

LOS ALTOS HILLS



CALIFORNIA

Los Altos Hills

# TOWN NEWSLETTER

Volume XXVIII No. 4 December 2005

## CALENDAR

**Nov - Jan 20, 2006:**  
**Bullis Charter School (BSC) Open Enrollment.** Open Houses Dec. 6 and Jan 10, 7 PM. School tours available, please call 650 947-4939 to reserve a spot. 102 West Portola Ave, Los Altos, next door to Egan. More information at [www.bullischarterschool.com](http://www.bullischarterschool.com).

**BSC PLAYS:** Dec 8 and 11, 4 PM at BSC: "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" - Lower grades play; Jan 11-14, "A Middleschool Night's Dream" - Upper grades play. Tickets at the door or call 650 947-4939.

**December 3, 9:30 AM - Noon, Saturday, Facing California's Energy Future,** Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Los Altos-Mountain View; Los Altos High School; Info. (650) 559-1766

**January 27, 2006, Friday 50th Anniversary Gala at Los Altos Country Club;** 6 PM Reception, 7 PM Dinner Tickets \$95; Info. City Clerk at (650) 941-7222

## LOS ALTOS HILLS TURNS FIFTY!

The Town of Los Altos Hills was incorporated as a city on January 27, 1956, so the fiftieth anniversary of our Town is fast approaching! Various committees in Town are taking a variety of steps to recognize our anniversary — including a special event on the day of the anniversary, January 27, 2006, and other activities during the coming year.

The Community Relations Committee is organizing a "black tie optional" dinner dance gala at the Los Altos Country Club on Friday, January 27, 2006, commencing at 6 PM. Invitations will be sent to all residents in early January. Since the Country Club has limited capacity, residents who want to attend this special event are encouraged to send their reservations back immediately, as reservations are accepted in order of receipt. Tickets are \$95 each, and a check payable to "Town of Los Altos Hills" should be sent to Town Hall (26379 Fremont Rd., LAH) along with names as they should appear on name tags, address, telephone and e-mail contact information.

An Ad-Hoc Historical Committee is developing a museum-quality historical display, which will present the Town's History including a timeline of important dates, founders, reason for incorporation, first families, political issues, unique historical events, rural ambiance, and infrastructure issues. It will be located in the lobby of Town Hall for much of next year and will be on display at the dinner dance gala. The display will be accompanied by DVD video that can be played on command providing oral histories of the Town from existing tapes on file and a few new ones.

The Town Crier has graciously offered to publish a special fiftieth anniversary commemorative edition on January 25, 2006 including a 48-page history magazine insert, which will not contain any ads. The magazine will include articles written by Town residents to detail local history and Town heritage, formation of the Town, Town mayors and notables, education, lifestyles and other topics. The magazine will be donated by the Town Crier as a gift to our Town, and it is a publication you will want to save.

Town stationery used for correspondence and the Town Website will carry notice of the fiftieth anniversary. The information contained in the Historical Display will be placed on the website.

The Town Picnic next year, organized annually by the Community Relations Committee, will have an anniversary theme. All attendees will receive a favor in commemoration of the anniversary. The Town Picnic will be Sunday afternoon, June 4, 2006, so save the date and plan to attend to help continue the celebration of our Town's anniversary.

*Celebrating Our Past, Creating Our Future*



50th Anniversary



LOS ALTOS HILLS

1956 — 2006

*The City Council of the  
Town of Los Altos Hills  
requests the pleasure of your company  
at a Gala in honor of the  
Golden Anniversary of  
The Town of Los Altos Hills  
to be held at the Los Altos Golf and Country Club  
Friday, the 27th of January, 2006  
6 PM Reception, 7 PM Dinner  
Dancing to fifty years of your favorite music  
Black Tie Optional. \$95 per person.  
Your invitation to be mailed in early January 2006.*

## CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

### Update on Parks & Recreation and Public Works Department Recruitments

Deadline for submission of applications for the position of Parks and Recreation Supervisor was Monday, October 31. 18 applications were received. Applications will be screened and those not meeting the minimum requirements will be eliminated from further consideration. Interviews will be scheduled for early November and appointment should occur by December 1.



