

LOS ALTOS HILLS



CALIFORNIA

Los Altos Hills

TOWN NEWSLETTER

Volume XLIX No. 1 March 2006

CALENDAR

March 25th: Mardi Gras - Bullis Charter School Annual Dinner Auction; Info. Call: 941-4708 and www.bullischarter-school.com

April 23, 2006,

Sunday 1-4 PM, Earth Day at Westwind Barn, Leopards Etc. Wild Cats;



& Karen Hoyt of Sky Hunters will be bringing two birds of prey - including an owl and a kestrel.

April 30th: 'Pirates of Penzance' - co-production by S.F. Opera Guild and BCS, 2 and 4 pm, Smithwick Theatre, Foothill College, LAH. Info: 948-4100 and www.bullischarter-school.com

May 6th, Saturday Westwind Barn: 9 AM 5th Annual LAH Pathways Run. Info: 650-941-7222.

May 17-21: BCS plays: 'Aladdin', grades K-4; June 1-11th **"For whom the Bell Rings"**, grades 5-6. Info: 941-7973 and www.bullischarter-school.com

June 4; Sunday, LAH Town Picnic: Little League Fields, 1-4 PM. See Article Page 4.

WESTWIND BARN STATUS

Situated deep in the heart of Los Altos Hills adjacent to some of our most beautiful open spaces is a real crown jewel of our community. As you proceed northward along Altamont Road, you pass some of the most beautiful scenery in Town, with the Byrne Preserve to your left and Bay views on the right. Often, you can see horses graze on the Preserve as the fog lingers in the morning. Just past the Preserve is our Town-owned Westwind Barn.

Westwind Barn and the adjoining property have been owned by Los Altos Hills since 1975. This property came into public ownership as the result of a generous gift from Countess Margit Besseyeney of Hamilton, Montana and a companion purchase by the Town. One and one-half years after acquiring the property, the Town leased the facilities to a private organization, Friends of Westwind. The Friends have managed the facility every since. Recently, a second organization, Supporters of Westwind, was created, primarily as a group dedicated to raising money for the renovation of the Barn. Among other things, Supporters of Westwind sponsors the popular annual Derby Day event and celebration.



Keeping in mind the importance of this community asset, the Los Altos Hills City Council has taken on the issue of planning the future of Westwind Barn. The council's desire is to secure future availability of the barn to all residents of our community. In addition to preservation and restoration, the Council is also committed to enabling more Parks and Recreation programs and events at the barn.

The Council has hired a consultant to inspect the facility and report back on its structural integrity and to give preliminary estimates of the cost of renovation. Concurrent with this review, the Council has created two Ad Hoc Committees to provide advice to the Council. The first is a committee addressing governance of the barn. This committee is charged with providing advice as to the proposed legal structure of Barn governance, including developing a strategy to access park bond funds, other Town funds and/or private donations. This committee is expected to report its final recommendations by March. The second committee will then begin its work. It is charged with planning the renovation of the Barn and the expanded uses of the Barn. The Town ordered consultant report on the Barn's condition will be an important input into the committee's deliberations.

The Council got actively involved because of the increased community interest in the Barn, greater demand for recreational equestrian activities by our residents and in response to the pressing need to renovate the Barn. The goal is to ensure that this valuable Town asset continues to be available to the increasing number of Town residents who want to participate in the many activities at the barn.

CITY MANAGER - Recent Resignation

The Town has launched a search for the position of City Manager after the resignation of former manager Maureen Cassingham. The Council thanks Ms. Cassingham for her five years of service to our Town. An ad hoc subcommittee of the Council has been created and it is expected the Council will hire a search firm specializing in City Manager searches. On average, it takes approximately 4-6 months to complete a City Manager search. Carl Cahill has accepted the position of Acting City Manager in the interim. The City Council is seeking input from Town residents as to the characteristics we should seek in our next City Manager.

JAN FENWICK LOS ALTAN OF THE YEAR

The Los Altos Town Crier staff selected Jan Fenwick as the Los Altan of the Year - as a model of leadership and generosity. Jan is known as a goodwill ambassador throughout the community.

