



## TOWN NEWSLETTER

Volume XXVII No. 4

December 2004

## CALENDAR

Nov. 1, 2004 through Jan. 4, 2005, **Bullis Charter School Open Enrollment** for 2005 - 2006 school year, call 650 947-4939 or visit [www.bullischarterschool.com](http://www.bullischarterschool.com).

**Open house: Dec. 7, 7:30 PM, BCS Multi-purpose Room. School tours:** Dec. 8, 9:30 AM, or Dec. 10, 11 AM, please RSVP to 947-4939 for tours.

**Dec. 3, Friday; Downtown Tree Lighting Ceremony.** 6-8PM. NEW location at Main St. and Foothill Expwy. Info: 949-5282

**Dec. 5 Westwind Barn, Barn Lighting;** 3-5 PM Altamont Road; Family Event; Enjoy crafts, cider and horses.

**Jan. 25, Jan. 26, "The Importance of Being Ernest" play,** put on by Bullis Charter School grades 5 and 6, check [www.bullischarterschool.com](http://www.bullischarterschool.com) for tickets, time and location.

**Jan. 28, 29, 30 Friends of the Library Book Sale.** Hillview Community CT. Sat. 10AM-3PM; Sun. 12-3PM Info. 948-7683 x3519

**June 5, 2005 Town Picnic. SAVE THE DATE!**

## New Town Hall Takes Shape

**D**riven down Fremont Road lately? Then you will have undoubtedly seen the outline of the New Town Hall taking shape. Since the official groundbreaking in July of this year, this much anticipated community project has been proceeding full speed ahead. The crews are looking forward to getting the roof on, as winter came early this year. Despite the weather challenges, the project is still expected to be completed around the end of March 2005.

Photo by Jitze Couperus



*Trusses being framed for new council chambers.*

Construction project manager Tony Vierra of TBI construction credits the Town adopted "multiple prime contracts" project plan with keeping the building on schedule. Under this type of project management, individual contractors and the construction management firm make higher profits when projects are completed on time and on budget.

One of the more interesting features of the New Town Hall is the on-site, 32KW solar power plant that is expected to generate most of the buildings required electricity. This part of the project was funded with rebates and a low interest loan from the California Energy Commission along with a generous \$75,000 grant from the Packard Foundation. The loan will be repaid with energy savings from the solar system, meaning that the entire system is being funded without reducing the Town's cash reserves. In fact, in 15 years, when the loan is paid off, the solar system will only be half way through its useful life, meaning that the Town Hall will operate on virtually free electricity. The Town will benefit from the latest solar technology available – serving as an example for the community.

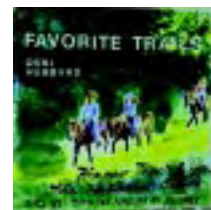
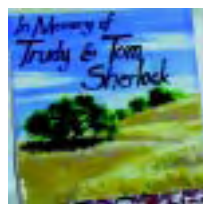
### Creating a Legacy in LAH is Only a Few Brush Strokes Away!

**T**here is still plenty of time to create a tile for the Community Donor Wall Project for the New Town Hall. You are invited to donate \$200 for a 4x4 tile or \$600 for an 8x8 size tile that you may design with your family name or create a lasting commemorative image that will remain forever on the Donor Wall. Over 200 tiles are completed.

Completed tiles will be on exhibit at the Holiday Caroling Event on Wednesday, December 15th. Workshops will again be held in January & February 2005. Donations are tax deductible. Order tiles by calling Duffy Price at (650) 948-0596 or purchase over the web site: [www.losaltoshills.ca.gov](http://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov)



*Tile workshop*



## CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

### Another Town Website Enhancement

Under the "City Government" heading across the masthead of the Town's website is a pull-down menu that includes "Support Agencies." Staff is currently working on identifying and posting links to the websites of the referenced "support agencies" that feature the public schools serving Los Altos Hills, animal control services through the City of Palo Alto, solid waste services through Los Altos Garbage Company, the two water suppliers to Town residents and more. Completion of this enhancement is scheduled for early November 2004.



