



OUR TOWN

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS

DECEMBER 2024



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HIDDEN VILLA MILESTONES

1924

Hidden Villa Founded

1944

Assisted Japanese American families returning from internment camps

1945

Established first racially integrated summer camp in the country

1965

Supported Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta in organizing the United Farmworkers Movement

1970

Launched environmental education programs on the first-ever Earth Day

1988

Became a California Certified Organic Farm

2024-25

Hidden Villa celebrates 100 years



Hidden Villa Celebrates Centennial

Hidden Villa kicked off a yearlong celebration in May 2024 to mark 100 years of nurturing hearts, nourishing minds, and fostering friendships. The 1,600-acre refuge located at 26870 Moody Road, tucked in the foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains, was founded in 1924 by Josephine and Frank Duveneck. Hidden Villa serves more than 30,000 people each year, including children and teens, through a wide variety of engaging programs centered on food, nature, and outdoor education. Hidden Villa and the surrounding area are on the ancestral land of the Tamien Nation, the Ramaytush Ohlone and the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe. [CONTINUED ON PAGE 2.]



Hidden Villa has been hosting a series of events throughout the year to commemorate its centennial, including a farm-to-table feast in September 2024 that was attended by 400 supporters and raised more than \$529,000. The organization's annual budget is \$5.5 million.

The dinner was organized by Outstanding in the Field and designed and curated by restaurateur Jesse Ziff Cool and Flea Street Chef Bryan Thuerk in partnership with the Hidden Villa farm team. It was prepared with ingredients grown or raised at Hidden Villa and from other local producers.

"For 100 years, Hidden Villa has served as a magical outdoor refuge that has provided opportunities for people to put aside the challenges and stresses of daily life and connect with each other while discovering the wonders of our natural world," said Elliott Wright,



executive director of Hidden Villa. "As we look toward the future, we need all hands on Earth. At Hidden Villa, we are committed to providing deep outdoor educational experiences that ignite a passion for science, environmental stewardship, and sustainable food systems."

Hidden Villa is home to whimsical gardens, miles of wooded hiking trails, and a regenerative farm with fruits, vegetables and animals, including pigs, chickens, and goats. There are also several historic buildings at Hidden Villa, including an 1860s-era barn and blacksmith forge.

With 30 full-time staff members, 40 summer staff members, and more

For 100 years, Hidden Villa has served as a magical outdoor refuge that has provided opportunities for people to put aside the challenges and stresses of daily life and connect with each other while discovering the wonders of our natural world

than 300 volunteers, the nonprofit organization offers robust environmental education programs, a community-supported agriculture program, and popular summer camp programs for students in grades Kindergarten through 12th.

In addition, Hidden Villa offers eight miles of hiking trails that connect to 57 miles of open space trails and protects critical habitat including the riparian corridors of the headwaters of Adobe Creek. As a nonprofit, Hidden Villa relies on generous investments from individual donors as well as corporations and foundations to support its mission. "Hidden Villa offers a place for kids and adults to slow down and find wonder



in the natural world by taking a hike or playing in the garden," said Sally Falkenhagen, chair of the Hidden Villa Board of Trustees. "There is nothing like pulling a carrot out of the ground or watching a baby goat frolic to make the virtual real, and to connect people to our place in the universe, this beautiful earth."

The legacy of Hidden Villa began in 1924 when Frank and Josephine Duveneck first opened their family ranch as an informal gathering place for discussion, reflection, and the incubation of social reform.

Thirteen years later in 1937, Hidden Villa became the site of the first hostel



on the Pacific Coast. In 1944, Japanese Americans returning from internment camps found housing and re-settlement support at Hidden Villa, and in 1945 the Duvenecks opened the first multi-racial, residential summer camp in the country at Hidden Villa.

The Trust for Hidden Villa was officially established as a nonprofit organization in 1960.

In 1965, the Duvenecks opened Hidden Villa to the National Farm Workers Movement (which later became the United Farm Workers Union, UFW), providing a safe space for Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta to organize their first strike of California grape pickers and the American boycott of table grapes.