Jan has resided in LAH since 1987 and served 12 years as a Director of the Purissima Hills Water District.

Jan is the wife of former LAH mayor and city council member, Bob Fenwick.



Jan Fenwick
The Los Altan of the Year

Jan once taught 4th and 5th grades in the San Carlos School District. Over the years, she maintained her interest in the environment by serving for over 30 years with the Environmental Volunteers, a Palo Alto organization that helps children understand wildlife and nature. She often attends the Westwind Earth Day Celebrations with a collection of small stuffed animals to demonstrate their habitats.

There is never a task too small or an event too large that Jan and Bob don't open their beautiful ridge top home to help celebrate. Their gracious hospitality and enthusiastic support for non-profits and community events has no equal.

Congratulations to Jan Fenwick as the Los Altan of the Year!

LOS ALTOS HILLS GOES SINGLE-STREAM RECYCLING

Los Altos Garbage Co. has provided encouraging statistics on increased recovery of recyclables when communities go to single-stream recycling, which allows the residents to commingle their paper and glass recyclables. Commingling recyclables may seem counter-intuitive but by making it easier for residents to recycle, single-stream recycling programs show a net increase in recycling material. BFT's state of the art reprocessing plant at Newby Island, Milpitas can only recover about 90% of the material collected by using single-stream recycling, a 5% decrease from the older non-commingling collection methods. However, single stream recycling increases the tonnage of recyclables recovered by residents by about 20 - 30%, therefore resulting in an overall increased tonnage recycled. The biggest problems are fibrous or stringy waste, shredded paper from paper shredders, Styrofoam "peanuts," clamshell-packing material, plastic bags, and plastics other than those marked #1 - #7. These waste products either cannot be separated out effectively, jam up the automated recycling process or cannot be used in recycling. (Plastic bags can be recycled if placed in single clear bags and secured so individual bags don't get out and gum up the mechanical separators.)

Los Altos Hills residents currently recycle about 60% of their total refuse, which is above the average of about 50% for the state. Single stream recycling should help residents to increase this and make Los Altos Hills a notable standout community for recycling.

— Jay A. Shideler, Member
LAH Environmental Initiatives Committee

Tragic Death of Cyclist During Storm

On January 1, 2006 during the height of a rain and windstorm a huge Eucalyptus tree was uprooted and a branch fell onto a passing bicyclist, Daniel Plummer who was instantly killed. The event occurred on Natoma Road near the intersection of Black Mountain Road.



Natoma Road

Plummer was a 39-year-old research scientist and a member of the Team Spine, a Northern California amateur road racing team. His riding partner, Eric Saltzman was riding ahead of Plummer when the accident occurred.

Funeral services were conducted in Plummer's hometown of Walpole, Massachusetts during the week of January 2nd.

City Takes Action on Eucalyptus Trees

Many roads in the Hills were blocked as a result of fallen trees.

The city council is taking action to assess the current vulnerable trees in the Hills and to look at developing further action plan for managing Eucalyptus trees.

Open Space Committee WILDLIFE SURVEY

More than 380 LAH residents returned the wildlife survey sent out in December by the Open Space Committee. More than half of respondents volunteered additional detailed information about wildlife they see in their neighborhood. "We were thrilled by the level of interest and thoughtfulness that people showed in their responses," says Roger Spreen, Committee Chair.

The survey asked residents how often they see deer, coyote, bobcats and foxes, primary users of wildlife corridors in LAH. Deer are seen daily by 80% of respondents who live west of Interstate 280 and 17% who live east of 280. Sightings of coyotes, bobcats, and foxes are rare on both sides, although two-thirds of respondents have seen them at least once. A summary will be published on the Town web site.

The survey is part of the Wildlife Corridor project to identify significant wildlife corridors in the Town, and the information provided by residents will help the ecology consultants (Live Oak Associates) hired by the Town to validate their fieldwork and mapping. Thanks to everyone who sent in a survey!