*City Manager Maureen Cassingham*

### Foothill College President's Advisory Council Fall Meeting Update

On October 20, 2004, President Bernadine Fong convened the fall meeting of her community Advisory Council, to brief the group on several key topics. She advised that the College is facing a short-term decline in enrollment primarily due to the decrease in visa-holding students. The College's FY04-05 budget has been balanced with some help from the state. Employee pay reductions to help with the projected budget shortfall were restored. Employee benefit cost-sharing will, however, continue. Measure E construction continues including a new exit from the campus and demolition of the campus center. The Facilities Master Plan into 2015 forecasts a 1-2% enrollment increase over the next 10 years. Therefore, various options are being considered for additional space including the NASA/Ames site, leased or purchased new facilities along Highway 101, continued use of the current Middlefield Campus at the Cubberly High School site and the remaining 100,000 square feet of buildable space on the Foothill campus.

### CPR/AED Training Scheduled for Town Staff and Committee Members

In October the staff and Emergency Communications Committee CERT members received 3 1/2 hours training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in facilitating CPR. The Town has ordered and will be installing two AEDs, one in the Council Chambers and the other in the Administrative Offices at its temporary quarters on or about December 1st. The units will be relocated to the New Town Hall when it is ready for occupancy. AEDs are being installed in more and more public places after facilities' staffs are properly trained to use them. Most adults who can be saved from cardiac arrest are in ventricular fibrillation or pulseless ventricular tachycardia. Electrical defibrillation provides the single most important therapy for the treatment of those victims. Resuscitation science places great emphasis on early defibrillation. A victim's best chance for survival is when there is revival within four minutes. Acquiring AEDs and having Town staff and other "responders" trained to use them may be a lifesaver at our public meetings and the Town offices.

*—Maureen Cassingham, City Manager*

## PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Revising the Town's General Plan and Zoning Ordinance to better reflect the Town's goals with regard to public education in the Hills has been a top priority for the Planning Commission this quarter. At the direction of the City Council, the Commission reviewed the Town General Plan and Zoning Ordinance and forwarded the following recommendations concerning schools to the City Council:



*Planning Director Carl Cahill*

The Planning Commission recommended to the City Council that the Pinewood School site be assigned a dual designation as a "Public School/ Private School." The General Plan currently designates the Pinewood School site as a public elementary school. However, the Town conditionally permitted a private high school (Pinewood School) to operate at this location in the 1970's. While the Commission would have preferred that the site remain designated for public school use only, the General Plan should have been amended at the time that the conditional use permit was issued for the private school. Pursuant to California Law, the use permit runs with the land and all related property and personal rights are freely transferable. The Commission recommended that the General Plan Land Use Element be amended to update the list of private school sites in Town. The General Plan amendment identifies two locations for private schools: the Pinewood School site and the Saint Nicholas School site.

The Commission recommended certain amendments to the Town Zoning Ordinance adding definitions for "public school" and "private school." "Public Schools" and "Private Schools" are already referenced in Zoning Ordinance sections 10-1.703(f),(g) as conditionally permitted uses. However, the Zoning Ordinance, prior to amendment, did not specifically define public and private schools. The Commission also recommended that the Zoning Ordinance be amended to correct certain inconsistencies with the General Plan. In conformance with the General Plan, the Zoning Ordinance, as amended, conditionally allows public and private schools at certain locations in Town only where designated on the General Plan Land Use Diagram. The City Council adopted virtually all of the Planning Commission's recommendations in November.

*—Carl Cahill, Planning Director*

### Town of Los Altos Hills

### NEW OFFICE HOURS

**Monday - Friday 7:30AM - 12 Noon ~ 1 PM - 5:30 PM**

**CLOSED 12 Noon - 1 PM**

*For Council Agenda and Minutes,  
See our Website:  
[www.losaltoshills.ca.gov](http://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov)*

## ADOBE CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT

This month the restoration of Upper Reach 5 of Adobe Creek transitions to a Santa Clara Valley Water District capital project. Surveying, hydrology, and hydraulic modeling for the new project are beginning, marking significant progress for the Adobe Creek Upper Reach 5 Collaborative.

The Collaborative, an organization including creekside residents and other citizens concerned with Adobe Creek, the Town of Los Altos Hills, the City of Los Altos, several Regulatory Agencies, and the Santa Clara Valley Water District, has been in existence for the past year. In order to formalize the Collaborative, demonstrate commitment to the process, establish operating processes, and define expectations, roles and responsibilities, the participants have drafted the Collaborative Principles. All members are being asked to read and approve this document to promote common understanding and the continued support critical for the ultimate success of the project.

More information on the Adobe Creek Upper Reach 5 project is available at [www.lahopenspace.com/Adobe5](http://www.lahopenspace.com/Adobe5) or by e-mailing [adobecreek@hotmail.com](mailto:adobecreek@hotmail.com).

