

LOS ALTOS HILLS



CALIFORNIA

Los Altos Hills

# TOWN NEWSLETTER

Volume XXVIII No. 1

March 2005

## CALENDAR

**March 19, Bullis Charter School (BCS); "Fly Me to the Moon"**  
Dinner / Auction, at Palo Alto Hills Golf and Country Club.

**April 24, Sunday - EARTH DAY AT WESTWIND BARN;**

1-4 PM;  
Info.  
Call: 941-4808



**May 7, Saturday; FUN RUN; 9 AM, See Flyer.**

**May 7, Saturday; KENTUCKY DERBY DAY,** Maple Leaf Court on Elena Road, 12 Noon Festivities; Run for the Roses at 3:05 PM. See Invite: Page 5; Info. Call: 941-9503.

**June 5, Sunday; LAH TOWN PICNIC,** Little League Fields, Purissima Road; 1-4 PM; See Article Page 5.

**BCS PLAYS: May 19, "Mary Poppins"** — Lower grade play; **June 3, 4 "ONE"** — Upper grades play. Check the Bullis Charter School Web Site at [www.bullischarterschool.com](http://www.bullischarterschool.com), or call (650) 947-4939 for details on all of these events.

## Town Studying Options for Return of Public Education

The survey results are in! Last September the Public Education Committee commissioned a professional telephone survey to determine the public's views on the future of public education in our town. A final written report was submitted to the PEC in October, which was studied, summarized, and then delivered to the Town Council in January. The survey, reaching 494 residents, contained 19 questions addressing public education, and focused on: (1) the importance of various community issues, (2) satisfaction with the quality of public education, (3) awareness of the Bullis Charter School, (4) the level of support for our Council's committing staff and resources to return public education to town; (5) general level of support for realigning school districts in order to return a public elementary school to our town, and (6) specific level of support for three proposed redistricting options. The maximum margin of error for questions answered by all respondents was statistically computed to be 4.86 %.

To develop the survey, the PEC collaborated with a well-respected, public-opinion research company, devoting many months to the mission. The subcommittee worked on five drafts of the survey before it was finalized and approved by two designated Councilmembers, Breene Kerr and Bob Fenwick.

The results showed that:

- 72% of respondents support having our town commit staff time and financial resources to return public education to the Town;
- 70% of respondents support our town committing staff time and financial resources to re-open Bullis Elementary School as part of the Los Altos School District;
- 68% of respondents were satisfied with the quality of public education in their community;
- 65% of respondents would support an effort to realign school districts serving students in town, if doing so would help re-establish a public elementary school within our town; and
- 61% of respondents would support our town committing staff time and financial resources to bring the Bullis Charter School within town boundaries.

The survey collected viewpoints during a single "slice in time." Its protocol did not allow for informed surveyors who could answer questions, nor educate people during the calls. Understandably, many residents are just becoming aware of the Charter School, are not yet familiar with its legal and educational distinctions, nor with the process and many implications of school redistricting.

The PEC is now analyzing the feasibility of many educational options, in order to present a preliminary analysis to the Town Council in February. Future articles will seek to educate residents on the characteristics, advantages and disadvantages of the most promising options available to our Town, and how they might shape our future. The PEC analysis of the survey, as well as the full survey report, can be reviewed at Town Hall during normal business hours, or on the Town Website: <http://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/AgendaManager/uploads/town-news/index.html>



Bullis School

## CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

### *9/80 Trial Office Hours and Work Schedule Extended*

Based on the positive customer feedback on the Town's extended office hours (7:30-5:30 PM M-F) and staff response to the new schedule, the 9/80 work schedule has been extended from its original trial period of November 1, 2004 to January 31, 2005 through the rest of the fiscal year ending June 30. As you know, extended hours were introduced during the Town's grading moratorium and they have been well received to date. It is expected the schedule will continue to serve our residents well as the grading moratorium is lifted on April 1 and new and continuing private and public projects become active.