*City Manager MaureenCassingham*

A second recruitment to fill the position of Public Works Maintenance Supervisor is currently underway. Final filing date was November 18, 2005. Interviews were scheduled during the week of November 28.

### Notice of Funding Eligibility Received from State for Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program

On October 6, 2005, the City Council received a presentation from Public Safety Officer Steve Garcia on the Los Altos Hills Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Annex to the Multi-Jurisdictional Local Government Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires local governments to focus on hazard mitigation before, rather than after, a disaster occurs. The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) developed the Multi-Jurisdictional Local Government Hazard Mitigation Plan that provides the Town, and other participating Bay Area governments with a variety of mitigation strategies to reduce/prevent damage to infrastructures, schools, commercial and residential structures caused by disasters. The Town's Annex was submitted to FEMA on October 28 for approval. Once the Annex is approved, the City Council will be asked to approve the Multi-Jurisdictional Plan for the Town to be eligible for future mitigation funding. The Governor's Office has reviewed the Town's Notice of Intent to apply for funding to seismically retrofit the Corporation Yard and Emergency Operations Center as critical facilities. The State has determined that these projects as proposed would be eligible for grant funding should the Town choose to compete.

### Attendance at CALPERS 2005 Educational Forum

Recently administrative staff attended the 2005 California Public Employees Retirement System (CALPERS) Forum, which featured workshops on reducing employee health care costs, social security, pension rate volatility, CALPERS investments and disability retirements. CALPERS has been asked to explore on behalf of its member agencies oversight of a post-retirement health care benefits program and investment of funded liabilities for same. Staff will continue to aggressively monitor and give input to the CALPERS Board and staff with regard to pension reform and health care cost control and containment.

—Maureen Cassingham, City Manager

## SAFETY CORNER — Did You Know?

### Burglaries are on the Rise!

Help Prevent Burglary and Identity Theft

Statistics developed by the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office show that burglaries in Los Altos Hills have increased. As of September 2005, there were 23 reported residential burglaries compared to 13 the same time last year.

The Town of Los Altos Hills has arranged a free Crime Prevention Presentation aimed at the prevention of residential burglary and identity theft by experienced detectives from the Fraud and Property Crimes Unit of the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office.

When: Wednesday, December 7, 2005 at 7 pm

Where: Council Chambers, Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road

(Seating is limited)

If you wish to attend, please RSVP to Steven Garcia, Public Safety Officer, at (650) 941-7222 x242. Bring your family and neighbors!

### Are you Prepared for a Disaster?

Disasters can strike suddenly, any time and anywhere. The Town of Los Altos Hills and the Palo Alto Area Chapter of the American Red Cross want you to know the five steps you can take to prepare for a disaster and help make a difference.

Town Public Safety Officer Steven Garcia and the American Red Cross will be presenting "Together We Prepare" to Los Altos Hills residents on Tuesday, December 6, 2005 at 7 pm to 8 pm at the Council Chambers, Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road. Bring your family, friends and neighbors!

The presentation is free to all. The American Red Cross will also have emergency supplies and kits for sale. Seating is limited. If you wish to attend, please RSVP to Steven Garcia, Public Safety Officer, (650) 941-7222 x242.

### Needed: Volunteers for Disaster Training

The local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a group of Los Altos and Los Altos Hills volunteers that will give critical support to first responders in major emergencies. They offer immediate care for victims, organize neighborhood groups and collect information to support first responder efforts and the Town's emergency operations.

CERT members will work with local amateur radio operators and Town emergency staff during a disaster. Training is provided by the Los Altos Police Department. If you are interested in becoming a CERT member or you need more information about the CERT program, contact Sgt. John Korges, Los Altos Police Department, at (650) 947-2681 or Steven Garcia, Public Safety Officer, at (650) 941-7222 x242.

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

## PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### *New Ad Hoc Committees Formed FENCES & GENERAL PLAN*

The City Council formed two ad hoc committees this past quarter to address certain Town planning issues.

