

CALENDAR

For information on changes and special meetings call (650) 752-0500 or check the Town Community Calendar at www.ci.atherton.ca.us

NOVEMBER						
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		

DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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						

JANUARY						
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			

NOVEMBER

1	Park & Rec. Comm.	6:30 p.m.	H-P Park, Main House
7	Atherton Rail Comm.	6:00 p.m.	Admin. Offices Mtg. Rm.
10	Veterans' Day – Town Offices Closed		
11	Disaster Preparedness Comm.	9:00 a.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 – Cancelled		
23	Thanksgiving Holiday – Town Offices Closed		
24	Thanksgiving Holiday – Town Offices Closed		
28	Arts Committee	1:00 p.m.	Admin. Offices Mtg. Rm.

DECEMBER

5	Atherton Rail Comm.	6:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
6	Planning Commission	6:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
6	Park & Rec. Comm.	6:30 p.m.	H-P Park, Main House
9	Disaster Preparedness Comm.	9:00 a.m.	Council Chambers
13	City Council	7:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
21	Tree Committee	4:00 p.m.	Admin. Offices Mtg. Rm.
25	Christmas Day – Town Offices Closed		
TBA	Arts Committee	1:00 p.m.	Admin. Offices Mtg. Rm.

JANUARY

2	New Year's Day Observed – Town Offices Closed		
3	Atherton Rail Comm.	6:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
4	Waste Reduction Comm.	10:00 a.m.	Admin. Offices Mtg. Rm.
4	Parks & Rec. Comm. – Cancelled		
10	Transportation Committee	6:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
10	General Plan Committee	6:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
17	City Council	7:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
18	Tree Committee	4:00 p.m.	Admin. Offices Mtg. Rm.
21	Disaster Preparedness Event	9:00 a.m.	Town-wide
24	Arts Committee	1:00 p.m.	Admin. Offices Mtg. Rm.
25	Planning Commission	6:00 p.m.	Council Chambers



ATHERTONIAN

Quarterly Newsletter for Atherton Residents Fall 2006

ELECTRONIC VOTING: THE WAVE OF THE FUTURE

In November, San Mateo County will usher in a new chapter in the history of San Mateo County elections by introducing voters to new electronic voting equipment, the Hart Intercivic eSlate Voting System. The County Elections Office is launching a voter education campaign for the 355,000 registered voters in San Mateo County. As part of this campaign, the Elections Office is asking for your help. If you belong to an organization, homeowners association, church, nonprofit, service club, or are sponsoring an event, contact the Elections Office and ask them to bring the new voting equipment and let your group "test" vote on it. They will hold community demonstrations - anywhere - anytime - to provide San Mateo County voters with the opportunity to learn how to vote on the new system. November's just around the corner. To schedule a presentation, simply:

- Fill out the online demonstration request form at www.shapethefuture.org in the eSlate Learning Center section,
- Call Jackie Coates at (650) 363-1884, or
- Email your request to: vote2006@smcare.org.

Want to learn more about the eSlate? Visit the online eSlate Learning Center at www.shapethefuture.org. There you can see pictures, browse the frequently asked questions, sign up for a demonstration and watch a video on how to vote on the eSlate.

SAFETY FOR CHILDREN

The Atherton Police Department is pleased to announce a pilot program that would allow parents to store a digital photograph of their children on file at the police department.

The photographs can then be retrieved should a need arise and can be updated on an annual basis. They can also be shared electronically with any law enforcement jurisdiction. This is in conjunction with the program of providing fingerprint kits to interested parties and parents to complete and keep on hand at home.

As every police officer and parent knows, we are living in uncertain times and every tool we have at our disposal to locate a missing child is a valuable one.

For more information, or if you have any questions, contact Officer Don Dunphy at (650) 688-6500 or email at ddunphy@ci.atherton.ca.us. The success of the program will be determined by interest shown by residents.



The Town of Atherton
91 Ashfield Road
Atherton, CA 94027

PRESORTED
STANDARD

U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MENLO PARK, CA
PERMIT NO. 26

ATHERTON RESIDENT
ATHERTON, CA 94027

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Congratulations to Officer Anthony Kockler for being selected as the Employee of the Quarter. Officer Kockler was nominated by a fellow employee for going above and beyond in all his duties, being always willing to help, and having an excellent work ethic. Anthony began working for the Atherton Police Department as an Officer Trainee in 1995 and became a sworn Officer in 1996. He has worked as a patrol officer, motorcycle traffic officer, PAL board member, and patrol supervisor and resides in San Jose with his wife and daughter.



