

LOS ALTOS HILLS



CALIFORNIA

Los Altos Hills

# TOWN NEWSLETTER

Volume XXVII No. 2

June 2004

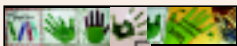
## CALENDAR

June 6, Sunday; 1-4 PM; **TOWN PICNIC;** Little League Field; Reservations required; Contact: Victoria at Town Hall 941-7222

June 19, July 17, August 21; **BRUSH AND YARD TRIMMING COLLECTION EVENTS;** Time: 9 AM to 2 PM; Location: Foothill Community College Campus, Parking Lots 2 & 3

June 22, Tuesday, 6 PM -8:30 PM; **ESCAPE TO MARS, Mars Center at NASA Ames;**  Reservations Required; Contact: Victoria at Town Hall 941-7222

July 15, Thursday; 4:30 PM; **GROUND BREAKING NEW TOWN HALL;** Fremont Road; Speakers, memorabilia, refreshments. No reservations needed.



**Reminder  
Community  
Donor Wall  
Project - Order  
your tile today!**

## TOWN HALL RELOCATES TO BULLIS SCHOOL

*[Town Hall Closed for moving on June 3, 4, 7. Open for business on June 8.]*

At long last the New Town Hall will be built! However, in order to provide continuity of services, a temporary home for the existing Town Hall functions needed to be found. Fortunately, the recently closed Bullis School provided the answer.

For the next year, Town Hall will be temporarily relocated to a portion of the vacant Bullis School property located at 25890 Fremont Road. Telephone and hours of operation will remain the same.



*Temporary Relocation of Town Hall at Bullis School*

The Town's lease agreement with the Los Altos School District was signed, sealed and delivered on May 5, 2004. The lease agreement provides for the use of the administrative offices, the multipurpose room and about 1,000 square feet of adjacent ground space on the Bullis-Purissima School site. The town will pay the school district \$96,000 to lease the space from the first of this month through July 31, 2005.

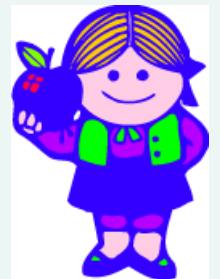
City Council meetings will be conducted in the Multi-purpose Room and signage will direct visitors to the main reception area. Adjacent parking will be available.

Heritage House will remain as the command post for the Sheriff's Office and the Town's Emergency Operations Center

**City Manager, Maureen Cassingham** states, "The City Council and staff strived to secure a temporary service site and meeting venue within the community and the lease of a portion of Bullis School from the Los Altos School District facilitated this very important goal"

### Public Education in LAH

Public education is all about the kids and community, especially the sense of community that is nurtured during the early years at elementary school. Fifty years ago, the founders of Los Altos Hills stated in their incorporation documents that they felt local schools were one of the most important contributors to the heart, soul, and vitality of a community. With this vision and with the support of 80% of the respondents to our survey, the Public Education Committee (PEC) is working to identify a means of returning public elementary schools to the Hills.



Our town, split between school districts, needs a solution that will last into the future. The PEC feels that two major alternatives are available to bring a public elementary school back to the Hills. Either more of our town is associated with the Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD) with agreements on how a school in LAH will be reopened and maintained or we create our own elementary school district. We are willing to make the effort, but we will need your support.

We need to see this through as the Town of Los Altos Hills. Will you help us reverse 40 years of diminishing community as our schools have disappeared? Will you support our efforts to change the education picture in our town? It's about the kids and the community and you. Your support will make the difference in returning public education to the Hills.

The PEC will have a booth at this year's Town picnic. We invite you to stop by and learn more about the issues. Share your views with us.

## CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

### Status of League of California Cities Ballot Measure

Petitions circulated to qualify the League of California Cities "Local Taxpayers and Public Safety Act" measure for the November 2004 ballot were submitted to County election officers statewide on April 16, 2004. Over a 1.1 million signatures were collected with 600,000 needed to qualify. The Secretary of State will declare in late June 2004, which measures will appear, on the November ballot.