Over the next several decades, the organization grew to offer a community-supported agriculture program, environmental education programs, and an expanded summer camp.

Today, more than 30,000 people participate in Hidden Villa's programs each year, including 10,000 students in grades pre-K through 12th. Another 20,000 people visit to hike the trails, explore the organic farm and garden, meet the farm animals, and learn about regenerative agriculture.

"My grandparents understood the profound importance of honoring our Indigenous ancestors, preserving the land,

protecting the water and advancing issues of social justice,” said David Duveneck, who is a member of the Hidden Villa Board of Trustees. “I am so pleased that with dedicated volunteers, staff, and our generous supporters, we are honoring their deep roots while continuing to build a sustainable future.”

To learn more about Hidden Villa or to make a tax-deductible donation, visit www.hiddenvilla.org/donate. You can follow Hidden Villa on social media @hiddenvilla.



Photos: Nhat V. Meyer, Bay Area Newsgroup

THE LEGACY OF THE DUVENECKS

In 1923, Josephine and Frank Duveneck were on their way home from one of their local excursions. On a chance, they took a new route via Moody Road and happened to find the entrance to a green valley they had seen many times before from Page Mill Road. Josephine later wrote, “We drove by a green iron gate which was slung between tall redwood posts and surmounted by white metal flags ... labeled ‘Hidden Villa,’ and a sign on the gate announced the sale of 1,000 acres for clearance of the mortgage.” The Duvenecks made the purchase the following year and a century later they have left their marks upon the land.



Duveneck family portrait taken at Hidden Villa. From left: Hope, Josephine, Bernard, Francis, Elizabeth and Frank. December 1931. LAHM Collection.

Horses were a significant part of life and activities on the ranch, with much of the land used to grow hay to feed them over the winter. The Duvenecks shared their love of horses with their neighbors and summer campers through a series of horse shows throughout the year. There was a horse arena behind the area that now houses the Wolken Education Center and the education garden. Unfortunately, the arena activities left the soil tired and depleted, which is one of the reasons why horses are no longer kept on the property. Increasing costs was another factor. Today, sheep, cows, pigs, and goats have taken their place.

Horses and cattle once pastured in the lower fields that are now dedicated to the organic farm activities that began in the mid-1990s. Hidden Villa’s recipe for soil health involves the rotation of farm animals and cover crops. Pigs, chickens, and other farm animals each take their turn helping to clear recently harvested fields, feasting on the remains of the vegetables and cover crops, and fertilizing the soil with their manure.

During World War II, discouraged by slow progress in addressing racial discrimination, Josephine asked herself what she could do as an individual and arrived at the idea of a summer camp aimed at multicultural understanding.

She wrote in her book, *Life on Two Levels: An Autobiography*, “It seemed to me if one could get hold of children before prejudice intervened there might be a good chance to prevent its development.”

Hidden Villa hosted the first multiracial children’s camp in 1945, shortly before the end of World War II. Camp staff and counselors supervised riding, swimming, hikes, crafts, singing, storytelling, and

learning about the farm and each other. In the early days, many of the campers arrived by train to Palo Alto. By 1951, the number of campers had doubled.

Beyond the fields, the Wolken Education Center serves as the current headquarters for Hidden Villa’s Environmental Education Program, which began on the first Earth Day in 1970. The core themes of the current curriculum are centered around environmental stewardship, racial and class equity, farm and food, LGBTQ+ inclusion, and the Duveneck Family Legacy. Each of these areas of study is provided in a way that is age-appropriate to the campers and is relevant to the program’s activities.

Inspired by the ethos of the program, the Education Center is located in an earth-berm house constructed from hay bales and finished with a coating of adobe. Since the 1970s, the program has inspired a sense of wonder and promoted a caretaking ethic in school-aged children, teens, adults, and families.