Thank you, Anthony, for all your hard work and dedication to the Town of Atherton!

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PARKS FOR THE FUTURE

Parks for the Future is the culmination of an effort to secure dedicated tax-based revenues to support the parks and recreation-related activities of San Mateo County, the cities located within the County, the Ladera and Highlands recreation districts and Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. San Mateo County Measure A - *Parks for the Future* – will be on the November 7, 2006, ballot and is an increase in the sales tax by 1/8th of a cent for 25 years, raising the sales tax from 8.25% to 8.375%.

The revenue, projected to raise between approximately \$16 million per year (at 2002 figures), would be allocated to jurisdictions per a formula. For Atherton, this amounts to approximately \$205,000 annually that can be used at Holbrook-Palmer Park and Reading Park. The revenue must be used for park- and recreation-related functions, but each jurisdiction will have the authority to spend the funds according to its need. Funds could be spent on maintenance, operations, activities and programs, capital improvements or acquisition, and jurisdictions could vary how the money is spent over the life of the tax. Under the measure, cities and the County

will be required to maintain their general fund contributions to the parks and recreation budgets. The City/County Association of Governments (C/CAG) will serve as the administrative board for distribution of funds, auditing, and reporting functions.



THE SAN MATEO COUNTY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT

The San Mateo County Mosquito Abatement District is an independent special district supported by property taxes. Originally formed in 1916 to control salt marsh mosquitoes in Burlingame, Hillsborough and Millbrae, the District has since expanded to serve the entire county, from its northern border in Daly City and Brisbane to the Santa Clara County line to the south.

Mosquitoes are controlled by the District through a program of integrated pest management, or “IPM,” which involves monitoring mosquito populations and controlling them in the larval stages before they can emerge as biting adults. The materials used are specific to mosquitoes and do not harm other animals. They include two kinds of bacteria and a mosquito hormone that prevents larvae from developing into adults.

Most of the District’s work is preventative and may go unnoticed by local residents. Each of the twelve full-time mosquito control technicians is responsible for a geographic zone in the county, where they regularly inspect their portion of the over 6,000 catalogued mosquito-breeding sources, from backyard fish ponds, roadside ditches, storm drains and utility vaults to marshes, lakes, and creeks. Technicians are also constantly on the lookout for new sources. When mosquitoes are found, the technician will determine the type and density of mosquitoes present and treat the source with an appropriate biorational control method. Technicians will return to the source to follow up on their treatments and confirm that control measures were effective. The District also monitors and provides information on diseases transmitted to humans by insects and ticks. Surveys for plague and

hantavirus are conducted by District biologists on a regular basis on wild rodents living on San Bruno Mountain. Ticks from county parks are collected and tested for Lyme disease. The district also maintains a comprehensive West Nile Virus monitoring program. Residents can call 1-877-WNV-BIRD to report dead birds, which will be picked up by staff and tested for West Nile Virus. Local mosquitoes are also regularly tested for this virus.

In addition to providing mosquito control and disease surveillance for the county, the District offers a number of other services. Technicians will control ground-nesting yellow jackets, provided the resident knows the location of the nest. District staff will identify other insects and supply information on them and can identify ticks and test them for Lyme disease. Residents with fish ponds can have mosquito fish delivered to their ponds.

TOWN OF ATHERTON

91 Ashfield Road • Atherton, CA 94027

CITY COUNCIL

Meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.
Town Council Chambers • 94 Ashfield Road

Charles E. Marsala, Mayor <i>term expires 11/2006</i>	328-7113 cmarsala@ci.atherton.ca.us
Alan B. Carlson, Vice Mayor <i>term expires 11/2006</i>	408-998-4150 (wk) acarlson@ci.atherton.ca.us
James R. Janz, Council Member <i>term expires 11/2008</i>	325-8666 (wk) jjanz@ci.atherton.ca.us
Kathleen McKeithen, Council Member <i>term expires 11/2008</i>	321-3633 kmckeithen@ci.atherton.ca.us
Jerry Carlson, Council Member <i>term expires 11/2006</i>	321-1327 jcarlson@ci.atherton.ca.us

HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

(All area codes are 650 unless otherwise noted.)



