



# ATHERTONIAN

Quarterly Newsletter for Atherton Residents

Summer 2004

## Council Approves Placing Parcel Tax on November Ballot

*In November 2004, the Town of Atherton will consider renewal of the parcel tax for an additional four years.*

The parcel tax currently is utilized to provide significant funding for the continuation of operating services and continuation of a comprehensive capital program to provide maintenance for street and storm water facilities. Unlike other communities, the Town of Atherton is dependent on property taxes to support basic operations and does not benefit from sales taxes since we are principally a residential community. The current parcel tax, approved in July 2001, is set to expire June 30, 2005. If the parcel tax is renewed, the Town would continue to utilize revenues for the continuation of operating services and continuation of street and storm water improvements.

An extension of the parcel tax would grant the Town the authority to levy approximately \$2.2 million in property taxes (an average of approximately \$940 per household). However, the actual amount collected each year would be dependent upon the needs that have been documented through the annual budget process. Additionally, the funds collected and spent are subject to verification through the Town's independent annual audit.

The Atherton parcel tax was originally initiated in 1980 and has been in effect for 22 of the past 24 years. As such, the parcel tax has served as a vital source of revenue to fund capital improvements, public safety and other programs and activities.

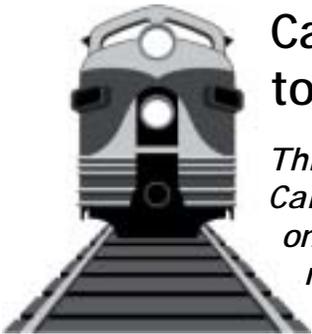
Based upon projections prepared by the Finance Department, approximately 50 percent of the proposed parcel tax would be used to fund roads and drainage systems while the remaining 50 percent would be used to support current operations.



### Calling all Candidates

The Town of Atherton will be holding a General Municipal Election on November 2, 2004, to fill two City Council seats for a four-year term expiring in November 2008. The *Nomination Period* opened Monday, July 12, 2004 and closes Friday, August 6, 2004, at 5:00 p.m.

Interested registered voters of the Town should contact the City Clerk's Office at 752-0529 for information on becoming a candidate.



## Caltrain Corridor Subcommittee Preparing Response to High Speed Rail Environmental Impact Report

*This is a brief report by the Caltrain Corridor Subcommittee on the latest developments regarding the proposed High-Speed Rail Project in California.*

### BACKGROUND

The High-Speed Rail in California, not to be confused with Baby Bullet, grew from studies going back more than 20 years ago. The California High-Speed Rail Authority was established by the Legislature in 1996 to plan, design, construct and operate a state-of-the-art high-speed train system. This was in response to greater demand on California's highway and air transportation systems due to population growth through 2020.

In 2001, the Authority, along with the Federal Railroad Administration, began the environmental review process for the proposed high-speed train system. In January 2004, the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was issued for public review and comment. Atherton, although aware of it, did not receive a copy and was not officially notified of its existence. The EIR has an August 31, 2004 deadline for public comment, including the Town's response.

### ROUTE ALTERNATIVES

Three alternate northern routes were considered to link the Central Valley with the Bay Area: Altamont, Diablo and Pacheco. The Altamont

*continued on page 4.*

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## Survey on BFI Service

*The Town of Atherton is a member agency of the South Bay Waste Management Authority (SBWMA), which has the responsibility of managing our contracts with our waste hauler, Browning Ferris Industries or BFI.*

The Operating and Collection Agreements with BFI are valid until December 31, 2006. The agreements contain one three-year automatic extension if certain contract requirements have been achieved. The SBWMA is currently reviewing BFI's contract compliance since 2000 in order to provide a recommendation on contract extension beyond the Year 2006, or a competitive bid process for a new service provider. As part of the review process, a survey has been prepared and will be mailed to 4,000 residents and commercial customers within the service area. The target date to mail the survey was July 14<sup>th</sup>. Residents who receive this survey are encouraged to fill it out and return it as your feedback is very important to the SBWMA. Results of the survey are expected to be tabulated by August 2004. Please let the SBWMA know your thoughts on your garbage service!



### ATHERTON GARDEN GUILD

The Atherton Garden Guild is pleased to display floral arrangements at the Atherton Community Library for all Atherton residents to enjoy. We hope that you have noticed the weekly displays.

*If you have any questions about the floral displays, please call Marion Oster at (650) 325-0714.*

### Solar Home and Building Tour

*Saturday, October 2, 2004*

*Sponsored by San Mateo County RecycleWorks and NorCal Solar*

Visit solar homes around San Mateo County and see the latest solar technology, talk to homeowners, and meet various solar vendors at the San Mateo County Solar Home and Building Tour on Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Solar Tour is a great way to learn more about solar power from people who are already using it. The homes and buildings on the tour feature a range of systems including grid-tied and battery backed solar electric systems, solar hot water heating systems and other green building features.