Excerpt by Gary Hedden for the “Rooted in Time: Journey through Hidden Villa” an exhibit at the Los Altos History Museum that opened on October 3. Residents are invited to visit the exhibit before it closes in March 2025. Hedden’s article was first published in Under the Oaks (Fall 2024).

HONORING OUR HOMETOWN HEROES

Courage, Sacrifice, and Inspiration for Future Generations



In the tapestry of our nation's history, the threads of courage and sacrifice woven by brave individuals shine brightly. Their unwavering commitment to serving this country, often at the ultimate cost, not only honors their legacy but also inspires future generations to uphold the values of duty, honor, and selflessness. The Town of Los Altos Hills is proud to remember four sons—Louis Gau, Larry Mullen, William Sigua, and Matthew Manoukian—whose sacrifices echo through time, reminding us of the profound impact one life can have on many.

As we reflect on their lives, we find strength in the words of Pericles: "What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others." In this spirit, we gather to honor their memories, recognizing the indelible mark they left on their families, friends, and community.

During a recent Memorial Day tribute on May 12, 2024, residents came together on the grounds of Town Hall to pay homage to these remarkable individuals. The heartfelt outpouring of gratitude from the community reignited efforts to establish a fitting tribute to our heroes, ensuring that their sacrifices are never forgotten.

To honor the lives and legacies of these brave young men and the sacrifices made by their families, plans are

underway to create a lasting memorial. Below, we remember each of these heroes, celebrating their courage and commitment to our nation.

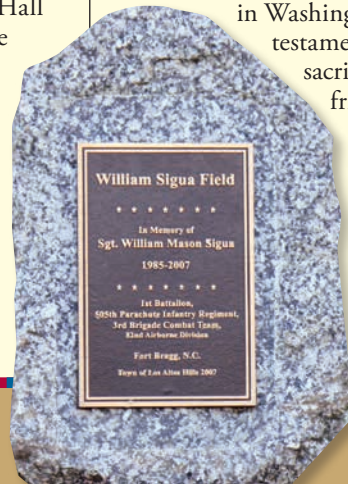
Note that as we honor these brave young men, we also acknowledge that there may be other heroes whose stories have not been recorded. Since the Town of Los Altos Hills was incorporated in 1956, we lack comprehensive records of casualties among residents from before that time. This likely includes individuals from the WWII era and possibly even earlier, whose sacrifices also deserve recognition.

Louis Ellie Gau



Private First-Class Louis Gau was born in 1945 and enlisted in the Army at the age of twenty-three. He served with honor in Vietnam, where he

tragically lost his life just days after his deployment. Gau's name is inscribed in the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., a testament to his ultimate sacrifice. Family and friends remember him not just for his service, but for the profound impact he had on those around him.



William Sigua Field

In Memory of
Sgt. William Mason Sigua
1985-2007

1st Battalion,
505th Parachute Infantry Regiment,
3rd Brigade Combat Team,
4th Airborne Division
Fort Bragg, N.C.
Town of Los Altos Hills 2007

Larry Donald Mullen

Born in 1950, Private First-Class Larry Mullen was a gifted athlete and dedicated Marine who volunteered for service in Vietnam despite the opportunity to attend Officer Candidate School. His bravery and leadership were evident until the end when he was killed while leading a patrol. Mullen's legacy



lives on in the hearts of his family and friends, who honor him through remembrance and celebration of his life.

William Sigua

Sergeant William Sigua, born in 1985, embodied the spirit of service, enlisting in the Army after witnessing the events of September 11, 2001. His dedication to duty led him through multiple deployments, where he served with distinction, earning numerous accolades, including the Bronze Star. Sigua's life and sacrifices continue to inspire those who knew him and serve as a reminder of the bravery inherent in military service.



Matthew Manoukian

Matthew Manoukian, born in 1983, emerged from a family dedicated to public service. His journey took him through elite training in the Marine Corps, culminating in multiple deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. Manoukian's life was tragically cut short, but his bravery and commitment to his fellow Marines live on, further symbolized by the naming of a portion of Interstate 280 in his honor.