Comcast Cable.....	(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 District.....	363-4569
Voter Registration	312-5222
Menlo Park Fire District	
Business/Administration Office.....	688-8400
Emergency	323-2404 or 911
Waste / Recycling	
Allied Waste / BFI.....	592-2411
Recycling.....	637-1411
Fair Oaks Sanitation District.....	363-4100
West Bay Sanitation District.....	321-0384

DIRECTORY

Contacts & Telephone Numbers

Main Number	752-0500
Fax Number	688-6528
email:	atherton@ci.atherton.ca.us
Animal Control	363-4840
Building	
Michael Cully	752-0523
Acting Building Official	
Information/Inspections	752-0560
Daily Inspection Schedule	752-0561
City Attorney	
Marc Hynes, City Attorney	752-0504
City Manager	
Jim Robinson, City Manager	752-0504
Wende Protzman	752-0546
Assistant to the City Manager	
Kathi Hamilton	
Acting City Clerk	752-0529
City Planner	
Neal Martin, City Planner	799-8466
Lisa Costa Sanders,	
Deputy Town Planner	333-0248
Finance	
John Johns, Director	752-0531
Paula Pierce,	
Assistant Director	752-0519
Library	328-2422
Police	
Robert Brennan	752-0506
General Information	688-6500
Emergency	9-1-1
Post Office	
General Information	752-0500
Public Works	
Information/Permits	752-0570
Duncan Jones, Director	752-0532
Steve Tyler, PW Superintendent	752-0541
Jean Cardona, Park Program Mgr.	752-0534
Kathy Hughes Anderson,	
Town Arborist	752-0526
Heritage Room	
Atherton Heritage Association	688-6540

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR A DISASTER?

Since the Atherton Disaster Preparedness Committee's first meeting a few months ago, committee members have heard from experts how a 1906-type earthquake could destroy highway bridges and block local roads with downed trees and power poles. It might take weeks or months to repair these damages.

Following such a severe earthquake, drivers and passengers that listen to the radio will soon realize that the only way to get home is to walk. (That's why disaster experts urge everyone to carry walking shoes in their vehicles along with enough clothing, food and water to sustain them for the long trek home.)

This scenario is backed up by a study available at the web site of the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG).
http://www.abag.ca.gov/bayarea/eqmaps/eqtrans/penm_rslt.html

ABAG's on-line documents states that a relatively small 7.2-magnitude earthquake on the Peninsula would affect State Routes 1, 9, 35, 84, and 92. They are critical access routes for rural communities in western San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. The research further says "that for planning purposes, it should be assumed that all of these routes may have one or more major closures. I-280, which runs parallel to the fault source, may also be affected by this earthquake. Many highways and roads near the fault source are also susceptible to landsliding. The local roads in the eastern portions of San Mateo County and along the southern Hwy. 101 corridor will

probably only experience scattered road closures. The 101 corridor from the San Francisco Airport north to Marin County is more vulnerable (from liquefaction)."

All in all, ABAG expects about 300 road closures after a local, 7.2-magnitude earthquake.

About bridges, the ABAG study says the San Mateo, Dumbarton, and Bay Bridges are key links between the heavily impacted areas on the Peninsula and the East Bay. For planning purposes, it should be assumed that these bridges are closed, at least for a few days. At the present time, the Bay Bridge can be assumed to be most heavily damaged. In addition, emergency planners should expect that approaches to these bridges, as well as local roads feeding the bridges, will be affected. Also, the Golden Gate and Richmond bridges, as well as southern approaches to the Benicia-Martinez Bridge, may also be affected by this earthquake. In addition, non-retrofitted bridges on local roads should be considered a weak link along transportation routes.

Atherton Disaster Committee members have also been told that the town's limited number of on-duty fire and police personnel would be overwhelmed by a major disaster. That's because only a portion of all staff are actually on duty at any given time.

Off-duty police officers and fire fighters would probably stay with their families after a severe earthquake because they won't be

able to drive to Atherton. Their impediments might be a number of collapsed bridges and the desire to protect their own families in the East Bay and Central Valley. "So, each Atherton resident will be largely on his or her own for many days after a disaster," committee members are told.

