

LOS ALTOS HILLS



CALIFORNIA

Los Altos Hills

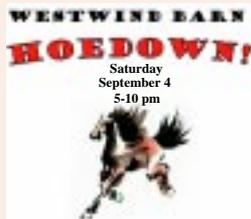
TOWN NEWSLETTER

Volume XXVII No. 3

September 2004

CALENDAR

Sept. 1, 28, 29, 30 -
Pathway Map Public Hearings; Bullis Multipurpose Room; Call: 941-7222



Sept. 11, 18, 25 **Donor Wall Tile Workshops** at Bullis Multipurpose Room, Time: See Insert **Call: Duffy Price at 948-0596**

Sept. 15 - Wed.
Disaster Exercise; 20 Volunteers Needed. Call: Steve Garcia at 941-7222

Sept. 18, **YARD WASTE Cleanup - "Tree trimmings";** 9-2 PM at Foothill College; Hwy. 280 Park Rides; Westwind Barn. (Next Dates: Oct.16; Nov.20; Dec. 18)

Oct. 6; **CERT Training;** Call: Steve Garcia at 941-7222

Nov. 2 Tues.,
ELECTION DAY; 3 LAH City Council seats up for election. **Don't Forget to Vote!**

FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFERS WILDFIRE SURVIVAL TIPS FOR LOS ALTOS HILLS RESIDENTS

For those who live in wooded areas, the benefits of the natural rustic beauty also bring an added risk of fire. The tragic San Diego fires last year were a dramatic indicator of



Above picture shows a home that survived a fire in N. CA with a 30 ft. fire break around the house.

the dangers that exist in many areas of our community. The recent fire in Carson City, Nevada illustrates how fast such fires can spread.

All vegetation, including naturally occurring native plants and ornamental plants, is potential wildfire fuel. If vegetation is properly modified and maintained, a wildfire can be slowed, the length of flames shortened, and the amount of heat reduced, all of which assist firefighters to defend a home against an oncoming wildfire.

To help Los Altos Hills residents better safeguard their homes and property from wildfires, the Santa Clara County Fire Department offers the following list of preventative measures that, when completed,

will greatly reduce the risk of loss or damage to your home in the event of a hillside fire.

1. Remove all flammable vegetation a **MINIMUM** of 30 feet around all structures. Clear ornamental shrubbery and trees of dead leaves and branches.
2. Remove all pine needles and leaves from roofs, eaves and rain gutters.
3. Trim tree limbs 10 feet away from chimneys or stovepipes and remove any dead limbs hanging over rooftops.
4. Cover chimney outlets or flues with a spark arresting, 1/2" mesh, screen.
5. Post a clearly visible house address, using at least 4" high numbers, for easy identification.

The Los Altos Hills County Fire District mailed to each Los Altos Hills homeowner a comprehensive publication entitled "Living with Fire in Santa Clara County" that is a step-by-step guidebook on how to make your home safe from wildfire.

If you have additional questions, or would like to request additional copies of the "Living with Fire in Santa Clara County" publication, please contact the County Fire Office of Public Education at 408-341.4485 or visit the Santa Clara County Fire Department website at www.sccfd.org.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

Local government prepares for many kinds of local emergencies, but a large-scale disaster may overwhelm the community's emergency responders causing significant delays in getting to those who need help. Assistance from trained volunteers is crucial. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a group of Los Altos and Los Altos Hills residents who volunteer to give critical support to emergency responders. They offer immediate care for victims, organize spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site and collect information to support first responder efforts. The CERT program creates a partnership between first responders and the community in training citizens to help themselves, their families and their neighbors in emergencies. The Los Altos Police Department will offer CERT training program beginning October 6, 2004. Interested residents will meet once a week for four Wednesday nights from 6 to 9 PM and learn essential skills, including disaster preparedness. The weekly sessions are followed by a hands-on session on Saturday, October 23, 2004 from 9 AM to 5 PM.



