



Spring 2009

City News

CITY OF LOS ALTOS NEWSLETTER

Looking at our environment

The City of Los Altos, in cooperation with the Environmental Commission and the Los Altos community, is looking at the impacts of life and business on our environment. To highlight some of the current projects:

Carbon footprint assessment

The City of Los Altos, in partnership with local governments dedicated to addressing environmental issues through local action, and the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, (ICLEI) is completing a detailed study to assess and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. In February, City employees completed a survey on their commuting patterns and preferences. This will help us better understand the impact that we have on the environment.

Water conservation

City staff is attending local and regional meetings with our water retailers to prepare for an anticipated 10-20% reduction in water use through conservation

(Please see Environment page 2)



City of Los Altos Community Center Master Plan update

Over the past year, the City of Los Altos has been developing a Master Plan for a new Community Center. This process has included extensive public outreach and involvement as the City has identified goals and objectives, a comprehensive program and facilities needs assessment, and a space programming plan identifying functions and sizes of desired facilities. The Community Center Master Plan plans for replacing old, obsolete, and energy inefficient buildings, as well as the better usage of the 18 acres of land making up the Civic Center. It also provides an opportunity to establish a stronger pedestrian connection to the downtown area. The community has expressed a desire for improved youth and senior programs, improved recreational facilities for indoor and outdoor activities, and community gathering spaces for large and small groups.

The City recently held a Saturday morning Community Forum to gather community input on three draft design scenarios for the Community Center. Approximately 120 members of the community participated in the Forum, commenting on the design options presented by Master

(Please see Community Center page 2)

(Environment from page 1)

efforts. Families and businesses are encouraged to heighten their awareness and begin steps to reduce water consumption.

Waste management tour

Members of the community and City staff toured the Zanker Road Landfill and GreenWaste Recycling Center to better understand and seek solutions for reducing and managing waste. Video and photos of the tour will soon be available on the City of Los Altos web site, <http://losaltosca.gov/committees-commissions/environmental/index.html>.

Welcome to two new environmental commissioners

On February 24, 2009, the Los Altos City Council appointed two new environmental commissioners. Agendas and minutes of meetings and many helpful articles and links regarding our environment are available on the City of Los Altos web site under the Environment Commission tab <http://losaltosca.gov/committees-commissions/environmental/index.html>.



It's spring!

(Community Center from page 1)

Plan consultants Anderson Brulé Architects. These three scenarios can be viewed at www.losaltoscommunitycenter.org. A version of Scenario Three will be the core for the evolution of the final plan.

Elements of the Master Plan include:

- Improved community center for youth and senior programs, classes, public gatherings
- Larger and improved theater
- New swim facility
- Larger city hall
- Code compliant police station
- Library expansion
- Retain: History museum, history house, Neutra cottage, and orchard

The phasing of these improvements is subject to financing opportunities.

The Los Altos City Council will continue to meet through spring 2009 to develop the final Master Plan and financing strategies. For a schedule of meetings or for more information about the Master Plan project please visit www.losaltoscommunitycenter.org or call (650) 947-2640.



The Los Altos Police Department has noticed a dramatic increase in complaints regarding minors consuming alcohol. Teen parties are one of the highest risks for setting youth alcohol problems. Young people report the heaviest drinking at large parties with peers, almost all of whom are underage. These parties lack adult supervision and can lead to serious problems including impaired driving, vandalism and property damage.

Here is some important information to keep you out of trouble with the Law. If you are under 21, it is a misdemeanor if:

- ✦ You are in possession of alcohol (open or closed container)
- ✦ You purchase alcohol
- ✦ You have a false ID which doesn't show your true identity
- ✦ You are driving a car with alcohol in it

(Please see Crime prevention page 3)

(Crime prevention from page 2)

No matter what your age, it is a misdemeanor if you provide alcohol to anyone under 21.

If you are convicted of an alcohol misdemeanor and are under 21, the DMV may suspend your driver's license up to one year. You will have a criminal record. A criminal record could prevent you from being a doctor, lawyer, teacher and many more professions.

Because of the inherent problem created by the sales of alcohol to minors, the department maintains a vigorous enforcement program to help curb the availability of alcohol to them. As part of the program, the department takes enforcement actions based on citizens complaints or reported observations.

Any person who sells, furnishes, gives away or causes to be sold, furnished or given away, alcoholic beverage to *any* person under the age of 21 is guilty of a MISDEMEANOR.

Los Altos Police recommend that parents talk with their children about the consequences of underage drinking. If you have any question regarding underage drinking, please contact Los Altos School Resource officer Agent Mark Laranjo at 650-947-2803.



Friends of the Library Book Sales

May 2-3, Aug. 29-30, 2009
Holiday book sale mid November
Sales held at Hillview Community Center.



Eureka! We are headed to the polls again! California Statewide Special Election May 19, 2009

Senate Bill 19, a component of the recently approved State budget package, calls for a **May 19 Special Election** to consider six important initiatives, including a constitutional amendment to enact a rainy day budget stabilization fund. The initiatives include:

- Proposition 1A: "Rainy Day" Budget Stabilization Fund
- Proposition 1B: Education Funding Payment Plan
- Proposition 1C: Lottery Modernization Act
- Proposition 1D: Children's Services Funding
- Proposition 1E: Mental Health Funding Budget
- Proposition 1F: Elected Official's Salaries. Prevents pay increases for State Officers during budget deficit years.

You have until May 4 to register to vote or to update your registration.

VOTE BY MAIL BALLOTS SAVE TIME AND POSTAGE

The City of Los Altos will again serve as a drop off point for Vote by Mail ballots for the May 19 Special Election. An official ballot box is available for anyone who resides in Santa Clara County to drop their ballot in and the City Clerk/Deputy Registrar of Voters will deliver the ballots to the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters office. Ballots must be received at City Hall no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 19, 2009. After 5:00 p.m., you can drop your ballot off at any polling place or take it to the Registrar's office at 1555 Berger Drive in San Jose. Before dropping it into the ballot box, make sure you sign the back of your ballot envelope in order for your vote to be counted! A ballot box will be on the front counter at City Hall from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Take the time to have your voice heard. The Civic Soapbox reply form is on the back page. Feel free to make any comments or suggestions. Clip the form and fold it in half. Be sure the address side (below) is on the outside. The U. S. Postal Service prefers it secured at the bottom with a small piece of tape.

Fold here

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City of Los Altos

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Los Altos CA 94022



City meetings

	Date	Time	Location
City Council	2nd & 4th Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	City Hall
Environmental Commission	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m.	City Hall
Historical Commission	4th Monday	7:00 p.m.	City Hall
Library Commission	1st Tuesday	5:30 p.m.	Library
Parks, Arts & Rec Commission	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	City Hall
Planning Commission	1st & 3rd Thursday	7:30 p.m.	City Hall
Traffic Commission	4th Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	City Hall
Youth Commission	1st Monday	7:00 p.m.	City Hall (usually)

Step right up—express yourself

Civic Soapbox

Comments: _____



It's spring!

Please check here if you would like a reply
Don't forget to put First Class postage on other side

Name _____

Address _____

Daytime telephone number _____

**Please call VEGA ,
Volunteers Enriching
Government Action,
650/947-2608 for
available volunteer jobs.**

*Statement of Purpose
To communicate Los Altos City
services, programs and activities of
concern and interest to and involving
residents and businesses within the City
of Los Altos. To provide greater aware-
ness of opportunities and encourage
further civic participation.*

*The City News is published three times
a year.*

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David Casas, Mayor Pro Tem
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Ronald D. Packard
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