What to do

If you're concerned about being prepared in the event of a disaster, like a very strong earthquake, the following resources will help you get started:

- Putting Down Roots in Earthquake Country is a wealth of preparedness information. Go to: <http://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/2005/15/>.
- Many useful Web sites are provided by the United States Geological Survey at: <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/hazards/prepare.html>.
- How men and women faced the 1906 disaster is revealed in an on-line document with many pictures: <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/hazards/prepare.html>.
- You get to customize the disaster information you want at this web site offered by the Association of Bay Area Governments at: <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/> and <http://1906centennial.org/>.

LIBRARY NEWS

NEW ONLINE RESOURCES

San Mateo County Library has recently added many new subscription online resources to our website. Visit us at smcl.org and look under Research, Online Resources for these new databases, including TumbleBooks (animated audio picture books), Auto Repair Reference, NoveList and NoveList K-8 (reading recommendations), Associations Unlimited, Oxford English Dictionary, Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database, CultureGrams, History Resource Center World, and Live Homework Help (interactive online, real-time homework help 1:00 p.m. -10:00 p.m.).

NEW CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN

DeAnn Okamura is our new Youth Services Librarian. She was the Children's Librarian at the San Anselmo Library for the last 8 years and worked for the New York Public Library before that. Please stop by to meet DeAnn and give her a warm Atherton welcome!



CHESS FOR FUN

Come to the Atherton Library and learn basic chess moves! Presented by Dennis Myers, a USCF Expert, and Sponsored by the Atherton Police Activities League (P.A.L.), classes run from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. for children 2nd grade and older. Participants learn about chess strategies and practical techniques and have the opportunity to play one another.

Class Schedule

November 1, 2006
December 6, 2006
January 10, 2007
February 7, 2007
March 7, 2007
April 4, 2007
May 2, 2007



All these services are available to Atherton residents free of charge. The District strives to provide fast, friendly service to the community and to respond promptly to residents' needs. Give the District a call at 650-344-8592 to request service, or stop by the office at 1351 Rollins Road in Burlingame. District staff will usually respond to your request by the next business day. Whether or not you ever need to call to request our assistance, representatives from the Mosquito Abatement District are out in the community every day serving you, as is Doris Kellet, your Mosquito Abatement District Trustee for the Town of Atherton.

ATHERTON LIBRARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Holiday hours and closures

Wednesday, November 22

Library will close at 5 pm

Thursday & Friday November 23-24

Library will be closed. The library will be open on Saturday, November 25 (regular hours)

Grace Fleming or "Megumi"

Monday, November 13, 4 pm

Children's Author Event

Thursday, November 16 at 4 pm

Milly Lee, children's author. *Ages 4 and up.

Storyteller Carolyn Power

Monday, December 11, 4 pm

Children's Storytimes

Itsy-Bitsy Storytime

Tuesday mornings at 10:30 am, September 12 through December 12

For children 0-2 years*

Preschool Storytime

Tuesday afternoons at 3:30 pm, September 12 through December 12

For children 3-5 years*

*Ages for the storytimes are guidelines only. All children are welcome.

ARE YOU REMODELING YOUR HOME?

The Building Department has prepared some information for you if you are considering making alterations to your home.

When are permits required?

Common improvements that require permits and inspections include any addition to an existing structure, remodels, window replacement, exterior door replacements, re-roofs, water heaters, furnace replacements, kitchen and bathroom remodels, dry rot repairs, siding or stucco replacement, foundation repair, seismic upgrades, fireplace repairs or installations, electrical and plumbing repairs.

What construction work does not require a building permit?

1. One-story detached accessory structures used as tool and storage sheds, not exceeding 120 square feet (however, the location of the storage building does need approval from the Planning Division).
2. Fences not over six feet in height, and not located adjacent to a street right-of-way within ten feet.
3. Retaining walls not over 4 feet in height, measured from the bottom of the footing; however, location does need to be approved by the Planning Division.
4. Water tanks on grade not exceeding 5,000 gallons in size; however, location does need to be approved by the Planning Division.
5. Platforms, walks, and driveways not more than 6 inches above grade and not over any basement or story below.

6. Painting, papering, and similar finish work.

Separate grading, electrical, mechanical, or plumbing permits are required if such work is part of any type of work listed above. While some work may be exempt from obtaining a building permit, you are still required to construct in accordance with state building code requirements for fire-safety and structural integrity.

What should you consider in selecting a contractor?

