

LOS ALTOS HILLS



CALIFORNIA

Los Altos Hills

TOWN NEWSLETTER

Volume XXXI No. 1 March 2007

CALENDAR

**March 4, Sunday,
3-5 PM, Town Hall;
Historical Society,
“Antique Photo-
graphs”;** Info. Email:
jbuck1467@mindspring.
com

**March 31, Saturday,
Bullis Charter School
Gala Benefit; “Ody-
sey On the Orient
Express;”**

Palo Alto
Country
Club; Res-
ervations
Call: (650)
941-3972



**April 21, Saturday,
8AM-2PM; Earth Day
Cleanup;** Meet at Town
Hall.

**April 22, Sunday,
1-4PM; Westwind
Barn Earth Day Cel-
ebration; Leopards,
Etc.,** Sky Hunters, Birds
of Prey, displays. FREE
Admission;
Info. (650)
941-4808



**May 12,
Sat., 6th Annual LAH
Pathways Run;** 9AM -
5/10K; 10:30 AM 1-mile
Fun Run; Info. Scott
(650) 948-6455

**June 3, Sunday;
1-4PM; LAH Town
Picnic;** Little League
Fields, Purissima and
Viscaino Roads; FREE
ADMISSION

Town Drops Redistricting Effort — Appoints Negotiating Team

At the February 8, 2007 meeting the LAH City Council officially dropped its efforts for a new K-8 district. The Santa Clara County Committee on School Organization's rejection of the Town's petition left the City Council with no right to appeal, so this action ended the process of a Town-sponsored petition.

The council formally disbanded the Ad Hoc Committee on District Reorganization and authorized further discussion with School Districts.

The City Council appointed a new education negotiating team to continue discussion with the School Districts and designated a council member, Bart Carey and John Radford as the initial members.

The City Council agendaized for a future meeting the possibility of recreating a smaller Education Committee which would have as its task keeping informed on the actions of the public school districts serving Los Altos Hills and enhancing the two-way communications between the Town and the districts.

The City Council voted to put off any exploration of territory transfers of more or all of Los Altos Hills into PAUSD pending results of the negotiations and more clarity on the timing, size and attendance at the reopened Bullis-Purissima campus. If in the future it becomes desirable to formally review the territory transfer option, a public education opinion survey of the LASD portion of our Town is seen as a logical first step.

It has been publicly reported by LASD that the Bullis-Purissima facilities will be reconstructed beginning in the summer 2007. The construction budget has been set at \$10.5 million. LASD has also publicly reported and told the County Committee that there would be a “community public school” at the campus by the Fall 2008. The schedule for setting the attendance boundaries shows completion by June 2007. We encourage residents to participate in the LASD hearings on this important issue.

While the specific step requested by our Town was not achieved, we have made progress towards returning public education to Los Altos Hills. We will continue to monitor and advocate and negotiate until our goals are reached.



General Plan Update

The LAH City Council will confirm the next public hearing date at their meeting on March 8, 2007. The Council will also consider the mailing format of the second Town-wide public hearing notice to ensure that residents have ample opportunity to comment on the draft General Plan prior to final approval.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

The highlight of this past winter quarter at least from a municipal public works perspective, was the completion and adoption of a milestone Sewer Agreement with the City of Los Altos. The reason why an agreement is needed is because almost two thirds of the Town's sanitary sewer flow is eventually conveyed through the City of Los Altos Sanitary Sewer System to the Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant (PARWQCP).



City Manager Carl Cahill

For many years the Town relied on a Sewer Agreement with Los Altos that originated in 1961 with subsequent amendments in 1985 and 1993. This old Agreement allowed the Town only a limited number of sewer "capacity rights" that were completely used up by 2005. The new Agreement does away with this arbitrary "capacity right" methodology and instead allows the Town a total daily sanitary flow of 339,900 gallons per day (GPD). The Town's actual daily flow will be measured by flow meters that the Town will pay to install.

The new Agreement is intended to accommodate future build-out conditions by allowing the Town to increase, as needed, the designated total daily flow allocation. This provision is subject to the Town acquiring additional flow capacity from PARWQCP partners (Mountain View and Palo Alto). To that end, the Town has reached a tentative agreement with the partners for an additional capacity of 126,000 GPD. The Town will also be taking over maintenance and billing for our system from Los Altos. The bottom line is that those residents who have not yet connected to the Town's sewer system will be able to connect in the future with relative certainty. The Los Altos Hills City Council and staff devoted much time, effort and diplomacy to bring this complex inter-jurisdictional matter to a successful conclusion.

In other news, new pathway construction continues through the winter. Segment 1b of the Moody/ El Monte Road Pathway near Old Snakey Road was completed at the end of January. The Robleda Road pathway was extended near Atherton Court and will be complete in February. The Town also applied for a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) grant and is working closely with the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) in order to obtain additional funding to complete the El Monte Road section of this major pathway. The cost to construct a pathway increases significantly where retaining walls and footbridges are needed to traverse the steep side slopes and ravines that are found throughout the Town.