Together, these men represent the highest ideals of courage and sacrifice. As we remember their stories, let us draw inspiration from their lives, ensuring that their legacies continue to guide future generations toward service, dedication, and honor.

The experimental photography exhibit "Deceptive Beauty," presented by local artist Dotti Cichon, will be on display at Los Altos Hills Town Hall from September 2024 to March 2025. The exhibit embodies the essence of Cichon's work over the past 20 years.



Born in a New Jersey suburb of New York City, Cichon received a Kodak Brownie camera at age 5 and was winning contests by age 6. Her training spans science, architecture, and art, with a focus on photography in the Design Department at the University of California, Berkeley. Cichon has been an artist virtually all her life.

Her work explores photography, environmental issues, and the spiritual nature of humanity. Cichon's photos aim to touch the human psyche and evoke emotional responses, sometimes subliminally. As a photographer, she continually seeks to expand the medium's limits by experimenting with new techniques and integrating photography into daily life. Her silk works—interpretations of actual places transformed by unique perspectives—can be displayed as wall art, draped from ceilings, or worn as scarves.

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DECEPTIVE BEAUTY

Cichon's background informs her activism, focusing on historic preservation and environmental concerns. She combines photography with other media to reach a broader audience, believing that compelling images of "deceptive beauty" can educate viewers about pressing environmental issues, prompting

them to look closely and learn more.

The exhibit addresses themes close to Cichon's heart, including the loss of trees due to deforestation and wildfires, which threaten countless species and ultimately human life on Earth. It also highlights the plight of insects, particularly butterflies and moths, whose existence is endangered by urban development. Additionally, the exhibit tackles the historic preservation of culturally significant buildings at risk of demolition, emphasizing the power of public advocacy in saving these structures.

"Deceptive Beauty" encourages viewers to question preconceived notions of reality and imagination, inviting them to explore realms beyond their limited senses.

Cichon exhibits extensively both nationally and internationally, with her works collected worldwide. For more information about the artist, her work, and details about the opening reception and related events, visit www.dotticichonart.com and www.losaltoshills.ca.gov.



Exploring Your BACKYARD

Los Altos Hills has a bucolic setting in the foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains, adjacent to thousands of acres of open space. As a result of the setting and low-density development, we share our community with a wide variety of wildlife species, many of which can be found



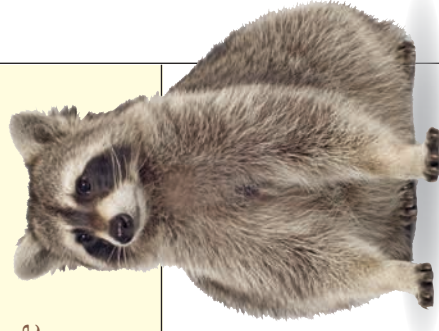
in our own backyards. The health of an environment can often be gauged by the diversity of wildlife species. Living in Los Altos Hills provides the opportunity to see and learn about our non-human neighbors. How many of these species have you seen in your neighborhood?



The honeybee we know (Apis mellifera) is not native to North America, even though it is called the "western honeybee" or "European honeybee". It is thought to have originated in Africa and Asia, and naturally spread through Africa, the Middle East, and Europe. Humans spread it farther, including to North America in 1622. It now occurs on every continent except Antarctica.



Coyote (Canis latrans) is also mainly a nocturnal animal, and you are more likely to hear its call than to see it. The calls in winter often relate to finding a mate but may also signal a shareable "kill" (such as a deer) to the group at large. Coyotes seen in the day may be females finding food for their pups (spring/summer), or young males establishing a new territory (fall).



Raccoons (Procyon lotor) are nocturnal, but you may see them around sunrise or sunset. They have five toes on their front paws, one of which is almost like a thumb, and they are famously dexterous. They can grab, pull, twist, turn, and pry until they get their quarry, whether it's getting into a garbage can, ripping off shingles to get into the attic, or reaching into a bird's nest for eggs. There are 4 to 5 times more sensory cells in their paws than most mammals, and a large portion of the sensory area of their brain is devoted to touch.