The Committee is still accepting wildlife surveys. Pick up blank surveys at Town Hall or call 650-815-8286 to have one sent to you.

For Council Agenda and Minutes,
See our Website:
www.losaltoshills.ca.gov

PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A Creekwise Approach

There are six creeks within the Town of Los Altos Hills and these creeks border along many residential properties. Make the most of your location next to a creek by helping to keep it healthy.

Use creekwise gardening and landscaping practices

- Never dispose of lawn clippings in a creek or on a creek bank. Soil and lawn clippings disposed in creeks become unsightly, destroy aquatic habitats, and cause diseases in trees.



Planning Director Carl Cahill

Take invasive species out - put local native species in

- Native plants and trees, which specialize in growing within a creek corridor, provide important habitat value unlike many exotic plants.

Pave only when necessary

- If you are planning to construct walkways, patios, driveways, or storm water drains, consider alternatives with permeable surfaces to allow more rainwater to soak into the ground.

Build away from the creek

- Avoid locating structures such as decks, patios and storage sheds near the creek bank. (The Town of Los Altos Hills requires all structures including patios and decks to be setback at least 25-feet from the top of the creek bank)

Check for erosion regularly and correct problems promptly

- Be sure to seek professional advice and a permit from the water district before taking action. A Site Development Permit from the Town is also required for most projects undertaken near creeks.

"A Creekwise Wise approach" is reprinted with permission of the Santa Clara Valley Water District. www.valleywater.org

— Carl Cahill, Planning Director

LAH County Fire District FREE BRUSH CHIPPING PROGRAM

(Your tax dollars working for you!)

The Los Altos Hills County Fire District is offering all residents a free service of chipping and disposal of brush and prunings. This program has been very successful.

The Town has been divided into 6 separate areas. Starting in late February through May, each designated area of the Town will be notified of the service by a letter containing a postcard to return informing the contractor of your request to have the service.

Here is how it works: During the spring and early summer the District's contractor will be in your neighborhood available to chip brush and tree prunings that you have cut and stacked on your property. Chips will be left with you or the contractor will take them. If you want the free service, you will need to plan to do your pruning and make an appointment with the contractor.

The Fire District encourages you to take advantage of this free assistance to make your home more defensible against a wildland fire.

- All flammable vegetation should be cleared a minimum of 30 feet around structures.
- Tree limbs should be cut within 10 feet of chimneys.
- Trees that are 18 feet or taller should be limbed 6 feet above the ground.

The Fire District contractor is S. P. McClenahan Co. They will perform the service during the spring and early summer. **Remember, the postcard must be returned to the S.P. McClenahan Co. for this service to be scheduled.** The contractor will call to schedule an appointment with you for the brush chipping service.

The LAH County Fire District services are provided by the Santa Clara County Fire Department.



Los Altos Hills Historical Exhibit

The Town of Los Altos Hills was born out of need to be an independent city - preserving its uniqueness within the Santa Clara Valley as a beautiful rural community with peaceful vistas of rolling foothills and natural open space.

The goal of the Town's 50th Anniversary Historical Display is to present all the threads of the events and people that have formed this community over the decades and weave them into a cohesive narrative and visual tapestry that reflects our unique heritage, values, and personalities. It serves not only as a tribute to its residents but it also serves as a valuable, historical record of a town that has quietly and tacitly changed through those decades.

The display is available to all residents, families, and groups that seek to have a deeper understanding about the legacy and the evolution of Los Altos Hills.

You are invited to view the display and the video, "The Treasures of Los Altos Hills" at Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road; Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30 AM - Noon; 1 PM-5:30 PM.

9TH ANNUAL LOS ALTOS HILLS TOWN PICNIC — JUNE 4th

The 9th Annual Town Picnic will be held on Sunday afternoon, June 4, 2006, from 1 PM to 4 PM at the Little League fields. The Picnic 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.