*City Manager Maureen Cassingham*

### **Proposed Comcast Schedule for Completion of Cable System Construction**

Comcast, the Town's cable system franchisee, has presented a tentative construction schedule for the build-out of their system in the public rights-of-way in Los Altos Hills. Virtually all the remaining segments of the system will be undergrounded. Construction of the first of eight nodes is scheduled to begin on or about March 1, 2005 with completion of the rest of the project by early summer 2005. Residents will receive mailed notices 30 days before work is scheduled to start in their neighborhood followed by the placement of door hanger notices 72 hours prior to construction. Laterals for residents wanting cable/HIS services can be installed at the same time as conduit trenching.

Vaults will be flush-mounted and laterals will be located taking into account aesthetics and minimal disruption to landscaping and other private property improvements. Town staff will provide inspection services to assure prompt button-up, clean-up and safety.

### **Status of Plan Development by Santa Clara County Task force to End Homelessness**

As you know, I continue to represent the Town as a member of the County's Task Force to End Homelessness in the next ten years. The Task Force began work on the plan to achieve this goal in December 2004 and hopes to complete its charge in April/May 2005. Concurrent with plan development has been a survey or head-count of the homeless population of Santa Clara County. Preliminary numbers, which include persons living in shelters and outdoors, found over 7100 men, women and children to be homeless. Plan Development discussions to date have included "housing first" strategies which have proven successful in other jurisdictions. Task Force membership is a combination of county and city government representatives, service agencies and organizations and the homeless themselves.

—Maureen Cassingham, City Manager

## TELEMINDER PILOT PROJECT

At their meeting of December 16, 2004, the Los Altos Hills City Council approved the one-year Pilot Project to participate in the City of Los Altos' Teleminder Emergency Alerting System. Teleminder is a sophisticated, 8-line telephonic notification system capable of calling residents affected by an emergency or event where there is a substantial threat to public safety and/or property. The Teleminder computer has an integrated mapping program to isolate a particular geographic area and display the exact number of residences within that area. Town staff can create and send informative messages to all telephone numbers in the specified region.

The Teleminder system is owned by the City of Los Altos and operated by its Police Department Communications staff. Trained operators for the Town of Los Altos Hills include the City Manager, Planning Director, Administrative Services Director and the Public Safety Officer. The Town anticipates the system will be operational by February 25, 2005. Once operational, staff will coordinate with the Sheriff's Department to develop protocol for the Department's use of Teleminder during non-business hours.

Even though your number is unlisted, Teleminder has access to all unpublished numbers in the Town for emergency notification purposes. The system will detect if it reaches a live person, data or fax line, message machine or voice mail and will play its announcement accordingly. Teleminder can detect lines which are busy or out-of-order and will recall busy numbers numerous times before giving up.

Here are some important things to know about Teleminder and its use:

- Inform your family members about Teleminder and that announcements will most likely be in English only
- Listen carefully to the instructions. If you miss a Teleminder message, listen for instructions at the end of the message for how to repeat the message
- Have children contact an adult in the house to listen to the message
- Refrain from using electronic anti-telemarketing devices attached to your phone which can interfere with incoming emergency announcements from Teleminder. Instead, you are encouraged to place your phone number(s) on the National Do Not Call Registry at 1-888-382-1222 or on line at [www.DoNotCall.gov](http://www.DoNotCall.gov)

For more information concerning Teleminder, contact Steven Garcia, Public Safety Officer at (650) 941-7222 x242.

**New Town Hall Dedication  
Planned for late April or early May.  
STAY TUNED!**

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

## PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### Public Health and Community Design

Dr. Richard Jackson, California's Public Health Officer, believes that the relationship between the built environment and public health has become self-evident: We don't walk because our communities are designed for cars. We live in neighborhoods that encourage privacy and isolation. We don't feel safe because we don't know our neighbors.