Participants pay \$90 for a CERT backpack, which includes a team vest, helmet, gloves, and basic first aid and disaster response supplies. For more information, please contact Police Agent John Korges at (650) 947-2681 or e-mail john.korges@ci.los-altos.ca.us.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Seat Belt Enforcement Campaign Continues

As a reminder, the Sheriff's Office will be conducting part two of a three-part seat belt enforcement grant in Los Altos Hills during the week of August 12-18. Law enforcement agencies throughout the state will be engaged in this high-visibility seat belt campaign wherein the assigned officers and deputies salaries will be paid by the State of California Office of Traffic Safety for providing this life-saving program.



City Manager Maureen Cassingham

Part three of the grant will be administered in Town during the week of September 2-8.

Town Logo to Appear on Sheriff's Patrol Vehicles

Beginning this fall, the Town of Los Altos Hills logo will appear on the doors of Sheriff's patrol vehicles assigned to provide law enforcement services in Los Altos Hills. Our logo will appear next to the Sheriff's Department logo followed by the words "Proudly Serving the Town of Los Altos Hills." The intention of this change is to convey that the Town provides these critical life and property protection services to our residents through the Sheriff's Department.

Status of Proposed Ground Leases with Purissima Hills Water District

On July 20, 2004, the Purissima Hills Water District officially conveyed its intention to approve the proposed ground lease agreements with the Town for its new Operations Center and Town emergency communications antenna at the La Cresta tank site once the exhibits to it are finalized. Specifically, the District needs to determine whether it can construct its Operation Center within the Town Hall site setbacks and whether it can accommodate the Town's request for a larger antenna/equipment site at the La Cresta tank site.

The City Council will be updated on the progress of the development of mutually acceptable lease agreement exhibits.

Status of Town Request for Additional Capacity in Palo Alto Treatment Plant

The Town has formally requested 0.19mgd additional capacity from the partner agencies of the Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant for wastewater arriving through the Los Altos Basin from Los Altos Hills. The partners will hear this request on August 4.

Approval will set the stage for (1) accessing more capacity as the Town and its sphere of influence needs increase and (2) enhancing the Town's position in negotiations with the City of Los Altos for a new sewer rights/use agreement.

—Maureen Cassingham, City Manager

UNDERGROUNDING UPDATE: SELECTING A PILOT PROJECT

In May, the Town council approved our recommendation for a pilot project. We will utilize existing undergrounding funds to increase awareness of the issues involved and better understand the process.



*What do you prefer? With or without utility poles?
(View at the corner of Viscaino and La Cresta Drive)*

The poll we did in March showed significant support (over 40%) for a \$50M+ town-wide effort to bury all our wires. However, just as many residents were opposed to the idea. We know there's still a lot of confusion surrounding this topic (no, your property taxes will not go up 15%!), and we expect support for undergrounding to grow - not diminish - over time, so we proposed the pilot project to provide a concrete example of the process and results for the town.

Funding the Pilot

Since 1968, utilities in California have been required to set aside a portion of their revenue for local undergrounding projects. For PG&E, our available funds will allow us to bury about a half mile of wires. Once the site is selected, the cable and phone companies will provide funds for burying their wires along the same stretch. This is called a "Rule 20A" project, and it cannot utilize funds from residents.

Selecting the Route

PG&E has a number of criteria for Rule 20A projects. They include:

- "High Traffic" : should be an area with lots of traffic to benefit the largest number of residents;
- "High Clutter" : the area should have lots of wires, or big bundles of wires, or both;
- "High Civic or Scenic Value" : proximity to a community center or scenic destination is preferred.

Our committee added one other criterion: "Few Overhead Drops". These are the overhead lines from the street to the homes, and while some Rule 20A funds could be applied to burying these lines, we'd prefer to get the most "community-wide" value from the project, instead of using a significant portion of these limited funds for burying the lines to individual residents.

Using these four criteria, the committee is currently ranking a number of 2000' stretches of town roads. Our final recommendations should be available next month.