#### **Fence Ordinance Change**

The first ad hoc committee was charged with reviewing the Town's fence ordinance and defining highly visible lots and structures. The fence ordinance review was ordered after it was brought to the Council's attention that the existing fence ordinance may allow fence designs that block wildlife corridors and inhibit wildlife movement throughout the Town. In a separate but related planning project with the fence ordinance review, the Town's Open Space Committee is preparing a wildlife corridor map with the help of environmental consulting firm Live Oak Associates. The ad hoc committee also reviewed current site development standards for highly visible lots and structures. The volunteer members of this ad hoc committee include City Council member Jean Mordo (committee chair), Mayor Pro Tem Dean Warshawsky, Planning Commissioners Bart Carey and Eric Clow. The Committee's recommended ordinance revisions will be forwarded to the Planning Commission and City Council for review and public hearings.

#### **General Plan Update**

The second ad hoc committee formed by the Council was assigned the task of reviewing and updating the Town's 1975 General Plan. Some Elements of the General Plan have already been updated including the Circulation and Housing Elements. However, other Elements including the Land Use Element are in dire need of updating to reflect the land use changes that have already occurred since 1975. Spelling and grammar errors will also be corrected. No new General Plan policies or substantive amendments to existing policies are proposed at this time. The volunteer members of this committee include City Council member Mike O'Malley (committee chair), Planning Commissioner Carl Cottrell, former Mayor and City Council member Elayne Dauber and former Planning Commissioners Carole Gottlieb, Dot Schreiner and Janet Vitu.

#### **Possible New Energy Ordinance**

In the next several months, the Planning Commission and City Council will also consider a new energy ordinance recommended by the Town Environmental Initiatives Committee that will require new homes to be ENERGY STAR qualified. ENERGY STAR qualified homes are independently verified to be at least 15% more energy efficient than homes built to California's Energy Efficiency Standards (Title 24). Incentives for solar energy production will also be considered.

—Carl Cahill, Planning Director

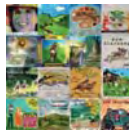


*Planning Director Carl Cahill*

## Editor's Message

### DONOR WALL UPDATE

As we look forward to our 50th Golden Anniversary of the founding of our Town, we are so fortunate to reside in a community that can celebrate our past (ups & downs) and look forward to a creative future. Our city council is on threshold of developing new initiatives for the environment and to make new technology available for our vibrant community that demands we "keep up" with the state of the scientific and technical world. We are so lucky to live in this vibrant community. Plan to join with your neighbors to celebrate our 50th Anniversary Gala on January 27, 2006!



### Looking Back at 2005 - Community Donor Wall

One of our Town's big achievements for 2005 was the completion of the New Town Hall and The Community Donor Wall. Yes, There is still time to donate a tile. If you haven't completed your tile, we ask that you do so in the next two months by going to our contract studio in Palo Alto. The studio is CREATE IT! Located at 299 California Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94306 (on same side as Kinko's), Telephone: 650-323-1515, Hours: Monday-Saturday: 11AM-8PM or Sunday: 11AM-5PM; Owner: Valerie Gornaia.

If you have not donated a tile and wish to do so, please *stop by Town Hall and pick up a form to donate*. We will be installing tiles on a quarterly basis until the wall is completed. Should you have any questions, please contact Duffy Price at (650) 948-0596 or email to [duffy@duffysmail.com](mailto:duffy@duffysmail.com)

Again, thank you for your participation in this very successful Community Legacy Donor Wall project.

Sincerely,

—Duffy Price



## CELL PHONE TOWER APPROVED

At the November 3, 2005 city council meeting a 3-0 vote of the council members approved the permit for the installation of a cell tower at the Westwind Barn area. (Two council members recused due to a potential conflict of interest.) A 289-square foot equipment shed will be next to the tower.

Cell phone representatives indicated that the tower would improve service for a radius of approximately one mile around the site.

## CONSERVATION CAN BE FREE IN LOS ALTOS HILLS

In April of 1998, we moved into our 6,000+ square foot newly constructed home at 27994 Via Ventana Way in Los Altos Hills.

Our goal was to build an air-conditioned, energy-efficient home but without compromise to comfort or home style. Some of the features include 6-inch wall studding, extra thick insulation, low-E windows, Solatubes to duct sunlight from the roof to the first floor, and energy-efficient appliances throughout. Our home consumes a mere 2-3 kilowatt-hour of energy per square foot per year - a rate that appears to be about 1/2 that of what most new homes of this size consume.