For tour details and registration, visit [www.RecycleWorks.org](http://www.RecycleWorks.org), or call (888) 442-2666 for more information.

### Park Foundation and Dames Annual BBQ

**SAVE THIS DATE!**

The Holbrook-Palmer Park Foundation and Atherton Dames will host their Annual Town Barbeque on Sunday, October 17, 2004, at the Park. To

RSVP in advance, please contact Pattie DeWalt at the Park Office, at (650) 752-0536.

*Come and enjoy great food, music and fun for the entire family! Look for more details soon.*



### Reducing the Environmental Impact of

**Big Houses** *September 10, 2004, 9:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m.*

Come and join us at a workshop for planning department staff and commissioners, architects, builders and owners of large homes.

In this workshop you will learn how your next project can use design and construction strategies that save energy and water, reduce waste and contribute to a healthier environment. The workshop will also cover what can be done in the planning process to support the greening of larger homes. The day will include a green building tour, presentations by four speakers, a panel discussion and a Q&A session.

Location: Hidden Villa Hostel, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills  
Cost: \$25, includes lunch



*More info and registration:*

*[www.RecycleWorks.org](http://www.RecycleWorks.org), (650) 949-8653. Sponsored by San Mateo County RecycleWorks and Hidden Villa*

# TOWN OF ATHERTON

91 Ashfield Road • Atherton, CA 94027

## City Council

*Meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm*

*Town Council Chambers • 94 Ashfield Road*

Kathleen McKeithen, *Mayor*..... 321-3633  
term expires 11/2004

William R. Conwell, *Vice Mayor*..... 368-0994 (wk)  
term expires 11/2006

Alan B. Carlson, *Council Member*..... 408-998-4150 (wk)  
term expires 11/2006

James R. Janz, *Council Member*..... 325-8666 (wk)  
term expires 11/2004

Charles E. Marsala, *Council Member*..... 328-7113  
term expires 11/2006

## Helpful Phone Numbers

*(All area codes are 650 unless otherwise noted)*

Comcast Cable (formerly AT&T) ..... (800) 945-2288  
California Water Service..... 367-6800  
Pacific Gas & Electric ..... (800) 743-5000

### County Services

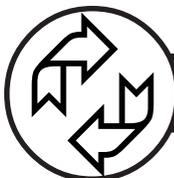
Animal Control.....363-4840  
Assessor.....363-4500  
Library.....328-2422  
Supervisor, Richard Gordon, 3rd Dist.....363-4569  
Voter Registration.....312-5222

### Menlo Park Fire District

Business/Administration Office.....688-8400  
Emergency.....323-2404 or 911

### Waste/Recycling

Browning Ferris Industries (BFI) Garbage.....592-2411  
Recycling.....637-1411  
Fair Oaks Sanitation District.....363-4100  
West Bay Sanitation District.....321-0384



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## DIRECTORY

*Contacts & Telephone Numbers*

Main Number 752-0500  
Fax Number 688-6528  
e-mail atherton@ci.atherton.ca.us

Animal Control 363-4840

### Building

Mike Hood, Bldg. Official 752-0523  
Information/Inspections 752-0560  
Daily Inspection Schedule 752-0561

### City Attorney

Marc Hynes, City Attorney 967-6941

### City Manager

Jim Robinson, City Manager 752-0504  
Kathi Hamilton,  
Interim City Clerk 752-0529  
Greg Sam, Interim  
Assistant to City Manager 752-0546

### City Planner

Neal Martin, City Planner 802-4330  
Lisa Costa Sanders,  
Deputy Town Planner 802-4292

### Finance

John Johns, Director 752-0531  
Kim Salera, Asst. Director 752-0538  
Paula Pierce, Finance Asst. 752-0519

### Library

328-2422

### Police

Robert Brennan, Chief 752-0506  
General Information 688-6500  
Emergency 911

### Post Office

General Information 752-0500

### Public Works

Duncan Jones, Director 752-0532  
Steve Tyler, PW Superintendent 752-0541  
Information/Permits 752-0570  
Jean Cardona,  
Park Program Mgr. 752-0534  
Kathy Hughes Anderson,  
Town Arborist 752-0526

### Heritage Room

Atherton Heritage Association 688-6540

*continued from cover.*

route goes through Tracy to Newark where it splits into three branches for Oakland, San Francisco and San Jose. The San Francisco branch crosses the Bay over a new bridge, near the Dumbarton, follows existing Dumbarton rail right-of-way, crossing Marsh Road near Bohannon Drive and follows the Caltrain right-of-way from Redwood City to San Francisco. The Diablo route leaves the Central Valley near Merced, uses one or more tunnels through the Diablo Range (possibly under Henry Coe State Park), joins the Caltrain route south of San Jose and splits into two branches at San Jose. One branch uses the Caltrain right-of-way through Atherton to San Francisco. The other goes to Oakland using a rail right-of-way to be decided. The Pacheco route leaves the Central Valley south of Merced, goes through Los Banos, and joins the Caltrain route from Gilroy to San Jose where it splits into the same two branches as the Diablo route for San Francisco and Oakland.