— *Carl Cahill, City Manager*

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

Meet Our City Clerk

Karen Jost

Being the cruise director on the Queen Mary 2 can't be any more complex than the job of city clerk. In fact, Carl Cahill, City Manager often refers to city clerk Karen Jost as the "cruise director" of Town Hall.

Karen has been with Town Hall for over 9 years - having served in a variety of capacities from consulting on special projects to maintaining the New Town Hall records. A long time native to Santa Clara Valley and former Kappa Kappa Gamma at San Jose State University, Karen possesses the personal charisma that puts everybody at ease.



Karen's job role is overseeing that all of the elections run smoothly and ensuring that the city council agendas, minutes and all other official legislative documents are properly maintained and cataloged. In addition, the office supports the city's advisory boards and commissions, maintains the Municipal Code, administers provisions of the Political Reform Act, and ensures public access to records and notification regarding meetings. No small task. Since 9/11, she has been accredited as the Town's Public Information Officer, representing LAH in an area-wide effort to develop a coordinated public information capability in the event of a terrorist attack or other natural, technological or human caused hazard. The role is part of a larger initiative funded by a grant from the Office of Domestic Preparedness, U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security for the San Jose Urban Area.

In this role, the City Clerk will act as the information link to City Council members to ensure that they will be provided accurate and appropriate information to release to the residents and media in their roles as spokespersons during a disaster.

Professionally, Karen is a member of the City Clerks Association of California, whose mission is to promote the profession of City Clerks through education, support and communication. Additionally, she is a member of International Institute of Municipal Clerks.

Previously, Karen served as a Fire Commissioner for 10-years on the Los Altos Hills County Fire District representing the unincorporated area. She served twice as president of the Commission.

Asked what she likes to do in her spare time, Karen responded, "What spare time?"

Occasionally, she and Nash, her retired financial advisor husband, like to get away to various bay area retreats such as Carmel or Cambria to visit their son Chris and wife, Virginia and adorable granddaughter, Gracelynn.

With Karen at the City Clerk's helm, we are definitely on "cruise-control!"

PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

IMPROVED CELL PHONE SERVICES IN LOS ALTOS HILLS

Within the last year, three new cell towers were approved and constructed in Los Altos Hills. The new cell towers vary in heights from 65' to 87' and are designed to look like pine trees to blend in with surrounding natural vegetation. The new towers will help improve cell phone services and coverage for residents within an approximately 3/4 mile radius. The locations of the three new facilities are at Town Hall (Cingular/AT&T), Arastradero and Purissima Roads (Cingular/AT&T), and Westwind Barn (Verizon/T-Mobile collocation).

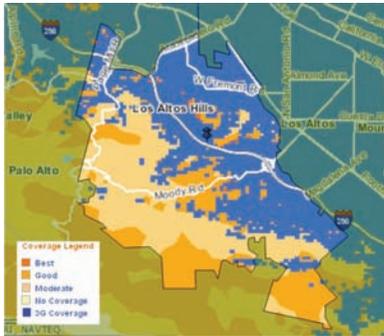
In keeping with the latest technology, these telecommunications facilities will provide both digital phone service and high speed PCS wireless internet for handheld or portable devices such as BlackBerry, PocketPC, palm(r), and wireless laptop cards. The increasingly popular "smartphones" (the convergence of a PDA and cell phone into one device) are not only used for phone applications but also wireless data communications that enables users to connect to the internet and check email.



*Debbie Pedro,
Planning Director*

TO CHECK COVERAGE IN YOUR AREA

Most major wireless carriers provide coverage maps on their website so you can check whether services are available in your area. (e.g. Cingular/AT&T coverage map) The web addresses of major wireless providers operating telecommunications facilities in the Town are shown below.



AT&T/Cingular - <http://www.cingular.com/coverageviewer/>

Sprint/Nextel - <http://coverage.sprintpcs.com/IMPACT.jsp>

T-Mobile - <http://coverage.t-mobile.com/idealer.aspx>

Verizon Wireless - <http://www.verizonwireless.com/b2c/CoverageLocatorController?requesttype=NEWREQUEST>

MEET OUR NEW ASSISTANT PLANNER

Nicole Horvitz

Although she has only been on the job five months, Nicole Horvitz, Assistant Planner is right at home tackling the tough jobs of development in Los Altos Hills Planning Department. Nicole graduated from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona in June 2006 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Urban and Regional Planning. During her academic work she interned for one year in the Planning Department for the City of Walnut. Following graduation she applied for 22 different job opportunities and received a 75% response rate.