Building an energy efficient home is only part of the solution. Energy conservation practices are another part of the conservation effort. Setting thermostats properly during the year, using the "chimney effect" in the summer-evening by opening the skylights and windows to draw in cooler air. Being aware of where the energy consumption is key to reducing energy cost.

Four years ago, we designed and installed a 3 kilowatt fixed ground-mount photovoltaic system with battery backup in case of blackouts. This system dropped our energy consumption to about 1-1/2 kilowatt-hour per square foot per year. Unfortunately, our lot is northern sloping with large trees on the south side that causes shading of the photovoltaic system in the winter. To counter this shading problem, we designed and installed a second 3.0 kilowatt, state-of-the-art photovoltaic system which consists of two dual-axes solar-trackers of 8 photovoltaic panels each mounted high on two 17 foot poles. This system, hidden among the trees, in addition to our fixed-mounted photovoltaic system, will allow us to produce as much energy as we consume on a yearly basis. Consequently, our yearly PG&E electricity bill will net out to zero. This is particularly gratifying since our wooded northern sloping lot is most difficult to effectively install photovoltaic panels. If it can be done on this lot, it can be done on any lot in Los Altos Hills.

Payback is shortest for the energy saving features initially built into the home. The payback for the photovoltaic installations is 8 to 10 years. However, this does not factor in the waiver of increased property tax for the photovoltaic installation or the increased value of the home if it were to be sold. In addition, we are producing peak power when the state needs it the most, sending it down the grid during afternoons in the summer.

— Jay and Jan Shideler  
27994 Via Ventana Way  
Los Altos Hills

## BULLIS STUDENTS SUPPORT EROSION CONTROL AT BYRNE PRESERVE

Bullis Charter School fourth graders undertook a combined science lesson and service project at an eroding gully near Westwind Barn in late September.

"I wanted it to be like detective work where the children could look at the problem, identify causes and brainstorm solutions", explains Deirdre Crommie, who organized the trip with help from many different sources.

Roger Spreen from the Town's Open Space Committee was instrumental in finding the study site. "We are thrilled at the prospect of having the Bullis kids doing projects in our own open spaces", he commented.

The students learned that introducing native plants into the gully may help stabilize the soil. Jean Struthers, who helps to run a native plant nursery at Hidden Villa, kindly offered her expertise. With her guidance, students took cuttings from suitable native plants in other parts of Byrne Preserve.

When the cuttings sprout, the plan calls for the fourthgraders to return to the gully to plant them.

This project is the first of many environmental service learning projects we will be implementing at BCS", says Bullis Charter school Superintendent/Principal Wannye Hersey. "It fits perfectly into our curriculum, one that emphasizes environmental stewardship, hands-on learning, and social responsibility."



## 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 2006 Newsletter will be published quarterly in the months of March, June, September, and December. Deadline for the next issue is January 31, 2006.

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, Patty Woolsey

### Los Altos Hills City Council

Breene Kerr, Mayor • Dean Warshawsky, Mayor Pro Tem  
Craig Jones • Jean Mordo • Mike O'Malley



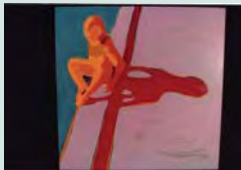
Recycled Paper

## Invitation

*You are cordially invited to the opening reception of local artist*

*Nancie Crowley  
December 11, 2005  
2 PM - 4 PM*

## Town Hall Art Show



*At  
The Los Altos Hills Town Hall  
Light Refreshments*

### Brief Bio-Sketch

*With her husband Jerry, she has lived in Los Altos Hills  
for 33 years where Nancie maintains her studio.*

*Because she was born and raised in Southern California, Nancie attributes her palette of intense colors to that region. When working in oils or in opaque gauche watercolors her pigments stay close to the sun. Whether depicting the human figures, animal forms, still life or landscape images her work focuses on the visual excitement of close color values as well as those that contrast dramatically.*

## Local Children Help Hurricane Refugees

The children of Los Altos Hills have opened their arms - and their piggy banks - to help victims of this fall's hurricanes.