In 1996, the California High Speed Rail Commission, which preceded the California High-Speed Rail Authority, recommended the Altamont route. In 1999, the California High-Speed Rail Authority rejected the Altamont route, primarily because it did not serve San Jose directly, which they claimed would reduce overall ridership. The Altamont route is not addressed for further consideration in the EIR. If either the Diablo or

Pacheco route is ultimately approved, the Caltrain right-of-way from San Jose to San Francisco would become four tracks. With 134 trains per day planned for the Year 2020 at 93 to 124 mph, in addition to Caltrain's schedule, all crossings, including Watkins and Fair Oaks Lane in Atherton, would require grade separations or street closings.

#### **CALTRAIN CORRIDOR SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW**

Atherton's Caltrain Corridor Subcommittee is studying the impact of High-Speed Rail. Mr. Rod Diridon, a California High-Speed Rail Authority Board member, presented highlights of the proposed system at the Subcommittee meeting of March 9, 2004, and answered questions. He strongly advocated support of the proposal. Subcommittee members attended a public hearing on the EIR in San Jose on May 26, 2004 where there were numerous comments both for and against various aspects of the proposal. The major area of disagreement was over the route from the Central Valley to San Francisco. The City of San Jose and the Silicon Valley Manufacturers Association favor a direct route through San Jose, whereas Sacramento, Stockton, Sierra Club and others want the Altamont route reconsidered. The Subcommittee invited the Train Rider Association of California (TRAC), a lobbyist group advocating the Altamont route, to speak at its July 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The Subcommittee and Town staff are communicating with Menlo Park and other nearby cities along the proposed High-Speed Rail route to encourage a coordinated approach. The Subcommittee will prepare a draft response to the EIR for City Council action before the August 31<sup>st</sup> deadline.

#### **MENLO PARK STATUS**

After studying alternatives, the Menlo Park City Council in September 2003, affirmed the concept of split-level grade separations (tracks raised and streets lowered) as its preferred design. The Council also requested that an alternative of deep undercrossings (keeping the existing track level) at Ravenswood and Oak Grove Avenues be kept under consideration. High-Speed Rail is proposed as an agenda item for a Menlo Park City Council meeting prior to the August 31<sup>st</sup> EIR comment deadline.

#### **NEXT STEPS**

After reviewing comments to the Draft Program EIR, the High-Speed Rail Authority will decide which plan to adopt, prepare a final Program EIR and proceed to the next phase. This phase involves breaking the planned route into segments and developing a detailed Draft Project EIR for each segment. This process is expected to begin in early 2005. Atherton and the public will then have a chance to respond to the Draft Project EIR for its segment, but by then the route will have been determined.

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## **OTHER HIGH-SPEED RAIL INFORMATION**

### **Availability of High-Speed Rail Draft EIR:**

- Palo Alto Main Library
- Online at: [www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov](http://www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov)
- For free CD, write to:

**California High-Speed Rail Authority**  
925 "L" Street, Suite 1425  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 322-1419

**To comment on the Draft EIR:** Contact the California High-Speed Rail Authority at the listed address.

Caltrain Corridor Subcommittee Regular Meetings: First Tuesday of the month, 7:00 P.M., Council Chambers, 94 Ashfield Road. Residents and non-residents are welcomed.

*Contact for information or questions: Jim Robinson, City Manager at (650) 752-0504.*

# Midpeninsula Media Center Seeks Input ►

*The Midpeninsula Community Media Center is a 501 (c) (3) public benefit corporation, which brings community media services to the cities and towns served by the Cable Joint Powers Authority.*

The Media Center serves Atherton, East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Palo Alto, Stanford University and unincorporated portions of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. If you subscribe to Comcast cable television, you receive Government Access Channels 26 and 29, Community Public Access Channels 27 and 28, and an Interactive Community Bulletin on Channel 30. We also provide media production classes and professional services.

We are striving to improve communications with residents in all the communities we serve. We would like your help.

Please assist us by taking a few minutes to fill out and return the survey questions to the right.

Responses can be sent via e-mail to: [kathy@communitymediacenter.net](mailto:kathy@communitymediacenter.net)

or regular mail / in-person:  
**The Media Center (Attn: Kathy Phelan)**  
 900 San Antonio Road  
 Palo Alto, CA 94303

or fax at (650) 494-8386.