- The Undergrounding Committee

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

PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Town Planning Department approvals for new development since April 1 2004 through August 1 2004, include the following: one new residence, nine additions, four pools and eight landscape screening/hardscape plans approved through the Fast Track review process.

The Planning Commission reviewed three amended conditional use permits including one for the new Town Hall and one for the Packard Foundation property.

The Commission reviewed the Town's fence ordinance and forwarded its recommendations to the City Council. New standards were established for driveway gates and fencing for conservation easements. The fence ordinance requires that property owners first obtain a permit from the Planning Department for all new fence and fence replacement projects. Fences that block views, result in the removal of existing vegetation or adversely impact neighbors will be referred to the Planning Commission for review.

The Commission also reviewed the possibility of establishing an ordinance that would require new landscape plans to meet certain water conservation standards. However, the Planning Commission heard testimony that such ordinances are not effective tools for reducing water consumption. The Planning Commission directed staff to update the Town's Landscape Guidelines with additional information intended to assist residents in reducing their landscaping water usage.



Planning Director Carl Cahill

—Carl Cahill, Planning Director

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

RESIDENTS MAKE BEAUTIFUL MUSIC — TOGETHER

At the Groundbreaking Ceremony on July 15th, over 90 residents joined together with the city council to celebrate the New Town Hall groundbreaking. As part of the ceremony, we invited Janet Hayton, from the Santa Clara County Fire Academy to sing. As she began to sing, the entire crowd spontaneously chimed in to sing America the Beautiful and God Bless America. It was very moving to have our residents make such beautiful music together - a truly positive sign of the future. WeiWei Liu, our Youth Commissioner who chaired the event provided the right tone in her remarks stating "our generation looks to the future in Los Altos Hills."



The Community Donor Wall project is fulfilling its role as the "mascot" of the New Town Hall. The wall has captivated the imagination of over 250 residents who have donated tiles. They will leave their stamp on the Town for future generations to enjoy.

For those who have not yet donated, you still have time until the end of the year. Don't miss out on this great public art event. Contact me at duffy@duffysmail.com or call 948-0596 for information. Remember, all donations are tax deductible.

Sincerely,
Duffy Price

Groundbreaking Ceremony for New Town Hall

Over 90 residents attended the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the New Town Hall on July 15, 2004 on the site of the new building. WeiWei Lui, our Youth Commissioner chaired the event that was titled: "Los Altos Hills Looks to the Future."

The ceremony was kicked-off by a musical offering from Janet Hayton, representing the Santa Clara County Fire Academy. Attendees joined in the singing of God Bless America and America the Beautiful. Following speeches by the mayor, former mayor and chair of the New Town Hall Committee, and greetings from the offices of State Senator Byron Sher and Supervisor Liz Kniss. The five members of the city council and John Radford, Honorary Donor Wall Committee member used gold colored ribbon-tied shovels provided by TBI, Inc. to perform the ritual of ground breaking.

Hot dogs and refreshments were provided by the Community Relations Committee were enjoyed by all of the attendees. (Special thanks to John Harpootlian for cooking the hot dogs and red hots, Barbara Lamparter for the refreshments and Barbara Mordo for providing chairs and cleanup.) The building of the New Town Hall is now underway. The city council expects to keep the costs within the \$3.7 million dollar amount allocated. (Using the multiple prime methods for subcontracts, costs have been reduced for the foundation and excavation by extending the bidding process.)



WeiWei Lui, Youth Commissioner chaired the event that was titled: "Los Altos Hills Looks to the Future."

MERCURY

Is there mercury lurking in your home?

Because of its unique physical properties, mercury is used in thermometers, thermostats, vehicle light switches, fluorescent lights and some items such as antique toy drawing screens and pre-1997 light-up sneakers.