*Planning Director Carl Cahill*

An internationally recognized leader in environmental health, Dr. Jackson believes that the connections we make with each other and the environment are paramount to attaining mental and physical health. "The diseases of the 21st century will be chronic, such as obesity, heart disease, depression, and osteoporosis," says Dr. Jackson. "The design of communities needs to encourage walking, bicycling, and running. Residents need to be less dependent on a lifestyle that increases pollution. Neighbors need to build relationships to promote safe and secure environments." Dr. Jackson comes from an extensive background in pediatrics. Most recently, he served as the director of the National Center for Environmental Health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from 1994 to 2003; and as an adjunct professor in the departments of environmental and occupational health at George Washington University and at Emory University, and epidemiology and public health at the University of California, San Francisco. He became the State Health Officer in April 2004. Dr. Jackson's comments are timely as the Town nears the finish line for completing an update of the Town's 1981 Master Path Plan. The Master Path Plan and accompanying Pathway Element represent the Town's blue print for promoting physical activity on a system of safe walkways and off-road trails that connect neighborhoods, schools and open spaces. Rather than becoming obsolete, the Town's Pathway System, which began to be developed as early as 1956, is more relevant than ever as public health officials and other communities realize that community designs, which inhibit pedestrian and bicycle movement, are contributing to certain public health problems. Dr. Jackson's article entitled "Promoting Healthy Environments" is reprinted with permission from the Winter 2005 edition of the California Healthy Cities and Communities (CHCC) Newsletter "Connections." More information on this subject is available at the National Center for Bicycling and Walking website at <http://www.bikewalk.org/> and the Center for Civic Partnerships California Healthy Cities and Communities website at <http://www.civicpartnerships.org>

### Updated Geo-Hazards Map

The Town Geologist has completed an updated version of the Geotechnical and Seismic Hazard Zones Map. The Map is available at Town Hall. Copies may be obtained by contacting John Chau in the Town Engineering Department at (650) 941-7222.

—Carl Cahill, Planning Director

## BULLIS CHARTER SCHOOL NEWS

### Bullis Charter School Site in Los Altos Hills

Bullis Charter School is asking for the support of all residents of Los Altos Hills to help bring a public elementary school back to our town. BCS has requested the use of the former Bullis-Purissima Elementary School site from the Los Altos School District for Fall '05. Our town has now gone for two years without a public school. The LASD Board has said they will not allow Bullis Charter School to use the Bullis site because it is not comparable to other school sites in the district. They have also said that children attending Bullis Charter School will be "permanent nomads." Meanwhile, LASD continues to use the site for less than 10 children in commercial day-care and district pre-school, in violation of Los Altos Hills zoning laws.



At the February 3 Los Altos Hills City Council meeting, the BCS Site Committee asked the council to begin taking the necessary actions to allow the school to use the riding ring and one baseball field on Purissima Road as a temporary school site for Fall '05. BCS would withdraw this request if the LASD decides to allow the school to use the Bullis site by April 1 (per Proposition 39). The BCS Site Committee evaluated over 15 potential school sites in the Los Altos Hills area before concluding that the Purissima Road site was the only near-term possibility. It was necessary to move forward now with plans for this alternative school site to ensure that it could be a viable option for Fall '05.

Please join us in thanking our City Council for taking a courageous stand to support public education in our town. You can also help by attending the LASD Board's public meetings in March to voice your support for allowing Bullis Charter School to use the Bullis site, and avoid having to relocate the riding ring and one ball field.

### Open Enrollment Success

Bullis Charter School had an extremely enthusiastic response to Open Enrollment with over 200 new applicants for Fall '05, exceeding the space available. The school currently has 170 students and expects to enroll 30-50 new students for Fall '05. Selection will be done by lottery for classes that are over-subscribed, with priority for LASD children.

### Bullis Pitches In for Tsunami Relief

Students are running a weekly bake sale from February through June to support Tsunami relief efforts on the Island of Nias. Classes will rotate hosting responsibilities. Each week the hosting class presents at the school assembly about the importance of their particular effort. Proceeds will be sent to SurfAid International.

—Lee Garverick,  
Bullis Boosters Club, Bullis Charter School

## *The Environmental Design and Protection Committee Needs More Members: How about you?*

**T**he charges and duties of the Town's Volunteer Environmental & Protection Committee are officially noted to be "to work for the beautification of the Town and the protection of its resources."



If you are interested in the protection of Los Altos Hills and its resources; if you want to keep it a place where people can live and raise a family in peace and harmony; if **where** you live and **how** you live is important to you, then this is the volunteer work for you.

We assist staff in the implementation of Town practices by review, by inspection and by recommendation. One of our primary goals is to try to minimize the effect of any new building or remodeling site in the Town and to check that it conforms to all Town ordinances referring to visibility, lighting, noise, soil erosion and so on. Abiding by all these factors make for a pleasant neighborhood.