The Town Picnic will continue the celebration of the Town's Fiftieth Anniversary. The Picnic's brief program will have an anniversary theme, and each resident who checks in at the registration canopy by third base of Little League Field # 2 will receive a gift in celebration of the Town's anniversary. Over 1,300 Town residents attended the Picnic last year, and more are expected this year.

The Town Picnic is organized by the Community Relations Committee, with help from many other

volunteers in Town. You can volunteer to help for half an hour with registration or games or serving beverages or ice cream 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 and Town staff — so do encourage your Los Altos Hills neighbors to attend with you, but please do not invite friends from other cities. 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 by Monday, May 22nd is required so the appropriate number of meals may be ordered. Many large canopies will be provided, so rain or hot weather does not cancel the picnic.



VIDEO AVAILABLE "THE TREASURES OF LOS ALTOS HILLS"

DVD copies of the wonderful video, "Treasures of Los Altos Hills", which was produced by Nancy Traficanti as part of the Town's 50th Anniversary celebration, are available at Town Hall for a donation of at least \$5 each.

Parks and Recreation Department

Horseback Riding Classes for Adults & Children

Los Altos Hills Parks and Recreation Department continues to offer riding lessons to adults and children at Westwind Barn. Adult beginning and novice lessons are offered on Monday mornings. Children beginning lessons are offered on Tuesdays and children novice lessons are offered on Wednesdays.



The adult and novice children lessons are taught by a Jenny Whitworth, certified by the British Horse Society to level 4, an extraordinary high level of equestrian expertise.

Come and enjoy the beauty of Westwind Barn and thrill of riding horses. See the Town website or contact Tod McLemore, Park and Recreation Director of Los Altos Hills at (650) 941-7222.

IN MEMORIAM LOIS CROZIER HOGLE FIRST LADY OF LOS ALTOS HILLS

Six days after celebrating her 92nd birthday, Lois Crozier Hogle passed away in her beautiful home called Oak Meadow.



Lois Crozier Hogle

Lois, a resident of the Hills for over 46 years, devoted her life to environmental causes, including co-founding the Committee for Green Foothills with other activists such as Wallace Stegner & Ruth Spangenberg. Even in her last year she was leading by example, when she donated a conservation easement on her 11-acre property to the Town of Los Altos Hills, to preserve its natural state as a permanent legacy for future generations.

A memorial service will be held on March 3rd at 1:30 PM at the Portola Valley Presbyterian Church.

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 April 30, 2006.

Internet Address: 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 Waldeck, Linda Seidel, Patty Woodley

Los Altos Hills City Council

Bronze Kerr Mayor • Dana Wardenbury Mayor Pro Tem
Craig Jones • Ann Merdo • Mike O'Malley



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INVITATION

THIRD ANNUAL KENTUCKY DERBY DAY MAPLE LEAF FARM A BENEFIT FOR WESTWIND COMMUNITY BARN



You are invited to celebrate the Kentucky Derby on May 6, 2006, at Maple Leaf Farm in Los Altos Hills. The festivities will begin at 12:00 PM with the 152nd Run for the Roses on a large screen TV at 3:05 PM in the magnificent barn. Hundreds of local residents have in the past enjoyed this elegant event. Attendance is limited and expected to sell out early.

Traditional Derby Day food will be served, and both live and silent auctions will be held. Enter the hat contest, enjoy the cigar bar, taste special bourbon, fine wines, and mint juleps.

Guests may once again watch a jumping demonstration by the internationally acclaimed horses at Maple Leaf Farm. Enjoy this event with your friends and neighbors. The afternoon will be memorable.

Proceeds will benefit Westwind Barn, which is owned by the Town. The event is sponsored by Supporters of Westwind Community Barn, a tax-deductible 501(c)(3) organization. Visit: www.WestwindSupporters.org

You may purchase your tickets for \$150 by calling 941-9503 or write to: DerbyDaytickets@westwindsupporters.org

APRICOTS TO MOUNTAIN TOPS

Spring Hike Series

Adventure is right here in our own backyard! Explore the hills and valleys of Los Altos Hills this Spring by stepping out on our Pathway system of trails. Join Planning Commissioner Ray Collins on the Apricots to Mountain Tops hike where you'll enjoy sweeping vistas, historic places, an educational farm, unique riparian habitats, and expansive wilderness within open space preserves.