Mercury is a potent neurotoxin that accumulates up the food chain. Exposure to mercury can affect the brain, spinal cord, kidneys, and liver, with children being the most susceptible. The U.S. Food and Drug administration issued a nation-wide consumer advisory that children, nursing mothers, and women who may become pregnant should not eat shark, swordfish, king mackerel or ocean whitefish because of the mercury content. Also, due to the San Francisco Bay mercury contamination, it is recommended that adults eat no more than two Bay fish per month.

How Can You Help?

- Replace Mercury Fever Thermometers - The standards for accuracy are the same for mercury and non-mercury thermometers.
- Recycle Your Household Items - Mercury recovered from old fluorescent lights, thermometers and thermostats means less new mercury needs to be mined. Call (408) 299-7300 or www.hhw.org to find out more about a local collection event or center near you.

By protecting the watershed, creeks and Bay, you are protecting the environment for you, your children and future generations. For more information about how to protect your local watershed, call 1(866) WATERSHED or visit www.watershedwatch.net for your free Watershed Watch Kit.

Disaster Exercise - Volunteers Needed

The Town of Los Altos Hills emergency staff will be conducting an exercise in collaboration with the Emergency Communications Committee and Santa Clara County Office of Emergency Services on Wednesday, September 15, 2004.

The objective of the exercise is to validate the Town's procedures on the management of an emergency event. A newly developed plan for the registration of volunteers is one of the procedures that will be used during the September exercise. The Silicon Valley Volunteer Center created these procedures to assist jurisdictions in dealing with "Spontaneous Volunteers" that respond to a disastrous event. The Town is asking for 20 volunteers to play the part of "spontaneous volunteers" and arrive at the temporary Town Hall at Bullis School at 4 PM to be interviewed and registered as volunteers.

As volunteers complete the registration process, we will ask them to critique the process. If you would like to participate, please contact Steven Garcia, Public Safety Officer at (650) 941-7222 x242.

WESTWIND COMMUNITY BARN

ROSE GARDEN

We are very proud of our beautiful rose garden at Westwind Barn. From its humble beginnings, the garden has grown to include 45 different types of rose bushes. Sherry Schaefer has tended these roses with love for many years and because of her commitment, the garden continues to look lovely and well tended all year around. With regrets, Sherry has decided that it is time to retire. Westwind Barn is in search of a volunteer, or several volunteers, who will help keep these roses beautiful. If you are interested in gardening, and love roses, please visit us at Westwind Barn. Help keep these roses going strong so everyone who comes to Westwind Barn is able to enjoy their beauty. For information call Westwind Barn at 650 941-6113.



NEW DOORS FOR WESTWIND BARN

Supporters of Westwind Community Barn (SWCB) is celebrating its first full year of existence by replacing the exterior barn doors at Westwind Barn on Altamont Road. "Supporters," a 501(c)(3) organization, independent of the Town and the "Friends of Westwind", will donate \$20,000 toward replacement of the doors.



"Supporters" aim to raise sufficient funds to develop arts and environment programs at the site, and to preserve and restore Westwind Barn as a working equestrian facility.

Linking the traditions of Los Altos Hills to new activities that will enrich our residents' lives is a "win-win" for the entire community. Since inception in May 2003, "Supporters" have raised over \$100,000. To participate, learn more, donate to the campaign, please contact **Elaine Nelson** at 941-9503 or at elainenelson21@aol.com. Donations of contracting services, additional marketing and graphic design expertise, and event planners are all needed.

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 October 31, 2004.

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 Lamparter, Linda Seidel, Karen Emerzjan

Los Altos Hills City Council

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



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Friends of Westwind Inc. Invite You to Join Us for the 27th Anniversary

WESTWIND BARN

HOEDOWN!

27210 Altamont Road, Los Altos Hills

**Saturday September 4
5-10 pm**

BBQ
Equestrian Demonstrations
“Happy Birds” Performing Parrots
Music
Line Dancing
Fantastic Silent Auction



Free to the Public
Dinner Tickets
Adults \$35
Children (6-12) \$25
Children under 6 \$5

To Reserve Tickets
Call
(650) 941-6113

*Funds benefit Westwind Barn & 4H Riding Institute
for disabled children.*

www.westwindbarn.com

PATHWAYS: LET THE HEARINGS BEGIN!