## ELECTION RESULTS

2004 Los Altos Hills City Council Election Results\*  
9/9 100.00%

	Vote Count	Percent
MIKE O'MALLEY	2,494	22.73%
CRAIG A.T. JONES	2,466	22.48%
JEAN (JOHN) MORDO	2,427	22.12%
COLETTE CRANSTON	2,298	20.95%
CAROL JEAN GOTTLIEB	1,278	11.65%
Write-In	8	0.07%
Total	10,971	100.00%

\*result as of 11-12-04

Final results to be certified on 11/30/04

Top 3 vote getters to be sworn  
in on 12/2/04 city Council meeting

## PROGRESS REPORT: TOWN MASTER PATHWAY PLAN

After twelve months of long meetings and much public input, the Pathway Committee made great progress in updating the town Master Pathway Plan.

What has happened so far? Between Jan-Aug '04 the Committee held several, open meetings and produced a first set of pathway recommendations. The Committee was instructed to focus only on future paths. Thus the recommendations being made are only for "future" pathways, i.e. ones that are in our Master Plan, but do not yet exist. The first eight months of meeting resulted in "Working Map version 1". Each future path has a recommendation with a specific reference number and a clear, documented reason for retaining or removing the path.

In late August the Committee held three public hearings to gather resident input and feedback. Based on this, the Committee scheduled a "final review" for pathways that received a significant amount of input. The Committee is now in the process of completing these final reviews: each path will be re-visited, re-discussed and given a final recommendation by the Committee. The next meetings are Nov 15th, 22nd and Dec 6th. Working Map Version 2 will then be completed by mid December.

What will happen next? Around early January, the Pathway Committee will present Map version 2 to the Planning Commission for joint study & review. The Planning Commission may also hold a public hearing at this time. Once the Planning Commission approves the map, it will go to the Council for final review, public hearing and approval. This is expected sometime in 1Q05. Please feel free to contact Karen Jost, Town Clerk ([kjost@losaltoshills.ca.gov](mailto:kjost@losaltoshills.ca.gov)), Chris Vargas, Chairman ([chris.vargas@earthlink.net](mailto:chris.vargas@earthlink.net)) or Ginger Summit, Vice Chairman ([gsummit@earthlink.net](mailto:gsummit@earthlink.net)) if you have any questions.

## Underground Utility Report

### Pilot Project: What Is A Rule 20A Program?

PG&E buries approximately 30 miles of overhead electric facilities within its service area each year. This work is done under provisions of Rule 20A, a tariff on electricity created by the California Public Utilities Commission.

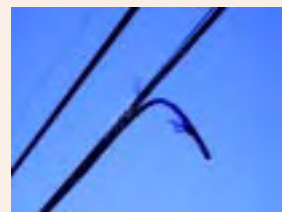
Projects performed under Rule 20A are nominated by a city, county or municipal agency and discussed with PG&E, as well as other utilities. The costs for undergrounding under Rule 20A are funded by this tariff we all pay as part of our electric bill.

The short-term goal for the Underground Utility Committee is to conduct a pilot project, burying some wires along a stretch of town road that is highly visible to a wide range of Town residents. Based on a number of factors, our top choices are the stretch of wires on Purissima along the baseball fields (site of the annual Town picnic) and a shorter stretch along Byrne Preserve. We believe we have enough funds to do both, but the cost estimates are not yet complete.

This pilot project will be funded entirely by Rule 20A funds. At this time we have about \$700,000 of unused Rule 20A funds that have accrued slowly over many years. The annual increase in these funds for each town is based on the amount of electricity used. In towns with high electrical use (e.g. those with large factories), these funds add up fairly quickly.

But in our pure residential town, the 20A funds trickle in slowly. If we were to rely solely on this source of funds to bury the town's wires, the last pole would be removed in about 3000 years. We hope to get the job done long before then.

—Underground Utility Committee



*Example of broken overhead lines on Anacapa Drive*



## BULLIS CHARTER SCHOOL NEWS

### OPEN ENROLLMENT IS UNDERWAY FOR 2005-06

Open enrollment for the 2005-06 school year at Bullis Charter School is now underway. Please call the school office (650-947-4939) or go to [www.bullischarterschool.com](http://www.bullischarterschool.com) to find out more about open house events and tours.

Open enrollment ends on January 4, 2005. Students who register during open enrollment will have priority if there is a waiting list for the limited number of spaces available.



