



Los Altos Town Crier

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Safe bike lanes are needed

I agree with your recent "Other Voices" (March 5) article emphasizing the need for safe bike lanes in and around Los Altos. However, I think the continued emphasis on the importance of the Stevens Creek Trail is misplaced.

Except for access to Mountain View High School, there are limited destination points along the proposed route going in the direction of the Santa Cruz Mountains. There are far more pressing bike traffic needs in our city if the primary theme of safety in biking in the "Voices" article is to be believed.

Depending on the route selected, the cost of building and maintaining the Stevens Creek Trail across the southern part of Los Altos from Mountain View to the fringes of northern Cupertino and beyond could be extremely expensive. Available funds would be better used to provide safer bike lanes along routes where the bike traffic is and will continue to be heavy because of preferred destination points, and where potentially

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hazardous problems are apparent.

Making Los Altos safe for bikers is an excellent goal in this “going green era.” Building a recreational route at elaborate cost may leave many of our other serious bike traffic problems unresolved. I certainly hope that the ongoing feasibility study will take into consideration the larger picture of bike traffic problems throughout Los Altos and neighboring cities, rather than simply focus on issues of concern in this low traffic pathway.

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Larry Thompson

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Los Altos

Keeping perspective on Pinewood School

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In reference to the Feb. 27 article on the lawsuit against Pinewood School by Pam Will: I think it is important for the community to know that the principal involved in the alleged conversation to discourage a teacher from reporting suspected abuse is no longer at Pinewood Middle School.

If he discouraged a teacher from reporting suspicions of abuse, that was his error. I do not believe it was or is the policy of the school.

My son attended Pinewood School, and I also taught there for many years. Under the prior principal, we teachers/staff were specifically instructed that we had a legal responsibility to go directly to the police if we were suspicious of child abuse of any kind.

I feel Pinewood is a wonderful school, with a diverse curriculum in solid academics, sports, music, drama and French. They are able to help each child find his or her special talents and gifts. They set very high academic and moral standards for these children, preparing them for success in any path they choose.

I don't want that to be forgotten in the upcoming reporting of this lawsuit.

Sharon Ashley

Former Pinewood instructor

Green Waste offers recycling advantage

Los Altos Hills' garbage contract will be expiring Oct. 1, with Los Altos Garbage Company (LAGCo). A task force sanctioned by the town of Los Altos Hills has strongly come out in favor of awarding the contract to Green Waste, mainly because of their advanced recycling capabilities.

Green Waste will process both single-stream standard recyclables plus garbage and trash that currently goes straight to the landfill.

Green Waste, unlike LAGCo, will process 100 percent of everything they pick up, which will raise recycling from the current 61 percent to well over 80 percent, thus diverting more than 400 tons per year of garbage and trash now going to the landfill.

They propose to purchase new dual-bin trucks and equipment, which will allow them to pick up everything in a single pass, thus reducing significantly wear and tear on the streets, noise and pollution and, at the same time, do it much cheaper than LAGCo. All recyclables including unlimited yard trimmings would be picked up weekly, including curbside pickup of electronic waste.

Some neighbors have voiced concerns of losing their reliable and trusted garbage collectors. The towns of Portola Valley and Woodside were also facing this problem when both communities switched to Green Waste years ago. I called both town managers, who gave testimonies of exemplary Green Waste service and said that the changeover from LAGCo went smoothly.

Depending on the service selected, all residents of Los Altos Hills would receive a garbage rate increase of up to 61 percent with LAGCo compared to Green Waste's mere 8 percent increase for the expanded weekly service.

Going with Green Waste will allow Los Altos Hills to serve as an example for other communities for recycling.

Jay A. Shideler, chairman,



In Our Opinion

[Editorial](#)

The scene at the Feb. 28 Los Altos Hills City Council meeting was touching: Dozens of workers from the Los Altos Garbage Company (LAGCo), dressed in their fluorescent uniforms, pleaded with council members to renew the town's contract and continue a relationship going back 30 years.

The council is seriously considering a staff recommendation to sign with a new company, Green Waste Recovery Services of San Jose, which is offering expanded service at a lower cost.

Los Altos Hills

Environmental Initiatives Committee

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