

# TOWN CALENDAR

**MAY**

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

**JUNE**

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					

**JULY**

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	23	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

**May 2008**

6	Atherton Rail Committee	6:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
7	Park & Rec. Commission	6:30 p.m.	H-P Park, Main House
7	General Plan. Committee	6:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
21	City Council	7:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
22	Tree Committee	4:00 p.m.	Admin. Offices Mtg. Rm.
26	<b>Memorial Day Holiday - Town Offices Closed</b>		
27	Arts Committee	1:00 p.m.	H-P Park, Garden Room
28	Planning Commission	6:00 p.m.	Council Chambers

**June 2008**

3	Atherton Rail Committee	6:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
4	Park & Rec. Commission	6:30 p.m.	H-P Park, Main House
18	City Council	7:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
24	Arts Committee	1:00 p.m.	H-P Park, Garden Room
25	Planning Commission	6:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
26	Tree Committee	4:00 p.m.	Admin. Offices Mtg. Rm.

**July 2008**

1	Atherton Rail Committee	6:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
2	Environmental Programs Committee	10:00 a.m.	Admin. Offices Mtg. Rm.
2	Park & Rec. Commission	6:30 p.m.	H-P Park, Main House
4	<b>Independence Day Holiday - Town Offices Closed</b>		
8	Transportation Committee	6:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
16	City Council	7:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
22	Arts Committee	1:00 p.m.	H-P Park, Garden Room
23	Planning Commission	6:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
24	Tree Committee	4:00 p.m.	Admin. Offices Mtg. Rm.



**The Town of Atherton**  
91 Ashfield Road  
Atherton, CA 94027

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STANDARD

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

ATHERTON RESIDENT  
ATHERTON, CA 94027



# ATHERTONIAN

A Quarterly Newsletter for Atherton Residents.

Spring 2008

## State of the City

### LET'S LOOK TO THE FUTURE IN ATHERTON

During my year as Mayor, I would like to see us address the real, long-term issues facing the Town. In our council / manager form of city government, it is the City Manager that is in charge of running the town. I am confident that we have in Jerry Gruber, our new city manager, a very strong leader, who will provide new and aggressive, administrative leadership for our Town. But it then becomes incumbent upon the City Council to do our job – to address the policy issues that will determine what kind of Town we will have tomorrow and thereafter.

Our Town doesn't exist as an island, as it more or less was able to do for much of its 84+ year history. Now we are part of the borderless and inter-linked community of counties, cities, districts and towns that stretches from north of Marin to south of San Jose, from the East Bay to the Pacific Ocean. We can no longer afford to act as if there's a wall around our community and as if regional and global issues don't affect us.

And, we need to focus on the real issues, the "big" issues, not the short-term and temporary internal issues that seem to have bogged us down. There is a plethora of such issues to deal with. Space prevents me from listing them all, or from elaborating on any, but just to name a few:

#### Infrastructure and transportation:

- Drainage – a problem we've had for a long time and which has regional implications. For example, recurrent flooding along El Camino affects the jurisdictions of Atherton, the state of California (state highway), the county and Redwood City.
- Train service to Atherton, possible railroad grade separations, and the implications of high-speed rail. Because we have similar concerns here, we recently held our first Joint Council Meeting with the City of Menlo Park, on January 29, to discuss

these issues.

- Town facilities. We need to replace the old Town Administration Building with a modern and safe physical structure, with a modern police facility, which will put the staff in one building to facilitate more efficient operations.

#### Community:

- We must continue to ensure our security through maintaining our own police force, cooperating with the Fire District, and preparing for emergencies.
- We must develop and enhance our working relationships with the schools in Town.

#### Planning and the Environment:

- The zoning code is being rewritten to eliminate inconsistencies and provide greater clarity.
- We need to reduce our overall environmental impact and our individual carbon footprints. Atherton has the highest energy use per parcel of any city in San Mateo County. Our Environmental Committee is very active, and is looking at that issue and is promoting "green" development.

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## Housing:

- We must update the General Plan and work with our neighbors to conform with State guidelines for housing. The current housing allocation process allocates 83 units to Atherton! Since the last Housing Element amendment, we've added 5 houses to Atherton. We can't add 83 units, and we don't have to, but we do have to "plan" for them. You can imagine how hard that is to do without changing our zoning, which would be hard to accomplish. But the State requires every city and county to plan for its "fair share" of housing. Someday, there will be real teeth in the State allocation of housing, and we can either wait and let it happen to us, or we can think about how we might deal with it, and plan ahead. For example, what about retiring residents who want to stay in Town but want to downsize? Should we encourage in-law units? Should we consider having an area designated for condominiums in our General Plan?
- Here's a related issue. The Parcel Tax expires in 2010. How about thinking outside of the box, maybe even outside of our borders? The tax support from even a limited amount of commercial development might be able to replace the parcel tax. Should we look into the possibility of incorporating some of the unincorporated areas adjacent to Town? Might that be a way to plan for housing? There are definitely things to think about that might resolve several issues at once.