*City Manager Maureen Cassingham*

### Status of County-wide Emergency Radio and Data Interoperability Project

As you know, the Town along with the other cities, County agencies and districts in Santa Clara County have been working diligently since 2000 to achieve emergency radio and data interoperability. Antennas and receivers for Phase I of the radio segment of the project have been installed and phone lines are on order and should be in place by April 30. Phase II will add voting receivers at Black Mountain above Cupertino and at Good Samaritan Hospital in San Jose. More transmitters and receivers will be added on certain bands at the Hospital and in Santa Clara. The \$19,500 cost per jurisdiction covers Phase I and serves as the local match for federal and other grant funding for succeeding project phases. The goal of the radio project is to assure the ability to overcome voice communications challenges across disparate emergency responder radio bands or channels during a critical incident or mutual aid situation and to create the future capability of day-to-day emergency voice interoperability. Northrup Grumman Information Technologies recently reported on their progress on the computer assisted dispatch (CAD to CAD) data integration project design and their presentation of the project as a potential nation-wide model to the Departments of Homeland Security and Defense for additional funding. The key advantage of our radio and data interoperability project in seeking federal funding is that it is a regional solution with mutual aid oriented governance that uses 'off the shelf' technology. Two architectures are currently being considered for a data interop system along with a three-pronged approach to voice interop including another channel, a county-wide Nextel-like supplemental network tied to existing radio systems and a system for console patches between dispatch centers.

More on operating and maintenance costs will be known before the design is complete which is scheduled to occur on or about mid-August, 2004.

### Comcast Cable System Upgrade Proceeding

Comcast is on track to complete the upgrade of their cable system including the activation of HSI by the end of April 2004. Their new fiber optic technology will be capable of carrying more cable programming, HDTV, high-speed Internet access and more. The construction of "new service" to homes previously unserved will begin in May.

—Maureen Cassingham, City Manager

## AMENDED ORDINANCE ALLOWS SOLICITING

Earlier this year, police in Menlo Park, Los Altos and Palo Alto arrested magazine solicitors on charges of sexual assault, battery, making criminal threats and burglary. The week prior to these incidences, some solicitors representing the same company were directed by the Sheriff's deputies to cease their solicitation in the Town of Los Altos Hills. These events heightened the Town's concerns for the safety of our residents in conjunction with recognizing the rights of a person to solicit merchandise door to door for a living.

On March 4, 2004, the Los Altos Hills City Council adopted an ordinance that amended the Municipal Code to reflect the United States Supreme Court's most recent opinions on the constitutionality of laws regulating soliciting and peddling. The ordinance requires a person intending to sell door to door to apply for a soliciting permit, provide fingerprints through the Sheriff's Office for a criminal history check, provide a photo for a Town-issued identification card which must be worn and clearly visible when soliciting and sign an agreement stating that they will abide by all the Town's laws and the requirements of the soliciting ordinance. Any violation of these rules and regulations results in the revocation of their permit. Rude, aggressive and threatening behavior is also grounds for revocation.

The amended ordinance allows soliciting between the hours of 8 am to 5:30 pm, Monday through Saturday. Soliciting is prohibited on Sunday. A resident who wishes not to be disturbed by solicitors and peddlers may post a sign at the entrance to their property which clearly states soliciting is prohibited.

Residents may report soliciting violations to the Town's Public Safety Officer Steven Garcia during regular business hours at (650) 941-7222 x242 or the Sheriff's Office at (408) 299-3233 before or after regular business hours.

— Steve Garcia  
Safety Officer, Town of LAH

## YOUTH COMMISSIONER APPOINTED

Ms. Wei Wei Liu was recently appointed Youth Commissioner by the City Council.

Wei Wei is currently a junior at Los Altos High School and is interested in becoming involved with Town government and community through the Youth Commissioner position.

She has been active in high school as the secretary of the Junior Class, president and founder of the Red Cross Club, a singles player on the girls' varsity tennis team, a member of the California Youth Symphony, secretary of the National Honor Society; vice president of the Los Altos Key Club (Kiwanis) and also volunteers at the Stanford Vascular Clinic.



*Wei Wei Liu  
Youth Commissioner*

Wei Wei's goal is to seek more youth involvement in Town government and community activities. Her first job is to update and rewrite the Youth Commissioner's position description. As a contributor to the future of Los Altos Hills, Wei Wei is the Chair of the New Town Hall Groundbreaking Ceremony on July 15th.

