to agriculture. With the help of Japanese farm workers, Ruolf began growing crops of strawberries.

At last, farming provided Ruolf the stable job that sufficiently impressed Gerda’s parents. They were wed soon after.

In addition to farming, Ruolf was very interested in aviation. The Isenberg property, between Old Trace Lane and Altadena Drive, was extensive and relatively flat. In the 1930’s, Ruolf designed and constructed an airstrip. The airstrip had just one building, perhaps left over from when the property was a chicken farm.



Amidst the rolling green fields and tree orchards, was a small airport.

This rudimentary airport served Ruolf and his aviation friends very well for several years. Pictured above is Ruolf with his beloved red monoplane. Having succeeded in getting planes to land in Los Altos Hills, Ruolf turned his attention to a neighboring city, helping to establish the Palo Alto Airport.

Ruolf and Gerda lived at the house near Trace Lane until 1941. At that point in his life, Ruolf decided to start a new business. At a local feed store, Ruolf met a man whose father had homesteaded a large property, about 3,000 acres, on the west side of Skyline Boulevard. Ruolf bought the property to raise beef cattle.

In 1944 the Los Altos property was sold to Dr. Esther Clark, a pioneer pediatrician (her brother was Birge Clark, a prominent Palo Alto architect). Dr. Clark eventually sold the property to the City of Palo Alto. Named Esther Clark Park, residents have enjoyed its paths for decades, completely unaware that an airport lies hidden beneath the native vegetation.



TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS
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 Los Altos Hills, CA 94022

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Town Newsletter Statement of Purpose

This is the official Town newsletter to communicate current issues, services, and activities in Los Altos Hills to the residents of the Town — to facilitate, encourage, and improve interaction between the residents and the Town government. The newsletter is published quarterly. **Deadline for the next issue is July 1, 2012.**

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www.losaltoshills.ca.gov

Our Town

Our Town is published with assistance from Town Volunteer Committees.
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Los Altos Hills City Council

Rich Larsen, Mayor
 Gary Waldeck, Vice Mayor
 Jean Mordo
 John Radford
 Ginger Summit

CALENDAR



3
Sunday, 1:00 - 4:30 pm
Town Picnic
 See page 7.



8
Friday, 6:00 pm
Los Altos Hills Historical Society Second Annual Dinner
 Featured will be a live performance "Legacy of Isadora Duncan" by Lois Flood. For more information, please visit www.losaltoshillshistory.org

July 4
Wednesday, 9:30am
4th of July Parade
 For a full listing see page 8.

June 2

Saturday, 9:00 am
Personal Emergency Preparedness Class (PEP)
 Los Altos Hills Youth Commission and kids ages 10-18 are encouraged to attend this class at the El Monte Fire Station. Space is limited to 15 participants. For more information, please contact Mike Sanders at 650-922-1055



Sept 8

Saturday, 3:00-8:00pm
Hoedown
 Held at Westwind Community Barn, 27210 Altamont Road. Fun for all! Free admission with food and beverages to purchase. For more information contact 650-947-2518.



30
Sunday
Art Exhibit of Mostly Figurative Paintings
 By the late Mitchel Lewis Bricker and Nina Bricker

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