The Anna's hummingbird, (*Calypte anna*), is a year-round resident of California, and one of three resident hummingbirds of the U.S. and Canada, and is the most common hummingbird in our area. This species used to only inhabit northwest Mexico, Baja, and southern California, but gardens have allowed it to extend its range. Adults feed on plant nectar, spiders, small insects, and tree sap.



Painted lady butterfly (*Vanessa cardui*) overwinters on the US/Mexico border and migrates northward in late winter, sometimes migrating through our area in the millions. By contrast, the West Coast lady (*Vanessa annabella*) moves up and down slope, rather than up and down latitudes. Both species rely on weedy thistles and mallow for nectar and for caterpillars to eat.



California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*), California's state flower can be grown as a specimen plant or naturalized to grow and re-seed throughout the yard. In our climate, it is a perennial, and each plant can live several years. In colder regions, it grows as an annual. It's said that Spanish explorers at sea viewed the orange hillsides of California and called it Tierra del Fuego (the Land of Fire). It prefers full sun but can grow in part shade. It is deer-resistant.



Western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*) is a common denizen of Los Altos Hills yards. It is a medium-sized brown lizard with a blue belly (hence the nickname "blue belly"). The males do push-ups to attract mates and flash their blue bellies. They can live five to seven years and mainly eat insects. They reproduce by laying eggs, which are soft a flexible during laying, then harden.



The golden-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*) (left) is a migrant that appears in our yards in the winter but spends summers in Canada and Alaska. It has a distinctive song, typically three clear notes descending in pitch ("oh dear me"). They are often found in flocks with white-crowned sparrows (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) (right), which is a year-round resident and has a more complicated song.



Taylor Vanderlip is an environmental consultant specializing in biological issues.

THE MORTAL TREE

Trees are vital to life on Earth. Children and adults alike love trees for their beauty and the shade they provide on a hot day. Trees serve as landmarks, provide a sense of place, and connect people with their environment. They also offer critical habitat for wildlife, sequester carbon, create windbreaks, and provide clean, cool air. The death of a tree can be heartbreaking.

Why Do Trees Die?

There are several reasons. They might be in the wrong climate, and unable to thrive in their environment. Their canopies or roots may be restricted, or they may receive too much or too little water. Diseases and pests, coupled with drought, can also lead to tree mortality.

The Monterey pine is a good example of a tree that thrives two hours south but struggles in Los Altos Hills. Monterey pines were planted throughout the Bay Area peninsula about 50 years ago. These trees flourish in the high humidity of the Monterey Peninsula, where they can live up to 100 years. However, in the drier climate of Los Altos Hills, their life expectancy is usually 50 years or less.

Redwood trees in Los Altos Hills also suffer from inappropriate climate conditions. Redwoods require foggy summers, and the condensation from fog, known as fog drip, provides essential water for their roots. Redwood leaves and bark absorb moisture from the fog. During the winter rains, the Santa Cruz foothills





and left in place, rather than removed from the property.

How Trees Live On

Inevitably, trees do die, but this is not the end of their value to our ecosystem. Dead trees, known as snags, and subsequent downed logs are biodiversity hotspots. Many native insects, fungi, lichen, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals rely on dead trees at some point in their life cycles. Charismatic cavity nesters, such as woodpeckers, bluebirds, swallows, and owls, utilize dead trees for nesting.

receive two to three times more precipitation than Los Altos Hills, benefiting these thirsty trees. In Los Altos Hills, redwood trees often appear distressed due to the lack of year-round moisture.

Trees may also fail to thrive when planted too close to structures or impervious surfaces. In these locations, their root structure may be weak, and canopy growth may be restricted. Limited space can hinder a tree's access to sufficient nutrients. If roots lack room to spread, the tree may be at risk of toppling over during high winds. A restricted canopy spread can create instability and limit growth.