We would enjoy giving you a tour of our state-of-the-art facility.

**Please give us your thoughts.**

We need to hear from you to understand how well we are serving your area.

**Your answers will be completely confidential. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy at (650) 494-8686, extension 38.**

1. During the past 30 days have you viewed Channels 26, 27, 28, 29 or 30? (These are your community channels operated by the Media Center).

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

2. If Yes, please share your viewing experience:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. If No, please explain why not:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Did you know that the Media Center offers professional media production classes where you learn to operate a camera, digital editing, graphics, audio and studio production?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

5. Would you like to receive more information regarding the Media Center and its services?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If Yes, please provide your mailing or e-mail address:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## HIGH-SPEED RAIL FACTS

*(Based on Draft EIR and Business Plan)*

Total system miles:	700
Estimated cost (1999 dollars):	\$25 Billion
Major Origin/Destinations:	SF, Oakland, Sacramento, LA, San Diego
Express travel time:	San Francisco to LA - two hours and 25 minutes
Peninsula stops:	SF, SFO, Redwood City or Palo Alto, San Jose
Key Milestones:	
■ Deadline for Public Comments on Draft EIR	August 31, 2004
■ Voters approve \$9.95 billion bonds	2004 (possible delay until 2006)
■ Final Program EIR, Develop Project EIR's	2005
■ Issue bonds	2008
■ Start construction	2008
■ Begin operation first phase: SF to LA	2014
■ Complete system	2020
Trains per day through Atherton (all):	134
Maximum rural speed:	220 mph
Maximum speed through Atherton:	93 mph to 124 mph
Tracks through Atherton: <i>(Possibly condemn private property)</i>	Widen from 2 to 4 tracks
Power source:	Overhead electrification
Impact on Fair Oaks Lane and Watkins Avenue:	grade separations or block streets
Construction disruptions:	7 to 10 years
Atherton private property tree removal:	80+ trees
Other impacts:	Noise, aesthetics, dust, safety

## Caltrain Planning Train Station Upgrade

*Caltrain is designing modifications to the Atherton train station to improve safety and to help them meet their new schedules, especially for the "Baby Bullet" train.* The current center platform causes trains to "hold-out," or wait outside the station, if there is another train stopped in the station. The modification will build a new platform on the northbound side, and a fence between the tracks, similar to the Menlo Park and Redwood City stations. This will be accomplished by removing the center platform and moving the northbound tracks a few feet closer to the southbound tracks.

To get to a train at the new platform, passengers will buy their tickets at the station vending machines, then cross the tracks at a gated pedestrian crossing next to Fair Oaks Lane. The gates will be designed so they will go up once the train is in the station, allowing late passengers to catch a northbound train. The other existing pedestrian crossings will be removed. Caltrain is considering a center platform crossing so passengers with tickets can cross directly from the

parking lot to the northbound platform, but this crossing will close when the train is in the station.

Caltrain is proposing to construct shelters along the new northbound platform to protect waiting passengers during inclement weather. The shelters will be designed to be compatible with the historic 1913 train station, similar to those installed in Menlo Park.

Both platforms will be upgraded with new electronic message signs, a new public address system and lighting. The new lighting will be compatible with the period light poles at the existing station. The new lights will use modern lenses to focus the light on the platforms and eliminate light spill into adjacent neighborhoods. The tall floodlights currently lighting the southerly part of the platform (and several nearby homes) will be removed.

Caltrain has already set aside funds for this project and expects to begin work next Spring. Construction should be completed by the Spring of 2006.

## Attention Caltrain Neighbors and Tree Lovers

Atherton residents, especially those whose property abuts or is near the Caltrain tracks, should be aware of Caltrain's proposal to electrify the current diesel-powered trains and the effects that electrification will have on our trees. To electrify the trains, large poles and many wires will have to be erected and strung along the Caltrain right-of-way, which is adjacent to many Atherton homes and passes through our train station and the center of town. Consequently, Caltrain plans to remove 80 trees and prune approximately 105 others along the half-mile of Atherton tracks that they examined.

Most of these trees are on private property, but according to the Public Utilities Commission's regulations, owners are obliged to comply with what Caltrain says in regard to intrusion on its right-of-way, and therefore, will need to accept Caltrain's removal and pruning of their trees.

The Draft Environmental Impact Report states that electrification of the trains will create a "less than significant" impact on the Town, but residents themselves may wish to consider the impact of removing or pruning trees on their property. (The report includes a recommendation that twenty-two trees be removed from one property.) Residents may want to review a copy of the HortScience "Tree Survey and Assessment" available at the Public Works Department's front counter at Town Hall. The report contains the number, type and location of the trees in Atherton that Caltrain plans to remove or prune.