Covington School "adopted" the town of Covington, Louisiana. After an impromptu bake sale raised \$255 (in quarters), the school turned the planned penny drive into an intramural contest, to see which classroom could raise the most money. They raised over \$3,500.

Nixon School used the hurricane to teach friendship and caring. Children bought school supplies, and Scout troops assembled over 100 backpacks for St. Tammany Parish in New Orleans, the "sister school district" for Palo Alto schools. Nixon children also raised \$300 selling drinks and unneeded belongings at a community-wide New Orleans-style carnival and garage sale.

Children at Bullis Charter School also packed up school supplies and sent them to Holy Cross School, a 150-year-old institution in the devastated 9th Ward of New Orleans.

A penny drive at Loyola School netted over \$1,900. In a remarkable example of concern for those less fortunate, eight Loyola third graders, including young Hills residents Alex Haggart and Megan Nevasky, gave up their birthday presents and asked guests to contribute to a hurricane relief fund instead. They raised over \$720. "What incredible role models these students are!" wrote Principal Linda Echols.

—Katie Roper, Covington PTA  
Public Relations



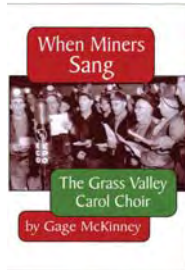
## Historical Society Event

**"An 1850s Gold Country Christmas" is December 4th  
Historical Society Topic**

With words and music, historian Gage McKinney will tell what a Gold Country Christmas was like 150 years ago. His emphasis will be on Cornish miners and the carols they sang in Western mining camps, especially Grass Valley.

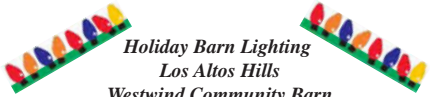
The Cornish tradition of singing in mines was ancient. Their carols reminded them of the homes left behind, and were sung in part to help accommodate them to the frontier. Later, their carols spread to other groups. The last Grass Valley mine closed in 1956, but The Grass Valley Cornish Carol Choir maintains the carol-singing tradition, with many appearances each season.

A discussion and refreshment period will follow the presentation at Town Hall, Sunday Dec 4, 3-5 pm. You are invited to attend and participate.





*Pictured above is CALTRANS manager, Carlos Uribe and Liddicoat Lane resident Tom Turner shaking hands after agreeing on the weed abatement procedures for the Page Mill and Arastradero area off of Hwy. 280. The Neighborhood Preparedness Committee for the Page Mill Estates and the LAH County Fire Protection District recommends annual weed abatement for the area to prevent a recurrence of the devastating 1985 Liddicoat Lane fire that destroyed 11 homes.*



**Holiday Barn Lighting**  
**Los Altos Hills**  
**Westwind Community Barn**  
**27210 Altamont Road, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022**  
**Sunday, December 4th, 1:00 - 5:00 PM**

**Join the Los Altos Hills Community for a special "Uniquely Hills" holiday celebration this season.**

**Refreshments & Santa Claus**  
**Information: Kathy Evans (650) 948-8985**



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Print Innovations, Inc.

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

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*Celebrating Our Past, Creating Our Future*



**50th Anniversary**



**LOS ALTOS HILLS**

**1956 — 2006**





# BULLIS CHARTER SCHOOL

*Inspiring the Individual*

## Discover the difference at Bullis Charter School.

Bullis Charter School is a K-6<sup>th</sup> grade public school serving  
Los Altos Hills, Los Altos, and surrounding areas.

### ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

- 973 API; highest in LASD
- 12th ranked school in California; #1 charter school

### INDIVIDUALIZED LEARNING

IN A SMALL SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

- Tailored plans for every child
- Innovative learning programs

### ENRICHMENT THROUGH ELECTIVES

DURING AND AFTER SCHOOL

- Credentialed specialists for drama, art, music, technology & PE
- Fine & performing arts, specialized science & foreign languages



*Education is not the filling of  
a pail, but the lighting of a fire.*

WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS

*"Bullis Charter School is  
delivering on the promise of  
high-quality, innovative  
public school education."*

Caprice Young, President and CEO of the  
California Charter Schools Association

## OPEN HOUSES

Dec. 6 ▪ Jan. 10

At 7:00 pm

Space available in each grade, including an additional  
3<sup>rd</sup> grade class. Open Enrollment ends 1/20/06.