We'll walk a vigorous 6-mile loop that includes Packard Orchards, Byrne Preserve, and Hidden Villa farm. After a brief stop at the farm, we'll walk on the roadside Path along Moody Rd. and a creek side path through more Town Open Space. This approximately 3-hour hike is a great introduction for anyone wanting to learn more about using Pathways for fitness and fun.

Date: Sunday, April 2 and May 7

Time: 9:30 am.

Location: Meet at Pathway Marker to Packard Orchards, Elena Road and Josefa; next to Foothill College. Parking available along Josefa. Bring water and a snack. No dogs please.

Music Training Enriches Public Schools

The sound of music echoes through our public schools, thanks to programs supported by the generosity of Hills residents and parents.

Music education starts in Kindergarten. The Bullis-Purissima Extended Day Kindergarteners use some of the "extra" time afforded by the longer program for singing.

Older children have music appreciation once a week. Formal music training starts in fourth grade, when every child in the Los Altos School District learns to play the recorder and to read music.

In fifth and sixth grade, children select an instrument and join a band or orchestra. All this is funded by parent contributions to the PTA and the Los Altos Education Foundation (LAEF).

Extra-curricular music opportunities abound. Covington School offers two choral groups, the Daybreakers — named for their 7:45 AM rehearsal time - and the new Coyote Chorus.

"Music helps children with concentration, math, fine motor skills, and gives them a lifetime of enjoyment," said Ann Wolff, Covington PTA co-president. "We are fortunate that our schools' basic needs are taken care by residents' generous parcel tax, so that PTA and LAEF contributions can go towards enrichment offerings like music."



Coyote Chorus prepares for its Holiday concert

THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

EARTH DAY AND PATHWAYS: A SPECIAL EVENT

The Pathway Committee is organizing a fun-for-the whole-family event on our pathways on Earth Day, Saturday April 22nd, the day before the Earth Day event at Westwind Barn. There will be hidden surprise treasures along the trails and special prizes for children!

The purpose is to clean up the beautiful pathways of our town. And it is simple to help out, just: (1) walk, bike or drive to one of the pickup points in town; volunteers will be at each point to help you; (2) select the path you would like to walk; (3) collect any trash along your trail. That's it!

Volunteers will be at each pickup-point to hand out gloves, trash bags, a town pathway map, water bottles, and special hats/t-shirts. At the end of your walk, return to any pickup point to drop-off your trash bags. Children will receive special prizes for their efforts!

The event will begin on Friday, April 21st when over 200 children from the Bullis Charter will 'kick off' the event as a special, community service project. Then, on Saturday April 22nd (Earth day) all residents are invited to join in and continue the effort. Please watch the Town Crier for an announcement of times and pickup points, or call the Town Hall at (650) 941-7222 a few weeks before the event to get more information.



Make a difference on the 36th Anniversary of Earth Day this year!

Layout & printing by:



Print Innovations, Inc.