Native Trees

Native trees, especially the iconic oak trees (pictured above), provide vital resources for many native insects, birds, reptiles, and mammals. Native oaks exemplify how irrigation can impact a tree's future. They prefer no summer water; planting an oak tree near an irrigated landscape may cause root rot, a common cause of death for oak trees. Trees native to the local ecosystem, placed away from structures and irrigation, will have the best chance for survival.

Impact of the Drought

The drought from 2011 to 2017 was the driest period in California's recorded history. Over 100 million trees died during this time, either directly from the drought or from subsequent diseases and pests. Drought-stressed trees are more susceptible to pests and diseases, such as bark beetles and bark borers.

Tree Diseases

Diseases can quickly kill a tree. Sudden Oak Death (SOD), caused by the water mold *Phytophthora ramorum*, can turn an infected oak tree brown within months and kill it within a year or two. Coast live oaks, the most common oak in Los Altos Hills, are especially susceptible to SOD. Arborists and researchers recommend biennial treatment of coast live oaks with the fungicide Agri-Fos. The Los Altos Hills Open Space Committee, in collaboration with UC Berkeley's Forest Pathology and Mycology Lab, has organized SOD citizen science "blitzes" for over a decade. Residents collect samples of bay laurel leaves, the primary carrier of the pathogen, and send them to a lab in Berkeley for analysis. The results are posted on regional maps. Various plants can host the water mold pathogen without succumbing to the disease. Trees that die from SOD should be cut

Many animals store food in dead wood, both in standing snags and fallen logs. Acorn woodpeckers create granaries in snags (shown below). Unless a dead tree is within striking distance of a structure or road, it is advisable to leave it in place, either standing or downed. The California Forest Pest Council and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection recommend leaving trees that have died from SOD in place whenever possible.

To Learn More

Sudden Oak Death (SOD):

<https://www.suddenoakdeath.org/>

Annual SOD Blitz:

https://nature.berkeley.edu/matteolab/?page_id=148

Climate-suitable Native Trees:

<https://calscape.org/>

Kit Gordon and Anita Baldwin are members of the Los Altos Hills Open Space Committee.





UNITING HISTORY & COMMUNITY

The Role of Byrne Preserve and Westwind Barn

Los Altos Hills is fortunate to have two properties donated many years ago that are located adjacent to each other. These properties support one another while remaining distinct entities, each with its own history. The first is Byrne Preserve, an 88-acre permanent open space. Originally, in the early 20th century, this land belonged to Colonel Bernard Albert Byrne. His children, Albert M. Byrne and Betty Byrne, inherited the property. Albert became a physician and fought in the Spanish Civil War. Upon returning, he contracted tuberculosis and retired to Arizona on medical advice. Betty married a Spanish marquesa, becoming Baroness Betty de Zahara, and moved to Ireland. Albert facilitated the donation of a significant portion of the family property to the Nature Conservancy in Washington, D.C., to be preserved as public open space in perpetuity.



Soon after Los Altos Hills was incorporated in 1956, the Nature Conservancy agreed to “sell” the property to the town for a token amount, contingent on certain conditions. First, the town had to acquire additional adjoining land to create a contiguous open space corridor from Altamont Road to Moody Road. Second, the land was to remain public open space indefinitely; any breach of this condition would result in the land reverting to the Nature Conservancy.

Next door lies Westwind Barn, which dates back to the 1940s when Frank Ellithorpe built a six-stall barn for the horses on his cattle ranch. He sold the land in 1965 to Robert



D. Clement, who expanded the barn to 23 stalls and built an arena. In 1971, Clement sold the property to Countess Margit Bessenyei, a Hungarian aristocrat.

Countess Bessenyei grew up in Hungary

on her father’s estate; her mother was the American-born daughter of Marcus Daly. After fighting with the Hungarian underground against the Nazis, she fled to the United States during World War II. Through her mother, she inherited a large copper mining company and several estates in Montana, including her grandfather’s Bitterroot Stock Farm, which had been a racehorse farm.