Our job involves about 6 hours per month: one evening meeting per month (1 hour), one morning per month visiting sites (3 hours) and one Tuesday morning Fast Track meeting every 6 weeks (2 hours).

Volunteers with qualifications in landscape design, environmental science, pollution control and the like will be seized upon with delight, but plain ordinary common sense is the one attribute we really must have.

For more information contact Pat Ley at 650 941 1674, or Robin Robison 650 917 0881, and for an application form Karen Jost, City Clerk, at 650 941 7222 ext. 226

## *LAH Historical Society*

**S**aving Bracewell Radio Observatory is March 6 Historical Society Topic Bob Lash, President of the Friends of the Bracewell Observatory Association, will describe efforts to rescue the observatory-five 60-foot dish antennas and control room building from demolition at Stanford, with the goal of restoring and operating the site to open up radio astronomy to the public.



This Los Altos Hills Historical Society meeting will be held Sunday March 6, 3 to 5 PM., in the Multi-Purpose Room of Bullis-Purissima School, 25890 W Fremont Road, LAH. A discussion and refreshment period will follow the presentation.

## *Los Altos/Hills Relay for Life a Record for California*

**T**he Relay For Life, for Los Altos and Los Altos Hills, held last June, was the most successful, first year, Relay For Life ever held in California. It was also the 2nd largest in the U. S. Our community's Relay contributed \$245,000 to the fight against cancer.

The second annual Los Altos/Hills Relay for Life will be at Los Altos High School on June 25 & 26, 2005, 10:00 AM Saturday to 10:00 AM Sunday. Los Altos Hills residents are urged to participate and make this year's event more successful than ever.



**Relay for Life** is the signature event of the American Cancer Society. It is the largest fundraiser in the world. Relays are 100% volunteer-driven community events. Participating teams, share walking around the high school track for 24 hours, to demonstrate their resolve in battling cancer. Luminaries are sold in honor, or in memory, of those who have had cancer, and provide light during the nighttime walks around the track. Great music and entertainment is planned for this worthwhile event.

The purposes of **Relay for Life** are, in addition to fundraising, to educate participants and attendees about cancer prevention and early detection, to make the community aware of the Society's research programs and services, and to celebrate those who have survived cancer. **Relay for Life** especially honors those who have lost their battle with cancer. Cancer survivors are encouraged to get involved and are invited to walk the first lap of the **Relay**. In 2005, 168 survivors walked the first lap. Volunteers are needed to organize teams, to participate in teams, to work at the **Relay**, and to contribute needed equipment and supplies. Sponsors are welcomed.

Please join the **Relay**, and support the search for a cure for cancer. **Contact Ken Clifford in the Hills at 948-3330 or Chairperson Jeanne MacVicar at (650) 962-8053**

## **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 April 30, 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

### **Los Altos Hills City Council**

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



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# INVITATION

## RUN FOR THE ROSES - KENTUCKY DERBY 2005

SAVE THE DATE

BUY YOUR TICKETS EARLY!!

On May 7, 2005, you are invited to watch the Kentucky Derby at Los Altos Hills' newest, fabulous horse barn on Maple Leaf Court. There will also be a horse demonstration with the internationally acclaimed horses that occupy this barn.

Ladies, start buying your hats. There will be a contest for prize-winning hats!

The festivities begin at 12:00 PM with the 131st Run for the Roses at 3:05 PM.

Traditional Derby Day food and drink will be served and both live and silent auctions will be held. The view is incredible and the afternoon will be memorable! Come enjoy this event with your friends and neighbors.

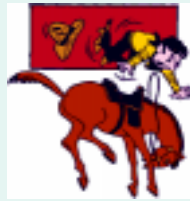
Proceeds will benefit Westwind Barn and the creation of a community room at the Westwind site. Sponsored by Supporters of Westwind Community Barn, a tax-deductible 501(c)(3) organization. You may purchase your tickets for \$150 by calling 941-9503 or by an email request to [elaine@westwindsupporters.org](mailto:elaine@westwindsupporters.org)

Attendance will be limited and is expected to sell out early.