This handful of topics suggests that we have serious issues on our plate. I'm hopeful that we can now move forward with a positive attitude to deal with the issues that the Council should be dealing with. The Council recently held its first-ever retreat/workshop to address operational issues.

*cont'd at top of next column*

## NOTICE OF CLOSURE

The Building and Planning Departments will be closed for training on our new permit tracking software on the following dates:

- Tuesday, April 29 from 8:00 am - 1:00 pm
- Wednesday, April 30 from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
- Thursday, May 1 from 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

*cont'd from previous column*

Going forward, I would expect the General Plan Committee, the Planning Commission, and other public committees to be called upon to look at some of the larger land use, zoning, and financial issues. These are long term problems and it will take a long time to review, analyze, and achieve solutions. But I am confident that we have the resources, the ability, and the commitment to achieve our goals on the issues that we really should be addressing, so that Atherton can look to a promising future.

James R. Janz  
Mayor of Atherton

## DID YOU KNOW.....

- In approximately 6 square miles of Atherton, we have 50 miles of streets.
- We do not have STREETS but we have roads, drives, avenues, circles, lanes, and places.
- Only one road keeps its name as it crosses El Camino Real – Maple Ave.
- Fair Oaks Lane becomes Atherton Avenue as it crosses El Camino, just as Fair Oaks became Atherton after we were incorporated in 1923.
- There are approximately 2400 homes.
- Atherton has no business or industry according to the General Plan. It is to be a residential community.
- Atherton was incorporated September 12, 1923. It was originally called Fair Oaks; but in 1923, there was already a Fair Oaks near Sacramento.
- At the time of incorporation, there were only 650 residents and there were only 130 voters to vote.
- The first attempt to incorporate was in 1911 with Menlo Park, but basic differences could not be resolved.
- Atherton beat Menlo Park to Sacramento by 20 minutes to file for a separate incorporation.



# GOVERNMENT&MISC.INFORMATION



## Members of the Town Council

James R. Janz, Mayor (415) 392-1960 (wk)  
*jjanz@ci.atherton.ca.us*

Jerry Carlson, Vice Mayor 321-1327  
*jcarlson@ci.atherton.ca.us*

Charles E. Marsala, Council Member 328-7113  
*cmarsala@ci.atherton.ca.us*

Kathleen McKeithen, Council Member 321-3633  
*kmckeithen@ci.atherton.ca.us*

*Vacant Council Member Seat*

## HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

(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  
Supv, Richard Gordon, 3rd District.....363-4569  
Voter Registration .....312-5222

### Menlo Park Fire District

BusinessAdministration 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 of TOWN OFFICES

*Contacts & Telephone Numbers*

**Main Number** 752-0500  
Fax Number 688-6528  
email: [atherton@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:atherton@ci.atherton.ca.us)

**Website:** [www.ci.atherton.ca.us](http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us)

### Building

Mike Wassman, Building Official 752-0523  
Information/Inspections 752-0560  
Daily Inspection Schedule 752-0561  
Kathy Hughes Anderson, Town Arborist 752-0526

### City Attorney

Marc Hynes, City Attorney 967-6941

### City Manager

Jerry Gruber, City Manager 752-0504  
Andrea Greenberg, HR Consultant 752-0546  
Kathi Hamilton, Acting City Clerk 752-0529

### Town Planner

Neal Martin, Town Planner 799-8466  
Lisa Costa Sanders, Deputy Town Planner 333-0248

### Finance

Bill Yeomans, Contract Financial Officer 752-0552  
Paula Pierce, Assistant Director 752-0519

### Library

328-2422

### Police

Robert Brennan, Chief of Police 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 of Public Works 752-0532  
Steve Tyler, Superintendent of Public Works 752-0541  
Jean Cardona, Park Program Mgr. 752-0534

### Heritage Room

Atherton Heritage Association 688-6540

# EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE ATHERTON LIBRARY

April 14, 4:00 p.m.:

### GARY T. AND HIS POET TREE

Celebrate National Poetry Month with Gary Turchin as he delights with his interactive poetry, comedy, and storytelling. Ages 4 and up. Sponsored by Margaret Lynch and Mark Merrill.