## Annual Tree Awards Program



*Valley Oak tree  
(Quercus lobata) in  
Holbrook-Palmer Park*

Do you know of a particularly spectacular heritage tree? The Atherton Tree Committee is accepting nominations for the Town's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Tree Awards program. Residents are encouraged to nominate their outstanding tree or grove of trees. Trees are judged by the Tree Committee and the Town Arborist based on size, age, condition, historical significance or unique species. Special categories include the best newly planted tree and one in which special preservation measures have been taken to preserve the tree. Nomination forms are available at the Town Administrative Offices, 91 Ashfield Road, or on the Town website at [www.ci.atherton.ca.us](http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us). Nominations will be accepted until Friday, August 27, 2004, 5:00 p.m.

# CHILDREN'S EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY

SUMMER/FALL 2004

## *Mondays at the Library* @ 4:00 P.M.

August 16<sup>th</sup>

"A Reading Circus with Clown and  
Magician Boswick Turnstyle."  
For all ages.

September 20<sup>th</sup>

WILDLIFE RESCUE, INC. will discuss  
the different kinds of rescued birds  
and animals. There will be one or two  
live birds to see.  
For ages Grade K and up.

October 25<sup>th</sup>

WOODINI THE MAGICIAN will astound  
the audience with his amazing magic  
tricks! Free Halloween treats will be  
provided. For all ages.

### Fall StoryTimes (September 14<sup>th</sup> - November 17<sup>th</sup>)

ITSY-BITSY (infants to 3), Tuesday  
mornings at 10:30 a.m.

PRESCHOOL (ages 3-6), Tuesday  
afternoons at 3:30 p.m.

MUSICAL STORYTIME (all ages),  
Wednesday afternoons from  
4:00 to 4:45 p.m.

## Bring a Book, Take a Book Ice Cream Day

Don't miss "Bring a Book, Take a  
Book," Ice Cream Day! Join the fun  
on Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup> from  
1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Atherton  
Branch Library, 2 Dinkelspiel  
Station Lane,  
(650) 328-2422.

*Programs are sponsored by  
The Friends of the  
Atherton Library.*

## The Library Presents "Final Friday Flicks"

*The last Friday of every month, the Atherton Library will host a free feature  
film for the entire family. Start time is 7:00 p.m., except July 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:30  
p.m. Good entertainment for the whole family! Free refreshments!*

### Upcoming movies:

July 30<sup>th</sup> - The Sandlot (2001).

A shy boy moves to a new neighborhood and becomes involved with a ragtag  
baseball team. Wonderfully funny moments; even Mom and Dad  
will be entertained. Rated PG. Color. 101 minutes.

August 27<sup>th</sup> - Escape to Witch Mountain (1975).

Two mysterious orphan children, who have psychic powers, are chased  
by a scheming millionaire who wants to employ their powers for his  
own ends. Family film. Rated G. Color. 97 minutes.

September 24<sup>th</sup> - The Adventures of Robin Hood (1938).

Robin Hood battles his enemies and wins the love of Maid Marion.  
Action and adventure. Not rated. Color. 102 minutes.

October 29<sup>th</sup> - Monsters, Inc. (2001).

A delightful and funny film for the whole family with an intriguing premise:  
the energy that powers the City of Monstropolis is generated  
by the screams of children frightened by the monsters who hide in  
their closets. Rated G. Color. 92 minutes.

*Programs are sponsored by the Friends of the Atherton Library.*

## Project READ

*Help teach a student to read! You'll be amazed at what you learn!*

Selby Lane School, in conjunction with  
Project READ, is looking for  
community volunteers to become  
tutors for Selby Lane students. Even  
though many community members  
have trained and are currently  
tutoring students, there is still a  
great need for tutors at Selby Lane.  
The commitment is a 15 hour training  
session at the Redwood City Main  
Library and one to two hours per  
week meeting with a student. Project  
Read is sponsoring tutor training  
sessions in August to teach volunteers  
how to help children (and adults) learn  
to read.

### August Schedule:

Thursday, August 12<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday, August 17<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday, August 24<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup>

If you would like to attend a training  
session, please call Project Read at  
(650) 780-7077. If you are interested  
in tutoring a Selby student, please  
mention this when you call.

*If you have questions, please call  
Sarah Blatner (a Selby Lane School  
mom and Project Read tutor) at  
361-1602.*

## ATHERTON ARTS COMMITTEE SUMMER ART IN THE PARK 2004

PROGRAMS - Through August 20, 2004

The Atherton Arts Committee's Summer Art in the Park classes will bring a variety of fun and educational experiences for children ages 5 to 12 years. There's still time to sign-up for classes which run through August 20<sup>th</sup>!