Updating the Town's Pathway Master Plan has been one of the current Council's major goals and the Pathway Committee has been hard at work to achieve this. Where are things and what is going to happen next?

Background: in the Fall of 2003, the Council requested the Pathway Committee to update the Off-road Pathways (only) of the Pathway Master Plan. The Council also created a special, Ad-Hoc Map Committee to separately create a highly accurate pathway map for use by the Pathway Committee. In Dec '03, the Pathway Committee developed a seven stage process that: a) encourages as much resident input and participation as possible and b) defines a clear way to explain how all recommendations are made. The Council approved the process in Dec '03 and the Committee instructed to proceed.



The next few months are perhaps the most important. There will be no less than 3 sets of public hearings to gather public input. The first hearings will be Aug 30, 31 and Sep 1. The Pathway Committee will present the 'working map' (version 1) and gather resident input. From this input the Pathway Committee will create map version 2 which will be presented to the Planning Commission at three more public hearings Sep. 28, 29 and 30. Based on further resident input, the Committee and Commission will create map version 3. This version will be presented to the Council for additional public review, probably in late 2004 or early 2005. The final map, version 4, is then ready for review and adoption by the Council.

Please join any or all of the public hearings - we welcome and value your input!

—Chris Vargas

Chairman, Pathway Committee

PATHWAY ETIQUETTE

One of Los Altos Hills' unique features is its pathway system. Designed for non-motorized use including walking, jogging, horseback riding and bicycle riding, it provides a recreation system for all users and easier connections to neighborhoods and schools.

To make use of the system more enjoyable, the Town asks that you that you observe the “three “C” of pathway use: Common Sense, Courtesy, and Communications:

- Pedestrians and bicyclists yield to the horseback riders (horses can be unpredictable).
- Horseback riders should ride at a safe gait.
- Dogs should be kept on leash. Horseback riders should keep their dogs at home.
- Bicyclists should ride with traffic and observe the rules of the roads.
- Pedestrian should face traffic if not on a path.
- If your animal excretes on the path, either clean it up or kick it to the side if possible, especially if it is a driveway.

Other rules include:

- No smoking or fires.
- No littering or loitering.
- No motorized vehicles.
- No trespassing on private property off pathway easements.
- Not all paths are intended for bicyclists.
- No parking on Pathways (MC Section 4-3.802)
- Pathways in the public right of way are sidewalks as defined in California Vehicle Code Section 555. All laws regulating sidewalks are applicable to Pathways.

APRICOTS TO MOUNTAIN TOPS

PATHWAYS TO OPEN SPACE SPRING HIKE SERIES

Adventure is right here in our own backyard! Explore the hills and valleys of Los Altos Hills this fall by stepping out on our Pathway system. Join me every second weekend 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.

Hike with friends and neighbors this fall on the Apricots to Mountain Tops hike series. We'll walk on marked Pathways to discover scenic open spaces, woodlands and creeks, and historic orchards, barns, and an educational farm.

Back by popular demand-over 100 people hiked this route in the spring- the Open Space Committee is again offering Saturday and Sunday group hikes this fall.

The 6 mile, 3 hour moderate hike climbs through Packard Orchards and to beautiful Byrne Preserve and Westwind Barn. We then walk down along the Artemas Gintzon path through woodlands, then over to Hidden Villa Farm. After a brief visit and rest, we'll follow Moody Rd. and several hidden Pathways back to our starting point.

The 8 mile, 4 hour very rigorous and adventurous hike follows the same route as the shorter 6 mile hike, but continues from Hidden Villa along lush Adobe Creek then up the challenging Grapevine Trail. This route takes us into the wilderness of Midpeninsula Regional Open Space with a long scenic descent from Rhus Ridge. We'll take several hidden Pathways to return to our starting point.