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

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50th ANNIVERSARY HISTORICAL DISPLAY EXHIBIT AT TOWN HALL

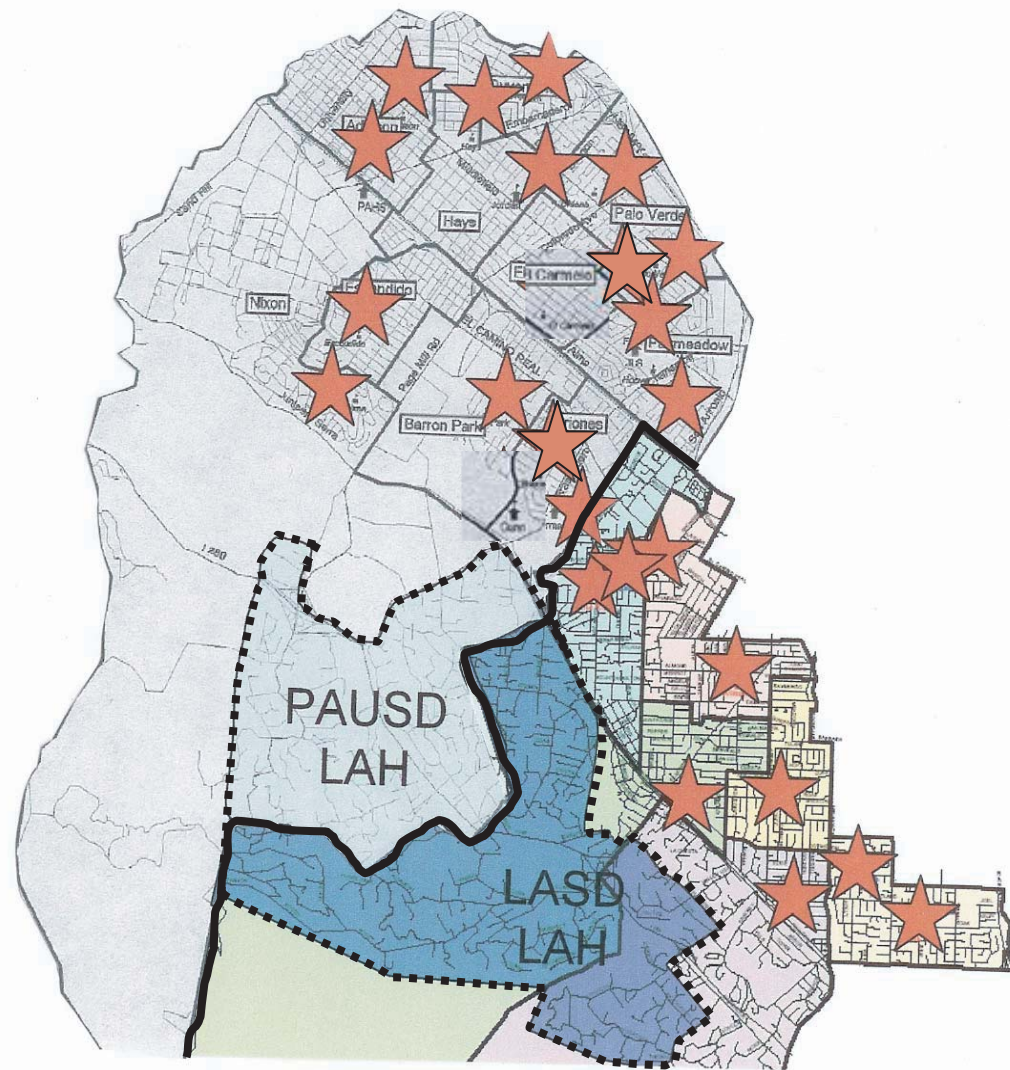


Pictured above: Duffy Price, Chair Ad Hoc Historical Exhibit Committee and Alexander Atkins, Graphic Designer – who created the exhibit.

See article page 3.

**Location of Public Schools Serving Los Altos Hills
No Public School in Town Boundaries**

The map is the basic issue...



Process for Consideration of a Petition for Reorganization

- Petition received at SCCOE.
- Petition forwarded to County Committee.
- Preliminary Hearing (EC §35721)
- County Committee must grant or deny petition following hearing (EC §35720).

1 to 3 months

Petition Granted?

Yes

No

Stop

6 to 18 months

- County Committee must adopt tentative plans and recommendations (EC §35720.5 & §35721(d)).

- Notice of Public Hearing (EC §5362, §5363, §35705, §35705.5, & §35720.5)
- Public Hearings Held (EC §35721 & §35720.5 (e))
- Review criteria (EC §35753)

2 to 6 months

- County Committee makes Final Recommendation
- Recommendation forwarded to State Board of Education for Final Decision

State Board of Education Approves Proposal?

Yes

No

Stop

6 to 18 months

- Election called (EC §35710)
- Election

3 to 6 months