Because her grandparents live in Palo Alto, she was familiar with the area and loved the rural ambience of the LAH. Nicole considers the fact that she was lucky to obtain full-time employment so quickly upon graduation as a very big achievement. I love working with the public and appreciate the department's goal of providing good resident-relations," states Nicole.

She plans on obtaining her Masters Degree and after a few years of work become certified by the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), which will help her move up the career ladder. Nicole grew up in the Palm Springs area and loves the desert. Her father works for the California State Park System, and while she was growing up the family lived all over the state. He is now the District Superintendent of the Humboldt Redwoods State Parks in Eureka (where the recent mountain lion attacks occurred).

In the past five months, Nicole has transitioned through very difficult ups and downs. In contrast to the excitement of assuming her first job, she recently lost her mother (age 47) in August 2006 to Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. Currently Nicole is training for the June "Rock & Roll Marathon" a Fund-Raiser for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in San Diego. So besides planning duties she finds time to work out at the gym 6 days a week and walk every noon from Town Hall to Downtown Los Altos with her co-worker walking partner, Jeanne Evilsizer. Nicole is hopeful that her boyfriend, who currently just returned from serving in Iraq in the Army, now stationed in Tennessee, will soon be able to join her in California.

We are pleased to welcome Nicole aboard and wish her much success in her new position as Assistant Planner.



*Nicole Horvitz,
Assistant Planner*

Public Safety

Los Altos Hills County Fire District EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CLASSES

Now more than ever, it is important that citizens have plans and procedures in place in the event of a disaster. The Los Altos Hills County Fire District is pleased to announce two new programs developed by the Santa Clara County Fire Department dealing with disaster preparedness for the homeowner.



Programs are FREE of charge and a survival kit will be provided at the completion of the course to each homeowner.

To Register Call: (408) 693-0007

Trainer: Mike Sanders, Emergency Services Coordinator

Email: mike.sanders@cnt.sccgov.org

Class Location: Los Altos Hills County Fire District; El Monte Fire Station; 12355 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills

Programs:

1. Personal Emergency Preparedness (PEP)

The PEP Program will teach you and your family how to survive in case of a disaster for the first 72 hours. The class will be taught in one 3-hour session.

Wednesday, April 25, 2007; 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM

2. Senior + Emergency Preparedness

Program is 4-hours long and covers all of the information in PEP and adds in Senior Health & Wellness. The class will be taught in two 2-hour sessions.

Dates:

Tuesday, April 24, 2007; 4 PM - 6 PM

Thursday, April 26, 2007; 4 PM - 6 PM

Additional Neighborhood Programs Offered:

If you would like to host a program in your home for you and your neighbors, please contact the Emergency Services Coordinator at (650) 693-0007 or

Email mike.sanders@cnt.sccgov.org

Parks & Recreation Department

Spring Session Register NOW for:

- Year Round Riding Classes
- Mind Body Fitness

Go to Town's website: www.losaltoshills.ca.gov



Watch for new Activity Guide coming in March

DISASTER STRIKES!

The Town's Response

Disasters most likely to occur in Los Altos Hills are earthquakes and wildland fires. We need to prepare for the predicted 7.0 or greater magnitude earthquake that is expected to hit the Bay Area within the next thirty years.

Preparation is key. The Town has conducted several emergency preparedness presentations and faires for our residents. The key message at these presentations is: Be prepared... you may be on your own without government assistance for three or more days. The County Fire District will schedule emergency preparedness presentations for residents. These presentations are free and will be advertised to our residents.

What is the Town's response to a disaster?

The Town's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is equipped with information gathering and communications equipment ready to go at the touch of a button. Trained Town staff will respond to activate the EOC to gather disaster information and report to the County Office of Emergency Services so that the County and State can disperse resources where they are needed most. The EOC also organizes Town resources, resource requests, shelters, volunteers and press releases.

Where are our firefighters, paramedics and police?

They are overwhelmed in a major disaster. Mutual aid will come from agencies that are unaffected by the disaster. This could take days before help arrives in Los Altos Hills and we would have to rely on available firefighters and police from the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

What is CERT?

CERT are trained volunteers from our community. They receive twenty-four hours of training from a federally approved course. Training consists of search and rescue, first aid and emergency preparedness. Once training has been completed, they are sworn in as disaster service workers. CERT members may respond to the Town's EOC in an emergency where they will work with volunteer ham operators and firefighters.

What could I do?

If you would like to join the CERT program or become a ham operator, please contact the Town's Public Safety Officer Steve Garcia at (650) 941-7222 x242.

Town Newsletter - Statement of Purpose

This is the official Town Newsletter 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 2007 Newsletter will be published quarterly in the months of March, June, September, and December. Deadline for the next issue is April 30, 2007.