Atherton  
arts  
Committee  
91 Ashfield Road  
Atherton, CA  
94027

### REGISTRATION

To register for classes, please visit our webpage at [www.ci.atherton.ca.us/arts/artinthepark.html](http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/arts/artinthepark.html). Please complete the registration form and mail with your check made payable to:

TOWN OF ATHERTON/AAC  
91 Ashfield Road  
Atherton, CA 94027

For information or questions, please call  
(650) 482-9824.

**Fantasy Creatures: 5-7 years**  
July 19/30, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
\$280 resident/non \$300

**Flying Machines: 8-12 years**  
July 19/30, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
\$280 resident/non \$300

**Lego™ III: 7-9 years**  
August 2-13, 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
\$305 resident/non \$325

**Underwater World: 5-7 years**  
August 16/20, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
\$155 resident/non \$175

**Message in a Bottle: 8-12 years**  
August 16/20, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
\$155 resident/non \$175

*For a description of classes and teachers, please visit our website.*

*Note: Please bring your own snacks. AAC will provide juice and water. Sunscreen is advised for daily outdoor activities. It is recommended that children wear their AAC t-shirts provided on the first day of class.*



## Message from Atherton PD on Mountain Lions

A few weeks ago, residents in the Fletcher/Ridgeview Drive area of Atherton reported seeing a large mountain lion walking in the open, prior to the incident where one was shot and killed by Palo Alto police on May 17<sup>th</sup>. While it is not known if this was the same lion, the great distance between these two neighborhoods suggest that it was probably a different animal. Since then, the Police Department has received additional reports of sightings in west Atherton including near Melanie Lane.

We urge you to use caution in the evening and early morning hours of day when these animals are generally out in the open hunting. However, mountain lions may be found at any time of the day or night. They are very common in this part of the state, particularly here on the peninsula.

**The National Park Service offers the following advice:**

- Avoid hiking alone. Watch children and pets closely, and do not allow them to run ahead of you. If you do cross paths with a mountain lion your best chance is to convince it that you are not prey.
- Do not run. Running may stimulate the lion's instinct to chase.
- Face the lion and stand upright.
- Make eye contact.
- Do not turn your back on the mountain lion. Back away slowly.
- Pick small children up and place them on your shoulders. Spread your arms, open your coat, and try and make yourself appear larger.
- If the lion behaves aggressively wave your hands, shout, blow a whistle and throw sticks or rocks.
- If attacked, fight back. Do not "play dead."

If you see or hear a mountain lion, please call the Atherton Police Department at (650) 688-6500. If you feel that the sighting may pose a serious risk to the safety of any person or pet, please do not hesitate to call 911.

## Canada College Arts and Olive Festival

*Come and have some fun while supporting your local community college at the Seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) Annual Canada College Arts and Olive Festival, on Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>.*



This year, Canada College will launch its first evening gala, "Under the Tuscan Moon," on Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, the night before the Sunday fair. By invitation only, the Saturday culinary event will feature cocktails, fine cuisine by local chefs, a presentation by Instructor Denise Erickson on Tuscan art and a presale of the Sunday street fair artwork and products. All proceeds will benefit the Canada College Scholarship Fund. The Sunday festival will offer a vast array of olive products, art for sale, continuous live entertainment, art resource booths and a raffle. Come join us and assist higher education on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>! Should you have any questions, or would like an invitation to the Saturday event, please contact the Festival Office at (650) 306-3139, or at the event website at [www.olivefest.org](http://www.olivefest.org)

## Town Clerk Retires

After spending five years of preparing agendas, taking minutes at Council meetings, administering elections, running a post office and performing other important duties, the Town's City Clerk, Sharon Barker, officially retired on June 1, 2004. Sharon was hired by the Town in 1999, and recently decided to retire with her husband to their quiet home in Sacramento Valley to be closer to their children and grandchildren.



*Sharon Barker with family on last day of work*

Sharon was well-liked and respected by her co-workers, peers and members of the community for her friendly and outgoing disposition, talented administrative skills and excellent reputation in working with the public. Prior to joining Atherton, she spent 21 years as Finance Director and Treasurer in the Cities of Willows and Orland in Glenn County. Congratulations and best wishes to Sharon on her retirement!

## ACIL ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

*The Atherton Civic Interest League held its Annual Meeting of Members and the Annual Town Meeting on May 6<sup>th</sup> at Holbrook-Palmer Park.*

Highlights of the meeting were the presentation of the "Good Neighbor Award" to Councilmember Bill Conwell, presentation of a memorial plaque for Bob Simonds to Jan Simonds and "State of the Town" presentations by Mayor Kathy McKeithen and City Manager Jim Robinson.

Councilmember Jim Janz was moderator of the rail panel composed of Chuck Harvey, Caltrain Chief Operating Officer; Malcolm Dudley, former Town Mayor and Councilmember; Greg Conlon, Past President of the Public Utilities Commission; and Arthur Lloyd, member of the Joint Powers Board.