6-Mile Sunday Hikes:

September 12, October 10, November 14

8-Mile Saturday Hike:

October 9

All hikes start at 10:00 AM at the Pathway marker on Elena Rd and Josefa near Foothill College. Park on Josefa. Bring water, lunch, wear comfy shoes and a hat.



—Ray Collins, Member Open Space Committee

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HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

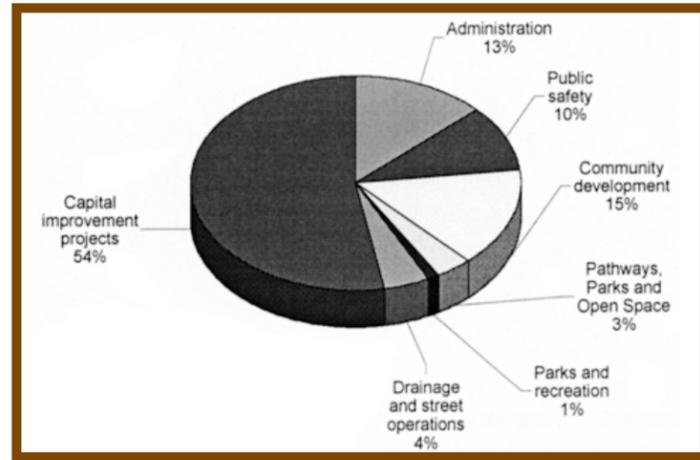


The Los Altos Hills Horsemen's Association has openings on its Board of Directors for the 2004-05 season. All interested parties should contact Alisa Bredo, LAHHA President, at (650) 948-3660. The board holds its meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 7PM.

Town of Los Altos Hills

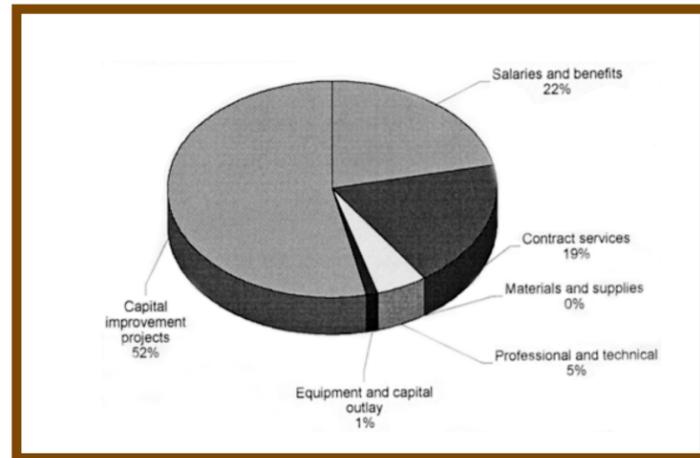
Budget for Fiscal Year 2004-2005

Governmental Fund Expenditures by Function*



	Budget FY 2005	Estimated actual FY 2004	Increase (Decrease)	% Increase (Decrease)
Administration	1,169,754	940,292	229,462	24.40%
Public Safety	917,120	829,541	87,579	10.56%
Community Development	1,351,439	1,271,904	81,535	6.41%
Pathways, Parks & Open Space	315,430	268,544	46,886	17.46%
Parks & Recreation	118,656	85,195	33,461	39.28%
Drainage & Street Operations	394,554	400,448	(5,894)	-1.47%
Capital Projects	4,761,849	2,589,348	2,172,501	83.90%
Total	9,030,802	6,385,272	2,645,530	41.43%

Governmental Fund Expenditures by Object*



	Budget FY 2005	Estimated actual FY 2004	Increase (Decrease)	% Increase (Decrease)
Salaries and benefits	1,946,176	1,936,017	10,159	0.52%
Contract services	1,680,120	1,391,406	288,714	20.75%
Materials and supplies	95,845	69,354	26,491	38.20%
Professional and technical	432,974	338,602	94,372	27.87%
Equipment and capital outlay	113,838	60,545	53,293	88.02%
Capital projects	4,761,849	2,589,348	2,172,501	83.90%
Total	9,030,802	6,385,272	2,645,530	41.43%

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

BUDGET MESSAGE

As in prior years, the Town's priorities for fiscal year 2004 - 2005 are to provide timely and quality services to residents and to preserve infrastructure assets. Our greatest challenge will be dealing with the impacts of the State's budget crisis. The budget is our plan for meeting Town priorities within our fiscal constraints.