### A Joyful Beginning Nurturing... Challenging...Inspiring...Empowering... Innovative...

These are just some of the words BCS families use to describe their new school. Bullis Charter School opened in August 2004, as a public, tuition-free elementary school for grades K-6. Founded by a group of Los Altos Hills parents, the school has 170 students enrolled from Los Altos Hills, Los Altos, and surrounding areas.

### A Challenging Curriculum and Individualized Learning Plans

Each student now has an individualized learning plan in place that is tailored to his unique needs and abilities. Much of the learning is done in multi-disciplinary, group projects for deeper understanding. The curriculum fosters academic excellence and accountability exceeding state standards.

Beyond the fundamentals, each week students have PE, Science, Art, Music, and Drama. On Fridays, they take three electives such as Newspaper, French, or Dance, designed to reinforce educational goals. All teachers are credentialed and bring a passion for learning to the classroom.

There was a weeklong outdoor education trip in October, and in February the 5th and 6th graders will go to Washington DC and Williamsburg. Students have sung with the San Francisco Opera and are operating their own store. Multi-age "houses" are building friendships across grades while tackling meaningful educational projects. And from day one, character lessons have been an integral part of the curriculum.

### Beyond the School Day

Bullis Charter School teachers organize and lead all after school activities, providing yet another setting for mentoring. The 5th-6th grade play, "The Importance of Being Earnest," will take place in January.

Kids are staying after school until 4:30 for play practice, organized sports, Odyssey of the Mind, Girls on the Run, foreign languages, knitting, yoga, and hip-hop dance.

—Lee Garverick 949-2886 cell 743-2203,  
[leegarverick@sbcglobal.net](mailto:leegarverick@sbcglobal.net)

## NEWS FROM "THE SUPPORTERS"

The Supporters of Westwind Community Barn has established an Endowment Fund to provide a permanent source of funding for the restoration and preservation of Westwind Barn.



The Endowment monies will be placed in a separate fund and will be managed professionally by our local Los Altos Community Foundation. All gifts (memorial gifts, bequests, and other planned-giving vehicles) to the Supporters Endowment will be set aside, and no more than 5% will be drawn down annually. The Endowment will assure a future for the Supporters' organization and is a vital part of assuring the permanence of Westwind in the community.

A long-time local supporter has already provided a bequest of \$100,000 to kick off the Endowment Fund, but smaller gifts are also being solicited from those who value Westwind as a special place that adds to the quality of life in Los Altos Hills.

A one-time gift of \$2,000 donated to the Endowment Fund can return \$100 annually in perpetuity to the Supporters. A one-time gift of \$20,000 can return \$1,000 annually in perpetuity. Over time these annual payouts, important to the ongoing fund-raising efforts of the Supporters, will constitute only a portion of the fund's total return and will build up the Endowment over time.

Friends and supporters of Westwind Community Barn are invited to assist this wonderful new organization in our community, which in its first year has successfully raised over \$100,000 — \$20,000 of which has been designated by the Supporters Board this year for the replacement of the Barn's upper and lower main doors.

Individuals who would be interested in contributing to the Supporters organization by serving on the Board, its Advisory Committee, or in other capacities are encouraged to contact **Board President, Elaine Nelson** at (650) 941-9503. Those with an interest in making a donation to the newly established Endowment Fund should contact **Nancy Couperus** at (650) 941-4808.

## 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 2005 Newsletter will be published quarterly in the months of March, June, September, and December. Deadline for the next issue is January 31, 2005.

**Internet Address:** [www.losaltoshills.ca.gov](http://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov)

### About Our Publication

The Town Newsletter is published with assistance from our Town Volunteer Committees.

Editor: Dorothy Duffy Price

Associate Editors: Barbara Lamparter, Linda Seidel, Karen Emerzian

### Los Altos Hills City Council

Mike O'Malley, Mayor • Breene Kerr, Mayor Pro Tem  
Emily Cheng • Robert Fenwick • Dean Warshawsky



Recycled Paper

## CHAMPION PUMPKINS GROWN IN THE HILLS

This was a good year for growing giant pumpkins for the Zunino family. They grew two Atlantic Giant pumpkin plants that produced three award-winning pumpkins. Each of these pumpkins was adopted by a family member and taken to a different pumpkin weigh off event.

Tony's pumpkin, Little David, weighed in at 981 pounds and took second place at the Elk Grove Community Harvest Festival. Little David missed first place by only 5 pounds.

Olivia named her pumpkin, Bubbles, after her favorite Power Puff girl and took her orange friend to the weigh off at Half Moon Bay. Bubbles weighed 487 pounds and won the "Most Beautiful Pumpkin" award.