April 25, 7:00 p.m.: FINAL FRIDAY FLICKS  
(Chicken Little – 2005, Rated G)

The sky is falling! Chicken Little and his band of misfit friends attempt to save the world.

April 30, 4:00 p.m.:

### DIA DE LOS NINOS, DIA DE LOS LIBROS

(Author visit with Yuyi Morales)

San Mateo County Library presents a day devoted to children, books, families, and reading as we celebrate the International Day of the Child, Day of the Book. Award winning children's author and illustrator, Yuyi Morales, will present a program at the Atherton Library. Bi-Lingual story times, crafts, music, and dance will be presented at other libraries in our system throughout the day. Please pick up a flyer at the library for more details.

## A PLACE TO REMEMBER .....

### Holbrook-Palmer Park



### ATHERTON HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

The Atherton Heritage Room, located in the Town Hall, is staffed by the Atherton Heritage Association and is open for research and information on Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The room contains photographs, books, research papers, maps, clippings, oral histories, and home surveys. We invite you to visit us or call (650) 688-6540 and leave a message. If you are interested in history, we would love to have you join us. If you have materials that might be of interest to us, please let us know. We are always looking for new, old material.

### A DAY IN THE PARK

Spring is the perfect time of year to book your next corporate retreat, company picnic, social event, or wedding at Holbrook-Palmer Park located in Atherton. Please call our Parks Program Manager Jean Cardona at 650-752-0534 or visit <http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/holbrookpalmer.html> for more details.

### BICYCLE RODEO

The Atherton Police Department recently conducted a bicycle rodeo for the students of St. Joseph's School. Approximately 100 students attended the rodeo. The rodeo consisted of a 15-minute safety talk, a ladder cantaloupe drop to demonstrate the benefits of wearing a helmet, and five courses set up to test the student's bicycle riding skills, including: hand signals, steering, straight line riding, weaving, and stopping.



The participating students ranged in age from Kindergarten to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. We had a few students go through the courses with training wheels, and one student go through the courses on roller blades. All of the students had a great time. New helmets were provided to students who did not own one from the Atherton Police Department.

### ADDITIONS TO TOWN WEBSITE

We are in the process of adding new additions to our website. Currently, we have added a "Forms Available" page which allows users to download and print any necessary forms needed. Please visit our Town website at [www.ci.atherton.ca.us](http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us) for more details.

### BATTERY AND CELL PHONE RECYCLING

A new curbside collection program has been implemented by Allied Waste for cell phone and battery recycling. Household batteries accepted for collection include rechargeable and disposable alkaline types, cell phone, laptop and lantern batteries, and the small button-shaped lithium batteries, but no automotive batteries. Residents should put batteries or cell phones in a sealed, clear, zip lock plastic bag and place on top of their mixed paper recycling bin on their collection day. Lithium batteries should be taped and cell phones wrapped in paper before placing in the plastic bag.



*cont'd in next column*

### IDENTITY THEFT PROTECTING PERSONAL INFORMATION

There is no shortage of articles in the press about identity theft. Many of these stories focus on the massive thefts of credit card or other personal information from electronic commerce websites or banks. Unfortunately, you have little control over these events, and there is not much you can practically do to prevent them.

Less focus is placed on the more common form of identity theft we see in Atherton and around the Bay Area. The crooks are more likely to take your identity by stealing your mail or by rummaging through your trash or recycling bins. The good news here is that you do have an opportunity to protect yourself. Here are some suggestions:

- Before you discard anything with your personal information, particularly your social security number or bank account information, shred it.
- Protect your mail by investing in a locking mailbox. It will afford you the additional luxury of not worrying about your mail while you're out of town.
- Only send mail, particularly personal checks, from public mailboxes.

Detective Sherman Hall is available to answer questions or present to your community group. His direct line is 650-261-2811.

*cont'd from previous column*

Allied Waste drivers will take the plastic bags off the top of the mixed paper bin and place them in a special container in his or her truck. The heavy metals or toxic components of the batteries such as cadmium, nickel, zinc, mercury, manganese, lead and lithium are separated and recycled. Cell phones are reused or recycled.



# WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND TOWN....

## Street Construction Update 2008

This summer we will see more significant street construction throughout Atherton. In addition, there will be several significant street drainage projects constructed. For most streets, some period of street closure, and the attendant inconvenience to residents on the street, must occur in order to accomplish the construction in a reasonable timeframe.