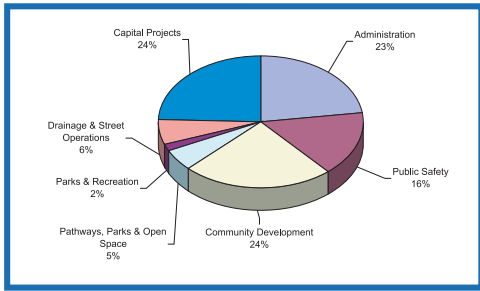
[www.bullischarterschool.com](http://www.bullischarterschool.com)

# ENROLL NOW FOR 2006-07

**THE TOWN NEWSLETTER**

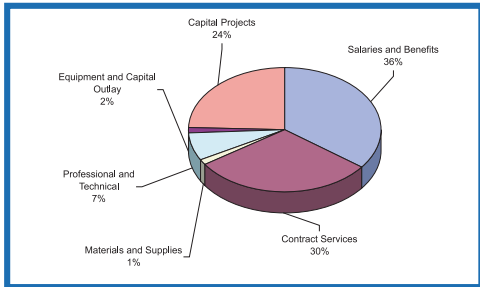
**TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS  
Budget for Fiscal Year 2005-2006**

**Governmental Fund Expenditures by Function\***



	Budget FY 2006	Budget FY 2005	Increase (Decrease)	% Increase (Decrease)
Administration	1,408,521	1,357,754	50,767	3.74%
Public Safety	963,751	919,720	44,031	4.79%
Community Development	1,475,025	1,377,889	97,136	7.05%
Pathways, Parks & Open Space	322,905	316,230	6,675	2.11%
Parks & Recreation	109,229	118,656	(9,427)	-7.94%
Drainage & Street Operations	380,199	394,554	(14,355)	-3.64%
Capital Projects	1,500,000	5,791,551	(4,291,551)	-74.10%
Total	6,159,630	10,276,354	(4,116,724)	-40.06%

**Governmental Fund Expenditures by Object\***



	Budget FY 2006	Budget FY 2005	Increase (Decrease)	% Increase (Decrease)
Salaries and Benefits	2,166,148	1,945,516	220,632	11.34%
Contract Services	1,872,282	1,869,808	2,474	0.13%
Materials and Supplies	87,214	95,918	(8,704)	-9.07%
Professional and Technical	440,182	461,479	(21,297)	-4.61%
Equipment and Capital Outlay	93,804	112,081	(18,277)	-16.31%
Capital Projects	1,500,000	5,791,551	(4,291,551)	-74.10%
Total	6,159,630	10,276,354	(4,116,724)	-40.06%

\* Includes General Fund, Special Revenue Funds and Capital Improvement Funds

**THE TOWN NEWSLETTER**

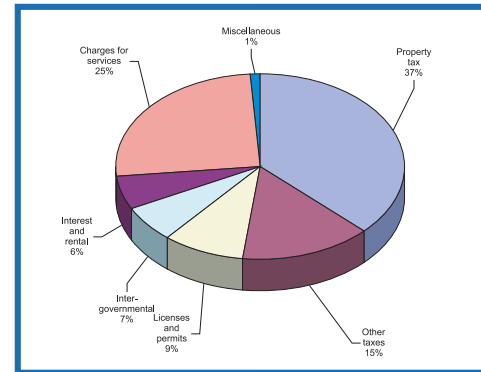
**TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS  
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

As in prior years, the Town's priorities for fiscal year 2005/2006 are to provide timely and quality services to residents and to preserve infrastructure assets. The budget is our plan for meeting Town priorities within our fiscal constraints.

The budget for fiscal year 2005/2006 has been prepared in accordance with the following principles:

**TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS**

**General and Special Revenue Fund Revenues  
Budget for Fiscal Year 2005-2006**



	Budget FY 2006	Budget FY 2005	Increase (Decrease)	% Increase (Decrease)
Property Tax	1,948,733	1,727,500	221,233	12.81%
Other Taxes	767,300	689,735	77,565	11.25%
Licenses and Permits	468,000	433,		