Welcome aboard Wei Wei!

## PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### Home Rehabilitation Loan Program Still Available

Since 1976, the Town of Los Altos Hills has made funding available for home rehabilitation loans for Los Altos Hills residents through its Housing Conservation Program. Funded through the Federal Community Development Block Grant program, the Housing Conservation Program provides funds to low income-eligible homeowners, for home repairs which correct housing code violations, alleviate overcrowding, minimize potential fire hazards, and improve health, safety, accessibility and home security conditions. Examples of eligible work include electrical and plumbing repairs, new flooring, heating and weatherization improvements, kitchen and bathroom remodels, painting, roof repair, structural reinforcement and repair of termite damage.



*Planning Director Carl Cahill*

Program eligibility is based on federal income limits by household size. In order to qualify, a household's annual income must not exceed 80% of the current median income in Santa Clara County, as determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. For example, a family of four must have an annual income no greater than \$84,900 and a two-person household may not exceed an annual income of \$67,900.

Loans up to \$100,000 are available to qualified homeowners; interest rates range from zero to three percent. Loan repayment may be amortized or deferred for up to fifteen years, and all loans are secured by a deed of trust.

The Housing Conservation Program offers a practical solution to lower income residents, particularly seniors and others on fixed incomes, faced with a list of costly home repairs. The program helps residents stay in their homes when they might otherwise be forced to sell, and contributes to the general safety and attractiveness of Los Altos Hills.

The Town's Housing Conservation Program is administered by the Santa Clara County Office of Affordable Housing. For more information or to obtain an application, please call Tracy Cunningham at (408) 441-4323.

—Carl Cahill, Planning Director

## GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY

### Mark Your Calendars TODAY!

New Town Hall Ground Breaking on July 15th at 4:30 PM at Town Hall parking lot. Speeches, dignitaries, memorabilia, refreshments.



Join the fun as we look to the future. WeiWei Liu, Youth Commissioner, will chair the event.

## LOS ALTOS HILLS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT - WORKING FOR YOUR SAFETY

### Improvements In Fire Protection

The Los Altos Hills County Fire District continues its efforts to augment fire protection for the residents of the District by purchasing and providing programs to enhance our safety.



### Purchases

1. Weather Station - for use by County Fire for monitoring weather during high fire hazard days.
2. Specialized fire apparatus - for use in the high hazard brush and grass fire areas.
3. New Rescue Apparatus Unit - assisted in purchasing a new rescue apparatus unit for the County Fire prior to its life expectancy expiration.
4. Specialized rescue tools.
5. Fire hydrant and water main testing equipment - new state of the art equipment for ensuring adequate water pressure in our hydrants
6. Specialized medical equipment - Auto Pulse Resuscitation System used for cardiac arrest victims.

### Programs

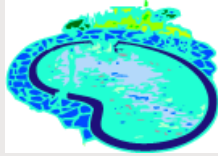
1. Replacement of undersize water mains and installation of new water mains and fire hydrants where needed. Two million plus dollars have been spent on this program. Additional money is budgeted long term for continuation of the program.
2. Brush chipping program — is offered free of charge once a year to residents living in the high fire hazard area.
3. Additional fire fighters — over and above the normal staffing during periods of high fire hazard days or their needed times.
4. Garden debris drop-off program - is funded by the Fire District and operated by the garbage company which allows District residents to drop off garden debris and other combustible plant material once a month at a central drop off area free of charge. (See Calendar Page 1 for dates of drop off.)
5. Fuel reduction/fire break program - funding the use of goats and conservation corp personnel to provide protection in Byrne Preserve.
6. Fire Prevention Information - developing and funding the annual mailing of fire prevention information to all District residents.

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

## Advisory

### DRAINING POOLS & SPAS

The Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program recommends that you keep pool, spa and fountain water OUT of storm drains, creeks and the Bay.



**Storm drains flow directly into our creeks and the Bay.**

#### DID YOU KNOW...?

- Copper is a pollutant that threatens aquatic life in our creeks and the Bay. It is used as an algicide in pools, spas and fountains and copper pipes are commonly used in pool plumbing.