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
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Los Altos Hills City Council
Dean Warshawsky, Mayor • Craig Jones, Mayor Pro Tem
Breene Kerr • Jean Mordo • Mike O'Malley



Recycled Paper

IN MEMORIAM

Los Altos Hills Fallen Soldier

The Department of Defense announced on February 2, 2007 the death of Sgt. William M. Sigua, who was supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sgt. Sigua, 21, of Los Altos Hills, Calif., died Jan. 31 in Bayji, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his unit came in contact with the enemy using small arms fire during combat operations. Sigua was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Sigua joined the Army in July 2003 and was first deployed in September 2004 to bolster security for the Afghanistan elections. Most recently he was re-deployed for a second tour in August with his current unit.

“Sergeant Sigua was the type of leader you want your men to be,” said Captain Timothy Peterman, commander Company C. “He was intensely focused upon accomplishing his duty, but had a calm demeanor about him that put all at ease. He was courageous and full of energy.”

Sigua graduated from Bullis Elementary School, Egan Jr. High, and Los Altos High School and was highly respected by his fellow students. Will’s death stunned his former classmates and friends. Will grew up in Los Altos Hills and was a wrestler and football player at Los Altos High School.

A lifelong resident of the Hills, William is survived by his parents, Jacqueline and Ben Sigua and older brothers, Jonathan and David.

Mrs. Sigua expressed that Will was doing what he wanted to do and he believed that he and his unit would make a difference. He was dearly loved and respected by all who knew him. He strongly believed in our country’s mission in Iraq.

Los Altos High School student and LAH Assistant Youth Commissioner, Lisa Kellman stated, “Will was an exceptional person and his family has lived here in Los Altos Hills forever. His mother was our computer teacher at Bullis. Will touched so many lives and fought for our country and I believe that he deserves the best send off that we can give him.”

The Los Altos & Los Altos Hills City Councils, the Los Altos Hills County Fire District and numerous civic organizations participated in the memorial service in recognition of this remarkable son and dedicated soldier.

Contributions May Be Sent To: William Sigua Memorial Fund- LACF, 183 Hillview Avenue, Los Altos, CA 94022

Letters of condolence may be sent to: Juvenal & Jacqueline Sigua, 13440 W. Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022



William Mason Sigua
March 21, 1985 - January 31, 2007

Crested Crane of Uganda Moves to LAH



Photo by Jitze Couperus

This beautiful bird is alive and well and residing near the Town Hall. The Crested Crane is a symbol of Uganda. It is one of the most beautiful birds you can find in East Africa. Together with the Uganda Kob, (an antelope) the crane appears on the Uganda Court of arms. They live a very natural life, feeding on grass, seeds and insects. They are very social birds and enjoy a chum. The crane flew away from a private aviary and has decided that he likes LAH.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Lure and Lore of Antique Photographs March 4th

Learn about Daguerreotypes, Tintypes, and old photographs, as heirlooms, hobby items, or art for display, at the Historical Society’s March 4 meeting, 3-5 pm at Town Hall. If you have one of these, bring it to share its story with others or possibly learn more about it or how to care for it. Our speaker, local historian Jim Lyons, will have example items from his own collection, including one that was part of Newsweek’s Feb 6, 2006 cover. A discussion and refreshment period follows the formal part of the meeting.



For information about the Historical Society, please call 650-961-8859.

10TH ANNUAL LOS ALTOS HILLS TOWN PICNIC SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 3

Mark your calendar now for the Tenth Annual Town Picnic, which will be held on Sunday afternoon, June 3, 2007, from 1 PM to 4 PM at the Little League fields on Purissima Road at the intersection with Viscaino Road. The Picnic features lots of entertainment, games and other attractions, as well as a free lunch for all Los Altos Hills residents. Delicious 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.

To provide variety, this year's picnic will feature some new attractions as well as the return of some old favorites. The De Anza Daddios Jazz Ensemble will entertain at the picnic. By popular demand, David Wilson, master magician, balloon artist and entertainer, who mesmerized residents with his magic show in 2004, will return this year. Lionel model trains, several large inflatable attractions, volleyball, children's contests, pony rides and crafts will also return. Some antique cars will make an appearance at the picnic this year.

The Town Picnic is organized by the Community Relations Committee, with help from many 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 for 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 or family members from other cities (they will be turned away at the gate). Also, by city ordinance, dogs are not allowed on the fields.

Watch for the picnic flier with a registration coupon that will be mailed to all Town residents in May. Advance registration by Monday, May 21 is required so the correct number of meals may be ordered. Tables, chairs, and many large canopies will be provided, so rain or hot weather do not cancel the picnic.



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Mark Your Calendar!

LAH FUN RUN



6th Annual Los Altos Hills
Pathways FUN RUN
Saturday, May 12th
Westwind Community Barn
9:00 AM 5/10K starts,
10:30 AM 1 Mile Fun Run.

Information <http://www.lahpathways.org>
or
Scott Vanderlip at (650) 948-6455