Blue ribbon sponsors include Charles Schwab (Los Altos Customer Center) and Morgan, Stanley.

## LOS ALTOS HILLS HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Los Altos Hills Horsemen's Association is revitalizing and wants to hear from you! With new members and new activities planned for 2005, LAHHA is actively collecting input from all Los Altos Hills horse owners and enthusiasts so that we can better serve your needs. Please visit our website for



details on upcoming events and opportunities to participate. Be sure to mark your calendars now for our May 14th Spring Tack Trade from 11:00 to 3:00 at the town ring.

For Association and activity details visit: [www.LAHHA.org](http://www.LAHHA.org)

## 8TH ANNUAL LOS ALTOS HILLS

### TOWN PICNIC SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 5

The Los Altos Hills Town Picnic has become a very popular event, with attendance increasing annually. Approximately 1,200 Town Residents attended last year's Town Picnic, and more are expected this year. The 8th Annual Los Altos Hills Town Picnic will be held on Sunday afternoon, June 5, from 1 PM to 4 PM, at the Little League Fields on Purissima Road.

The event features lots of entertainment, games and other attractions, as well as a free lunch for all Los Altos Hills residents. Chicken, all-beef hot dogs and vegetarian meals will be cooked by our terrific firefighters from Santa Clara County Firefighters Local # 1165, and served with Firefighters Chili, tossed salad, and garlic bread. Soft drinks, beer, wine and ice cream sundaes will be provided. Your Community Relations Committee organizes the Town Picnic, with help from many other volunteers in Town. If you are available to assist for half an hour — serve refreshments or ice cream, organize a children's game, or assist at the registration desk — please let the Committee know by calling Town Hall at 941-7222.

Our Town hosts the Picnic as the major annual community event that brings together all of our Town residents. Since there is no charge for attending, the picnic is limited to Los Altos Hills residents — so do encourage your Los Altos Hills neighbors to attend with you, but please do not invite friends from other cities (they will be turned away at the gate). Also, by city ordinance, dogs are not allowed on the fields, so please leave Fido at home.

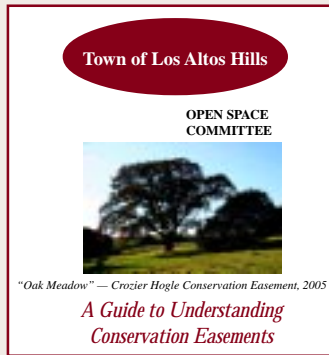
A registration coupon will be mailed to all Town residents in May, and advance registration will be required so we can order the correct number of dinners.



## *New Guide to Understanding Conservation Easements*

The Open Space Committee has produced a new Guide to Understanding Conservation Easements that is available at Town Hall. The brochure is dedicated to long-time Hills resident Lois Crozier Hogle.

A passionate champion of the environment for over 45 years, Lois co-founded the Committee for Green Foothills and the Peninsula Conservation Center, supported the preservation of Hidden Villa, and helped to secure Los Altos Hills' largest open space area, Byrne Preserve. Lois continues to serve as a model for other Hills residents, having recently placed a conservation easement over her 11-acre property (Oak Meadow) to protect it from subdivision and preserve its natural environment.



## *NEW PLANNING COMMISSIONER APPOINTED*

**Bart Carey, MD** was appointed to the Planning Commission at the city council meeting on December 16, 2004.



*Planning Commissioner  
Bart Carey, MD*

Dr. Carey and his wife Sydney live on Deerfield Drive.

Dr. Carey is interested in guiding development in Los Altos Hills in a manner consistent with Town policies.

He states, "I would like to provide a balanced viewpoint and fairness in problem solving and a desire to serve the community and Town Government." Dr. Carey recently completed his own home construction in LAH and has successful experience co-organizing a sewer extension for his surrounding neighborhood.

Dr. Carey replaces former commissioner, Jean Mordo who was recently elected to the city council.

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## **Lois Crozier Hogle First Lady of Los Altos Hills**



*Lois Crozier Hogle receives the Mary & Wallace Stegner Award for Environmental Stewardship presented by Jane Turnbull, President of the local chapter of The League of Women Voters, in recognition of her many years of leadership in conservation.*