



# Los Altos Town Crier

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### Building a green fire

I have another viewpoint on using fireplaces in Los Altos (Town Crier, Jan. 23).

The wood I burn is usually hardwood collected from storm-felled trees or trees cleared or trimmed for construction sites that would otherwise end up in landfill. Because I collect, haul, split and stack the wood, it is good exercise and I enjoy the process.

We have known for some time that the traditional “open” fireplaces are not at all efficient, and they do pollute. However, contrary to the article, Los Altos and most other Bay Area cities have not banned woodburning fireplaces as long as they are Environmental Protection Agency-certified stoves or inserts.

With energy shortages and rising fuel costs, an approved and efficient fireplace can provide most of the heat for an average house throughout the winter season – and it is environmentally friendly and can save money.

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So, with the use of my EPA-approved firebox, I can enjoy the warmth and ambience of a woodburning fireplace, get a healthful workout, save money and not feel guilty about the environment.

Bill H. Bocook

Los Altos

**Thanks for DAR peek**

Thank you for publishing the article "Peek into the Past" (Town Crier, Feb. 13) about Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) member Jane Trowbridge.

I would like to bring to readers' attention that the Los Altos DAR Chapter is currently seeking new members and usually meets for lunch at the Forum at Rancho San Antonio on the third Friday of the months from September to May.

Our chapter was organized in 1950, and the last major merger was in 1996, when the Faxon D. Atherton Chapter merged with ours.

For more information, e-mail [seolmsted@sbcglobal.net](mailto:seolmsted@sbcglobal.net) or call 965-8275.

Sharon Olmsted

Los Altos DAR Chapter

**Appreciates orchard space at civic center**

I can think of no better use for the orchard space at the civic center. It's a real lift for the spirits to see the new green leaves and, later, the blossoms.

Mary Alice Bethel

Los Altos

**Nothing to do for teens**

It is always nice seeing how substantial the "Senior Lifestyles" section of the Town Crier is. Wouldn't it be great to publish a section for teens and 20-somethings? Oh, I forgot. This is Los Altos. There

isn't anything for them to do!

Becky Hayman

Los Altos

### **Flashing lights on San Antonio work**

I want to applaud the Los Altos City Council and city manager for completing the installation of flashing yellow lights in the pedestrian crosswalk at San Antonio and Pepper. When I went for my daily walk to town, I pushed a button which resulted in a voice recording telling me, "Crosswalk lights activated, cross with caution." As I cautiously stepped into the street, cars did stop, and I crossed with a sense of authority I had never experienced before.

Ann Wolff

Los Altos

### **Different take on trail meeting**

I was disappointed to read Otto Sterba's letter to the Los Altos City Council regarding the proposed Los Altos link to the Stevens Creek Trail (Town Crier, Feb. 6).

I, too, attended the Dec. 5 planning meeting at Grant Park and came away with an entirely different impression of the proposed link.

I don't see it as a "lofty agenda" of the trail proponents to insist on safe bicycle and walking paths for their children to get to school. And doesn't increased bicycle and walking traffic reduce automobile traffic?

Maybe Mr. Sterba is "ignoring the wishes" of his neighbors (virtually all at the Dec. 5 meeting) when he suggests that Los Altos has "enough parks and recreational areas already."

Richard Thornton

Los Altos



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## **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.

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