- Draining pools, spas and fountains to storm drains can pollute creeks with copper, chlorine, sediments and other contaminants.

- Storm drains flow directly into our creeks and the Bay without treatment.

#### MAINTAINING

- Clean regularly, maintain proper chlorine levels and maintain water filtration and circulation.

- Manage pH and water hardness to minimize copper pipe corrosion that can stain your pool and end up in our creeks and the Bay.

- Minimize algae buildup to prevent the need for toxic algaecides.

- Ask your pool maintenance service for help resolving persistent algae problems without using copper algaecides.

#### CLEANING

- Never clean a filter in the street, gutter or storm drain

- Rinse cartridge filters onto a dirt area and spade filter residue into the soil.

- Keep backwash discharges out of the street and storm drain. Backwash sand and diatomaceous earth filters onto a dirt area. Dispose of spent filter materials in the trash.

- If you don't have a suitable dirt area, contact your wastewater treatment authority listed below for instructions on discharging to the sanitary sewer.

For more information: Call 1-866-watershed or go to [www.WatershedWatch.net](http://www.WatershedWatch.net)

### BYRNE PRESERVE – AVAILABLE TO GRAZE HORSES

Byrne Preserve is an open space adjacent to Westwind Community Barn. This preserve is a beautiful and welcome refuge for all of us seeking a moment of solitude in a lovely pastoral setting. Byrne Preserve is available to Los Altos Hills residents for grazing a limited number of horses year around. If you own a horse and would like to find out more about the availability of Byrne Preserve, please call Westwind Barn at (650) 941-6113.

## Underground Utilities Effort to Move Forward

On May 6th, a special joint study session was held between the Underground Utility Committee and the Town Council. The purpose of this meeting was for the committee to report its findings on the costs, engineering requirements, and public opinion on undergrounding the utility wires town-wide.



The committee used the services of the engineering firm RW Beck to complete the cost and engineering study. Godbe Research provided a town-wide poll to determine if undergrounding was an issue worth placing on a ballot for a vote. The major conclusions from the meeting were that the cost to underground the whole town (64 miles of overhead utilities, including the "drops" that connect lines to each resident's home, and building a new distribution network of upgraded equipment) is approximately \$50M. In addition, the poll results indicate that approximately 44% of the town is in favor of a town-wide undergrounding effort as outlined by the committee, while 49% are against. Higher income residents and those that have lived here less than 15 years were most in favor.

Based on these results, the committee felt it was best to start with a pilot project supplied by 20A funds with the goal to underground a major thoroughfare in town as determined by the Council. (20A funds are available through PG&E for undergrounding utilities.)

The Town Council unanimously approved that the committee go forward and apply the available 20A funds plus the amounts Comcast and SBC will contribute (around \$900K) to underground a small section of the town. As the next step, the group will present the exact funds available for the pilot project, define the selection process to identify which area to underground, and outline the benefits to the town of establishing a dollar-for-dollar undergrounding matching program.

— Committee: Council Member Dean Warshawsky, Chair.  
Jim Abraham, Andrew Colman, Peter Evans,  
Tony Jurvetson, Duffy Price, Steve Schmidt, Roy Woolsey

## 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 2004 Newsletter will be published quarterly in the months of March, June, September, and December. Deadline for the next issue is July 31, 2004.

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

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



Recycled Paper

## INVITATION

### ESCAPE TO MARS

In an ongoing effort to provide a variety of events for Los Altos Hills residents, the LAH Community Relations Committee has organized an evening at the:



#### Mars Exploration Center at NASA Ames

Ames Research Center

Moffett Field, CA

Date: Tuesday, June 22, 2004

Time: 7 PM - 9 PM



#### NO CHARGE, but RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Call Town Hall 941-7222 to reserve

**Deadline to reserve:** Tuesday, June 15th, but please do not reserve before Tuesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, or your reservation may be lost in the Town Hall move.

Event is limited to the first 400 to reserve.

Dr. David Morrison, the Senior Scientist at the NASA Astrobiology Institute, will give a short lecture, and you will be able to view the exhibits on Mars in the Mars Center.