This year we will begin construction on the new Town Hall facility - the largest single capital improvement project the Town has undertaken. In addition, providing for the maintenance and replacement of the Town's aging streets, pathways, utilities and buildings must be considered as a requirement for the continued successful delivery of municipal services into the future.

On April 16, 2004, the Local Taxpayers and Public Safety Protection Act campaign turned in 1.1 million signatures collected throughout the state and the measure qualified for the November, 2004 ballot as Proposition 65. Also on April 16, 2004, Governor Schwarzenegger contacted the League of California Cities to discuss his support for local government and his proposal for restoring the State's fiscal health. With his budget proposal, the Governor asked cities and counties to accept deep cuts in the form of property tax shifts for two years in exchange for his support of a constitutional amendment that would restore and protect local revenues in future years.

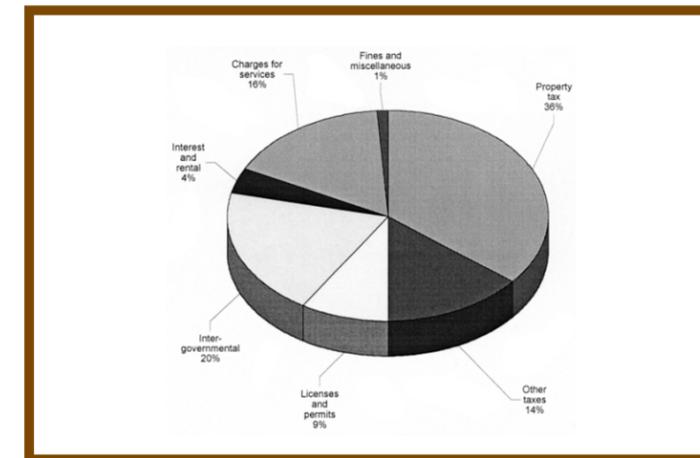
The Governor's negotiations with the State legislature resulted in a budget deal that contained a new proposal to protect local revenues. This proposal will appear on the November, 2004 ballot as Proposition 1A - Protection of Local Government Revenues. The proponents of Proposition 65 believe that Proposition 1A is a better, more flexible approach to protecting local services and local tax dollars.

The loss of revenue to the Town as a result of this budget deal will be approximately \$96,000 for both fiscal years 2004 - 2005 and 2005 - 2006.

All of the proponents of Proposition 65 are now supporting Proposition 1A. It is critical that we maintain control over local tax dollars so funding for local services will be more dependable and predictable. Proposition 1A will ensure that the decision as to how to use revenues, such as property tax and sales tax, will reside with the agency where the revenue was generated.

—Sarah Joiner, Administrative Director

General Fund Revenues
Budget for Fiscal Year 2004-2005



	Budget FY 2005	Estimated Actual FY 2004	Increase (Decrease)	% Increase (Decrease)
Property Tax	1,727,500	1,700,806	26,694	1.57%
Other Taxes	689,735	776,660	(86,925)	-11.19%
Licenses and Permits	433,800	433,800	0	0.00%
Intergovernmental	958,432	538,912	419,520	77.85%
Interest and Rental	183,586	212,739	(29,153)	-13.70%
Charges for Services	794,287	815,427	(21,140)	-2.59%
Fines/Miscellaneous	51,950	76,950	(25,000)	-32.49%
Total	4,839,290	4,555,294	283,996	6.23%