Hiring a qualified contractor who has a proven track record in performing the work you want completed will minimize potential stumbling blocks during a home improvement project. Here are some helpful tips:

- In California, anyone who contracts to perform work that is valued at \$500 or more for materials and labor must hold a current, valid license from the Contractors State License Board (CSLB) in the specialty for which they are contracting.
- Ask to see the contractor's pocket license and additional identification. The name on the pocket license should be the same as the name of the contractor or the contractor's business name.
- If you contract with someone who is not a licensed contractor, the CSLB will not be able to help you if there is a dispute between you and the contractor.
- It is illegal for one contractor to use another contractor's license.
- Before you sign anything, check the contractor's license on the

CSLB Web site to ensure that the license is current and active at www.cslb.ca.gov or call 1-800-321-CSLB (2752).

- Check the different contractors' references for the quality of their work, work habits, and whether the client was happy with the final work.
- Get all work to be done in writing, and make sure everything you are paying for is in the contract.
- The law requires a contractor to give you a written notice of your right to cancel a contract within three business days of signing.
- Down payments should only be 10% of the contract amount, or \$1,000.00, whichever is less. Never pay the full amount of the contract up-front. Always retain at least 10% of the contract amount as final payment until the job is finished.
- Require the contractor to provide you with a copy of the building permits he has obtained from the Town of Atherton and signatures of approved inspections before covering or concealing any work.
- Do not pay the contractor a progress payment for work completed or make a final payment until all required inspections are complete.



Home Remodeling cont'd

To get more information from the California Contractors State License Board, or to report unlicensed construction work, visit www.cslb.ca.gov.

Building Permit Process

Once a final design plan is prepared, these plans need to be submitted to the Building Department to apply for and obtain building permits before work can begin. Once obtained, building permits expire after 180 days if the property owner or contractor does not schedule and pass an inspection. To keep a permit active, the project must receive a passing inspection every six months. If the project experiences a delay in the construction progress, and the permit has not yet expired, a one-time permit extension can be requested in writing to the town's Building Official. Remember, it is up to the property owner and/or contractor to complete the inspection process. Permits that have not received a final inspection can present problems when refinancing a home loan or at the time of sale. Lending institutions want all permits and projects completed before funding most loans. *If you have any questions call (650) 752-0560.*



Mail donations

to: Atherton Tree Committee, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton CA, 94027. Copies of the preliminary plan are available upon request.

IT'S ALL IN THE NAME – PART I

Thanks to the hard work and resourcefulness of the Atherton Civic Interest League, the origin of the name for the majority of Atherton streets have been verified and recorded in *Atherton Lands*. Every attempt was made to locate the source of the name for all the streets in town, but some go back far enough that there is no longer anyone around to authenticate the origin.

ACACIA DRIVE is entered on the first subdivision map of the area of Atherton known as Lindenwood. Maud Lee Flood, the owner of Linden Towers, chose some of the names of the streets, and Acacia was one of her choices.

ACORN WAY received its name on the first Greenoaks subdivision map accepted for record August 20, 1940. The California Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) drops acorns in great quantity, and there are many such trees in the area.

ADAM WAY first appeared on the subdivision map in 1945. The street was named for a grandson of Adam Bianchi who was a member of the firm developing the subdivision.

ALAMEDA DE LAS PULGAS means “avenue of the fleas.” Many versions have been printed about the origin of the name, one being that Simon Mezes chose the title. We do know that it is one of the older streets and appears on the Polhemus Tract Map of 1891.

ALEJANDRA AVENUE. Alejandra was one of Faxon Dean Atherton's daughters. Her name appears on a map of land surveyed in August of 1897 by Davenport Bromfield, a civil engineer. The map is called Valparaiso Park, after the estate of Faxon Dean Atherton.

TREES FOR EL CAMINO

The Atherton Tree Committee is sponsoring a “Trees for El Camino” project. The project calls for close to 100 large crowning trees to be planted in medians that comprise the Atherton section of El Camino. A design workshop where we will gather community input will be held in early 2007. The date, time, and place will be announced later this fall.

The Tree Committee has raised a third of the funds necessary for making this project a reality. So please join the Tree Committee in making this exciting project happen by making tax deductible donations to the Atherton Tree Committee – Trees for El Camino Project and joining us at the community design workshop.

If you have questions regarding this project or other Atherton Tree Committee activities, please contact Denise Kupperman, contact Kathy Anderson, Town Arborist at 752-0526.