Learn more about Mars, the Mars Exploration Rover mission and NASA Ames' scientific and engineering roles in Mars missions - both past and present.

Directions: From Moffett Blvd and Hwy 101, head on Moffett Blvd towards NASA Ames Research Center, turn right before the main gate to Ames Research Center, and the Mars Exploration Center is on the right.

*You are guaranteed a memorable experience!*

### Local Residents Receive John W. Gardner Award

The 1st Annual Los Altos Community Foundation John W. Gardner awards dinner held on April 1, 2004 recognized Los Altos Hills residents, **Nancy Couperus** and **Nobuko Saito Cleary** for their contribution to furthering the legacy of John W. Gardner, late Professor at Stanford University and the founding Chairman of Common Cause - whose writings were a source of guidance for public minded citizens on "building community."



*Nobuko Saito Cleary and Nancy Couperus*

**Nancy** was nominated for the award by the **Supporters of Westwind Community Barn** for her longtime community work centering on the environment, the 4-H Handicapped Riding program, and the preservation of Westwind Barn. That same night the Town Council of LAH passed a resolution celebrating her work. **Nobuko**, was nominated by the **Community School of Music and Arts** for her considerable leadership and encouragement for both local and international support in building CSMA's first permanent home and through her lifelong commitment to enhancing cultural and business collaboration in the United States and Japan.

### FIRST RESPONDERS USE NEW HIGH TECH CPR SYSTEM

The AutoPulse Resuscitation System is now in use by the First Responders of the Los Altos Hills County Fire District.

AutoPulse does what no human can do. The system is completely portable and is designed to provide consistent, automated chest compression during CPR. The operator only has to align the patient to the AutoPulse, secure the compression strap and press a button. The system automatically measures the patient's chest size, and then delivers a 20% anterior-posterior chest displacement.



*L. to R. Firemen Steve Massa, Kendall Burks, Ky Grant, & Joe Viramontez -- demonstrating the AccuPulse on the manikin at the Foothill Fire Station.*

By maintaining consistent and efficient compression throughout the cardiac code and transport, the patient's circulation is maintained. Circulation is key to improve flood flow to the heart and brain resulting in improvement in higher circulation rates of drugs that aid in survival. Recently, a patient's life was saved when the AccuPulse system was used by the Loyola Fire Station paramedic team.

## DERBY DAY A SMASHING SUCCESS

**S**UPPORTERS OF WESTWIND COMMUNITY BARN held its first fundraiser on May 1st to raise funds for the restoration of Westwind Community Barn and the development of arts and environmental programs at the site.

Over 300 guests attended the sold-out event on the grounds of Maple Leaf Farm, generously opened for the day by Alex and Cathy Mendez. The day featured an exciting jumping demonstration by the Mendez trainers on the family's Olympic-level horses, the Kentucky Derby on a super-size screen, mint juleps, a bourbon tasting, and select cigars. Many of the ladies wore beautiful hats. The event exceeded both attendance and financial goals and was pronounced a smashing success.

SWCB is an independent non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, Tax Id. #56 - 2360996. To add your name to the invitation list for a future event, to become a volunteer, or to learn more about this organization, please call Elaine Nelson at (650) 941-9503. Donations are tax-deductible to the full extent permitted by law and may be made to: SWCB, 27210 Altamont Road, LAH, CA 94022.



Event Chairs Val Metcalfe,  
Colette Cranston, &  
Elaine Nelson



L. to R. Bart & Barbara O'Brien and Anula & David Gilmour enjoying the Derby Day Event.



## ATTENTION DOG OWNERS

Palo Alto Animal Services will open up a one-day rabies vaccination clinic at the Los Altos Youth Center, One North San Antonio Road, for Los Altos Hills and Los Altos residents. Five Paw Bakery will treat your dog to free snacks and you will have an opportunity to license your dog. The cost for the vaccination is \$6. Animal Services of Palo Alto will schedule the event for a weekend in August. Contact Animal Services at (650) 496-5971 or Steven Garcia at (650) 941-7222 x242 for the date and time.



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## INVITATION ESCAPE TO MARS



*June 22, 2004*

*You are guaranteed a memorable  
experience!*

*See Invitation on Page 5*