*Olivia and Bubbles (487 lbs), Tony with Little David (981 lbs) and Amanda with Lilu (997 lbs)*

## HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

The Los Altos Hills Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring the Second Harvest Holiday Food Drive. Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties provides meals to more than 219,000 Bay Area residents.



Show your support by donating non-perishable food items including powdered milk, peanut butter, pasta, and canned foods (vegetables, tuna, stew, chili, or soup).

Donations will be accepted through Friday, December 17th. Donation barrels are located at Westwind Community Barn (27210 Altamont Road), City Council Chambers (25890 Fremont Road) and the lobby of Town Hall (25890 Fremont Road).

If you are in need of pick-up service or for more information, please call (650) 941-7222 ext. 241.

Please visit [www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/recreation](http://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/recreation) for more information.

## NOW AVAILABLE

Town Newsletter  
On Town Website

[www.losaltoshills.ca.gov](http://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov)

## Los Altos Hills Holiday Pathways Caroling Event December 15, 2004 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Town Hall At Bullis School

Come share the holiday spirit this year by joining your friends and neighbors from LAH, Los Altos and surrounding communities in the annual LAH

Pathways Holiday Caroling event. Cookies and warm refreshments will be provided by Brownie Troop 597 and the LAH Community Relations Committee.

We will first practice a few songs in the Bullis multi-purpose room before making a short 45 minute caroling stroll visiting houses on the pathways near Bullis School in LAH. In case of rain, we will just sing holiday songs inside the multi-purpose room. For more information, please contact Scott Vanderlip at (650) 948-6455. Kids and families of all ages are welcome. This event is open to residents of surrounding communities as well as residents from Los Altos Hills.



## NEWCOMER WELCOMING RECEPTION

A Newcomer Welcoming Reception organized by the Community Relations Committee was held in the patio and ballroom of Morgan Manor on Sunday afternoon, October 3, 2004 from 3 PM to 5 PM. Approximately 100 Town residents and staff attended the reception.

Kelly and Christina Porter graciously opened the patio and adjacent ballroom of their home, Morgan Manor, for the reception. Several committees and organizations set up tables on the patio. A program was held about half way through the event, with welcoming and thank you remarks by the Chair of the Community Relations Committee, the Mayor, Donor Wall Committee and Open Space Committee. A summary of the history of the house and a description of the ballroom were given by Kelly Porter.



*Pictured in front of the Morgan Manor Venetian fireplace are: from left, Tonis Markee, Bella Schneider, Marsha & Steve Robertson.*

All of the attendees enjoyed the event and encouraged the CRC to host the event next year.

## ***Emergency Animal Evacuation Plan***

**I**n disasters, the first priority is the protection of life, property and the environment. Although the protection of human life is the highest priority in an emergency response, recent disasters and follow-up research have shown that proper preparation and effective coordination of animal issues enhance the ability of emergency personnel to protect both human and animal health and safety.

The Town of Los Altos Hills Emergency Animal Evacuation Plan is intended as a guide for emergency staff to perform the critical field response support for the safe evacuation and sheltering of animals during a disaster. The plan outlines the procedures to organize qualified teams of volunteers to transport animals to an area that is safe and meets the animal's sheltering needs.

Ultimately, owners of horses, large animals and pets are responsible for their animal's evacuation and sheltering needs. For this reason, a disaster preparedness section is included in this plan. Animal owners should realize that they may not receive immediate government assistance during a disaster and may be on their own to provide for themselves and protect their property and animals.

For further information on the Plan and how you can volunteer, please call Steven Garcia at (650) 941-7222 x 242.

## ***Kickoff the Holidays at Westwind Community Barn's Annual Barn Lighting!***



*You are invited to attend a family event  
Sunday, December 5th, 3-5 PM  
27210 Altamont Road, LAH  
Refreshments, music, children's crafts, and a  
special appearance by Santa!  
The lighting installation generously underwritten  
by Heritage Bank of Commerce.  
Sponsored by Supporters of Westwind Community  
Barn, with the participation of LAH Parks and  
Recreation and other Town committees.*



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Permit No. 306

## ***LAH's Zunino Family WINS AGAIN in CA Pumpkin Contest!***



***Amanda poses with Lilu  
997 pounds***

Amanda's pumpkin, Lilu was last and surprised everyone by weighing the most at 997 pounds. Lilu came in first place at the California State Weigh Off held in Salinas. At just under half a ton, Lilu is the seventh largest pumpkin ever grown in the state of California.