The ACIL members approved the proposed Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Atherton Civic Interest League and elected the proposed slate of 15 Directors. These Directors then elected the proposed Officers for the year beginning July 1st: President, Jerry Carlson; Vice-President, Jenny Redo; CFO, Sam Goodman and Secretary, Jane O'Neill.



# Junior High Students Attracted to Selby Lane School

*Selby Lane School has just completed the first year in a three-year process to qualify to teach the accredited International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (IBP) for Selby's junior high students. The International Baccalaureate Organization sets standards for top academic achievement and enrichment and monitors program progress.*

As part of the Redwood City School District's response to the concerns of Atherton residents regarding the falling academic performance of the school, a commitment was made to the community to introduce a high quality program to attract and retain students who might otherwise choose a private school.

The program was introduced in the sixth grade during the just completed school year and plans call for 7th and 8th grade roll-outs the next two years. Children who complete this program in 12th grade (through Sequoia High School) will receive about a half-year's worth of college credits at major colleges or universities.

Principal Bernie Vidales and Associate Principal Carolyn Williams have successfully recruited 15 to 20 students graduating from their 5th grades, at K-5 schools in the District, to join the IBP program at Selby next school year. This marks the first time that students going into the 6th grade have transferred to Selby because of the quality of the academic curriculum and quality of staff teaching the program. This is a major milestone towards improving the overall academic performance of the school and turning it into a viable alternative for the nearly 25% of Atherton families living within the Selby attendance area.

One dark cloud on the horizon, however, is the District's ability to fund the program to the extent it had planned. State budget cuts means fewer dollars are available for all the District schools, including Selby. Currently, the District shortfall for the IBP program for the next school year is approximately \$70,000 for continuing the 6th grade, and the accreditation process and extending the program into the 7th grade.

An appeal is being made to the entire Atherton community to help provide the funds needed to continue and expand the program. (Long range, K-5 preparatory programs, as well as the 8th grade roll-out in 2006, would greatly change the academic character of the school, if outside funding can be secured.)

The Selby Education Foundation was founded for the purpose of providing a mechanism whereby outside financial support could be provided to the school through a 501(c)(3) charitable (tax deductible) entity for the purpose of helping the school to reach a level of academic excellence. Checks may be written to the foundation for the purpose of supporting IBP or other school enhancing purposes and sent to: Selby Education Foundation, 50 Woodside Plaza, Suite 513, Redwood City, CA 94061.

## BIG DADDY JAZZ

Father's Day was a perfect day for Big Daddy Jazz in the Park! The event was held on Sunday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, at Holbrook-Palmer Park, and was sponsored by the Atherton Arts Committee. The event brought out jazz lovers from all over the Bay Area and family groups of all generations. The total attendance topped 460, beating all past records. The event featured the Menlo Atherton Jazz Ensemble, the United States Air Force Commanders Jazz Ensemble, and the very popular artist, Pete Escovedo and his Latin Jazz Orchestra. The audience could not resist swaying and dancing to the rhythms of Big Band sounds, current jazz styles and the bongo beat of Latin Jazz!

The event was a collaborative effort by the entire Atherton community. The Atherton Arts Committee would like to thank the following: Atherton Dames, Holbrook-Palmer Park Foundation, Friends of the Atherton Library, Atherton Tree Committee, Atherton Civic Interest League, Menlo School, Atherton Police Department and Explorers, Public Works Department and all the wonderful sponsors and other organizations and individuals who helped make Big Daddy Jazz an overwhelming success!

*U.S. Air Force Commanders Jazz Ensemble  
Photos courtesy of Janet Duca Norton*



## ATHERTON P.A.L. AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

*The Atherton Police Department is pleased to announce that three graduating seniors for the Class of 2004 have each earned a \$5,000 College Scholarship sponsored by the Atherton Police Activities League (PAL). This is only the third year of this program, and the young adults that apply for this opportunity are all very talented and bright, and the decision becomes more difficult each year.*

The three winners are: **Javier Ayala-Hil** and **Cheryl Flaherty** from Menlo-Atherton High School, and **Emily Reagan** from Sacred Heart. Below is a summary of each winner's achievements along with a personal quote from his or her personal statement. Requirements of this program are: completion of a P.A.L. application, a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher; college bound; athletic participation; community involvement; personal statement of 250 words; a letter of recommendation and high school transcripts.

**Javier Ayala-Hil** (*photo was not available*) is a model student. Although English is his second language, his GPA was 3.49. At home, Javier speaks Spanish and has been acting as a translator for his mother since he was a little boy. He has participated in the annual Pancake Breakfast and canned food drive for the homeless. Javier was on the high school varsity soccer team for three years and worked on the California State Olympic Development Program in soccer as well.