Facing page, top: Westwind Barn as seen from the summit of Byrne Preserve, together with some views of the Preserve as seen from the barn. Below: Aerial view of Westwind Barn and its grounds taken in 2003, showing the two arenas and the Hunt Course crossing the top left part of photo.

The Countess purchased the Westwind property as a California extension of her Montana stud farm, where she raised Hungarian thoroughbred horses. She added a third wing to the barn, an ornate double oak entry carved in Mexico, and an elaborate spiral staircase imported from France leading to the hayloft. She also constructed a full-sized dressage ring and a cross-country course at the bottom of the hill.

In 1975, the town reached an agreement with the Countess, acquiring a portion of the land beneath the barn for \$25,000. In return, she donated the 24,000-square-foot U-shaped barn (appraised at over \$400,000) and the remaining 13.5 acres to the Town of Los Altos Hills.

The town studied the best use of the barn for over a year, considering options that included demolition or sale. On February 16, 1977, a petition with over 1,000 signatures, along with an 18-page proposal from the Friends of Westwind, was presented to the Town Council, which unanimously approved leasing Westwind to a nonprofit cooperative.

Over the years, the barn became home to various equestrian communities, including the Pacific Ridge Pony Club and the Westwind 4-H Riding for the Handicapped program, now known as the Westwind Riding Institute. This program still operates, offering classes twice a week for children with orthopedic disabilities or other challenges.

By 2005, the barn required repairs. Friends of Westwind managed the barn but lacked the funds for major renovations. Accordingly, the



Westwind Barn community organized a series of fund-raisers, including a wildly successful Kentucky Derby Day that many declared the best party in town. This raised significant funds to enable renovation to occur. After extensive discussions, the town assumed management and a committee began planning much-needed renovations, including seismic stabilization. The barn reopened in 2010 after extensive work and has since been operated as a franchise by Victoria Dye Equestrian.

Although separate entities, Byrne Preserve and Westwind Barn work seamlessly together to enable and host various annual town-wide community events. These include summer riding camps, the annual hoedown, Holiday Barn lighting, an Easter egg hunt for dogs, and a fun run with different distances for children and adults. Together, they contribute to the essence of our town—open space, community recreation, and youth activities—serving as prominent anchors of the town’s identity.

Jitze Couperus is a long-time resident of the town, retired after 32 years in R&D with a supercomputer manufacturer. He has since been an active volunteer with both the local Fire District as well as various town committees.





TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS
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Town Newsletter Statement of Purpose

Our Town continues a tradition that began with the town's founding in 1956: a newsletter by and for its residents. The newsletter's mission is to foster a cohesive sense of belonging and ownership of the town by its residents. The town's identity and character are reflected in articles that highlight its common cultural assets, including history, habitat, wildlife, and its people. The newsletter is published biannually or quarterly.

Deadline for the next issue: April 1, 2025.

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www.losaltoshills.ca.gov

Our Town

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Los Altos Hills City Council

Stanley Q. Mok, Mayor
 Lisa Schmidt, Vice Mayor
 Linda Swan
 Kavita Tankha
 George Tyson

City Manager

Peter Pirnejad

FLASHBACK



Snow Blankets the Hills. Deputy Sheriff Jerry Conley of the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department in front of Westwind Barn in the snow. Westwind Barn in the snow — seen across Byrne Preserve. In 1976, what the meteorologists call "a 100-year event" occurred with a thin blanket of snow covering the upper elevations of the town. Conley reported to Gordon Penfold, the town's Chief of Public Safety. Penfold had been Division Commander for the Department of Public Safety in Sunnyvale until 1965 and then Chief for the Department of Public Safety in Foster City. Subsequently, he started Penfold Security, later contracting with Los Altos Hills for about seven years to fulfill the law enforcement requirements of the town. Additional photos from that period can be seen at <http://lah-history.org/DigitalArchive/Penfold>