Javier will be attending UC Berkeley in the Fall to study business. Former teacher Liane Strub describes him as: "upbeat, confident and extremely hard working. Javier is sure to prosper in college."

Javier writes: "The most important part of my life is my mother Blanca Lilian Ayala. She believes that her purpose in life is to direct me into a future that will benefit me for the rest of my life. Indeed she has done that. I have worked very hard academically and in soccer to comply with my mother's desires. My mother did everything in her power to guide me in the right path so I could stay out of trouble. By doing so, my mother took every opportunity in taking me to the park where I eventually learned to love the game of

soccer. I am thankful for the moments my mother spent with me as a child because it has taught me not to take life for granted."

**Cheryl Flaherty** is a "hard working, athletic, inquisitive, full of personality, and sincere individual" writes Gregg Patner from Menlo-Atherton High School. Some of Cheryl's highlights include being a Captain and a leader in girls' water polo and lacrosse. She was elected by her teammates as the "Most Valuable Player." "Cheryl epitomizes team work. She is communicative, selfless and committed. She is someone that



*Cheryl Flaherty*

cheers and works hard in the good times and the bad." Her grade point average was 3.26; she served as a Class Senator, was on the honor roll four years, was a Girl Scout Silver Award winner and volunteered on a turtle reserve in Costa Rica.

Cheryl writes, "Once I entered high school, I learned through my study skills class that it doesn't really matter what other people think. It has helped me realize that I am as good

as everyone else, and can do whatever I want as long as I try my best."

Cheryl will be attending the University of Colorado where she hopes to complete her degree and become a U.S. history teacher and a lacrosse coach.

**Emily Reagan** wrote: "my seventh grade science teacher used to say this to remind me to take pride in my accomplishments - to have confidence in myself and to encourage me to explore my own potential." Emily wrote the above and according to Julie Ball, her College Counselor, she lives by that philosophy. "Everything she does, she does well. This attitude is evident in the classroom, on the basketball court or in her community service activities."



*Emily Reagan*

Emily's overall grade point average while attending Sacred Heart was astounding 4.08. She played on the basketball team, was on the varsity cross country team, as well as soccer and softball teams. All of these extra-curricular activities while maintaining the incredible grades and making friendships that will last a lifetime.

Emily writes, "My mother is an exceptionally strong woman who raised two girls on her own and worked full-time...I've learned from my mother the value of working hard, achieving excellence and overcoming...she continues to inspire me to succeed and persevere."

Even during the summer, Emily is a voracious reader, a book gobbler who reads classics such as Dante to Harry Potter. As Ms. Ball writes, "a caring soul, a splendid scholar. Emily is one of the best Sacred Heart has to offer!"

Emily's goal is to be a book editor or publisher. She aims to enter the literary world and would be content in any aspect of that arena.

# CALENDAR

Call 752-0529 for information on changes and special meetings.

August						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

September						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

October						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## July

21	City Council	7:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
27	Arts Committee	7:00 p.m.	Admin. Offices Mtg. Rm.
28	Planning Commission	6:00 p.m.	Council Chambers

## August

3	Caltrain Corridor Subcom.	7:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
4	Waste Reduction Comm.	10:00 a.m.	Admin. Offices Mtg. Rm.
4	Park & Rec. Comm.	6:30 p.m.	H-P Park, Main House
11	General Plan Comm.	6:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
18	City Council	7:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
19	Tree Committee	4:00 p.m.	Admin. Offices Mtg. Rm.
24	Arts Committee	7:00 p.m.	Admin. Offices Mtg. Rm.
25	Planning Commission	6:00 p.m.	Council Chambers

## September

1	Waste Reduction Comm.	10:00 a.m.	Admin. Offices Mtg. Rm.
1	Park & Rec. Comm.	6:30 p.m.	H-P Park, Main House
<b>6</b>	<b>Labor Day Holiday Observed - Town Offices closed</b>		
7	Caltrain Corridor Subcom.	7:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
15	City Council	7:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
16	Tree Committee	4:00 p.m.	Admin. Offices Mtg. Rm.
22	Planning Commission	6:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
28	Arts Committee	7:00 p.m.	Admin. Offices Mtg. Rm.

## October

5	Caltrain Corridor Subcom.	7:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
6	Waste Reduction Comm.	10:00 a.m.	Admin. Offices Mtg. Rm.
6	Park & Rec. Comm.	6:30 p.m.	H-P Park, Main House
<b>11</b>	<b>Columbus Day Observed - Town Offices closed</b>		
12	Transportation Committee	6:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
20	City Council	7:00 p.m.	Council Chambers

## The Town of Atherton



91 Ashfield Road  
Atherton, CA 94027

PRESORTED  
STANDARD

U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
MENLO PARK, CA  
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ECRWSS

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Atherton, CA 94027