The list below will give an idea of when construction will start and how long the project will take. The contractors for each project will give more specific information, using a notice given to each resident as well as signs posted on each street. Each street will be open to residents each evening, and provisions can be made with the contractor for occasional access during the weekday construction time. Detour signs will be placed to guide motorists around the construction area.



The streets will be constructed one at a time, with the schedule for each street to be determined by the contractor. Each street will take 1-3 weeks to complete. The project will be completed in late October.

### Patching, Cape Seal, and Slurry Seal Alameda de las Pulgas

In addition to the reconstruction projects that will be underway this summer, a major cape seal project will occur to patch and seal Alameda de las Pulgas through the Town limits from Camino a Lago to Stockbridge Avenue. This project is designed to repair small areas of pavement failure and seal the street to prolong its useful life. Once sealed, the striping on the roadway will be renewed with thermoplastic stripes. This project will begin in June after school is out, and take approximately two months to complete (the slurry has to settle before thermoplastic can be applied).

Slurry Sealing will occur in August and September on the following streets:

Betty Lane	Mosswood Way
Callado Way	Mulberry Lane (2-54)
Catalpa (S2)	Oak Avenue
Douglass Way	Palmer Avenue
Elena Avenue (S)	Park Drive
Emilie Avenue	Park Lane (E)
Encina Avenue	Parker Avenue
Encinal Avenue	Placitas Avenue
Fletcher Dr (329-327)	Polhemus Ave (290-255)
Greenoaks Drive	Prado Secoya
Hawthorne Drive	Ridgeview Dr
Holbrook Lane	(301-398)
Howard Way	Rosewood Drive
Inglewood Lane	Serrano Drive
Leon Way	Selby Lane (N-S)
MacBain Avenue	Stockbridge Avenue (W)
Maple Avenue	Sutherland Drive
Meadow Lane	Walsh Road
Michaels Way	Wisteria Way

All of these streets may not be able to be completed within the available budget. *cont'd on page 9*

### Reconstruction Stevick Drive

Stevick Drive from Alameda de las Pulgas to the end of the cul-de-sac will begin construction in July. The street will be closed to two-way traffic, one side at a time. The project will include a subdrain system to prevent groundwater from impacting the roadway base, a solid pipe system to collect the subdrain water, and to connect all property outlets (to avoid the summertime gutter slime). The gutters will also be reconstructed due to their damaged condition. The project will be completed in mid- October.

### Street Reconstruction Phase 4

The following streets will also be reconstructed, starting in early August:

- Selby Lane cul-de-sac (350-380)
- Rebecca Lane cul-de-sac
- Juniper Drive
- Lupin Lane

## STREET CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

*cont'd from page 4*

The streets will be sealed in priority order based on their Pavement Condition Index (PCI) until the available sealing budget is exhausted. Patching will occur in August on those streets needing patching before sealing.

### Drainage

The projects for this year are listed in the Nolte Townwide Drainage Study (2001) as a Priority 5. They have been elevated to a current priority, in part due to the fact that Priorities 1-4 cost more than the Town has available, and in part due to the number of residents expressing their concern about these areas.

### Fletcher/Ridgeview

The project will construct a storm drain system of pipes to collect the runoff from Alta Vista, Fletcher and Ridgeview, and convey it to the system at the bottom of Ridgeview at Sutherland. Due to new permit requirements, the pipe system will be designed to include detention storage similar to the storage systems required for new homes in Atherton. This will increase the system time of concentration and reduce the potential for flooding downstream in the Atherton Channel. This project will begin in July and be completed in September.

### Polhemus Cul-De-Sacs

The project will construct a storm drain system of pipes to collect the runoff from the street and the property drain outlets and convey it to the system at the intersection with Polhemus Avenue. Due to new permit requirements, the pipe system will be oversized to include detention storage similar to the storage systems required for new homes in Atherton. This will increase the system time of concentration and reduce the potential for flooding downstream in the San Mateo County system and Redwood Creek. This project will begin in August and be completed in October.

For additional information on these projects, contact the following Public Works Staff:

Reconstruction & Drainage  
Duncan Jones ..... 752-0532

*cont'd in next column*

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Patch and Seal  
Steve Tyler ..... 752-0541

For information on streets not on the above lists, contact Duncan Jones at 752-0532.

## PRICES DROPPING FOR EMERGENCY FOOD

Over the past year, members of the Atherton's Disaster Preparedness Committee have seen the cost of a major emergency food product drop more than half. A year ago, NutriStorage of Utah (nutristorage.com) offered its "bucket" of emergency food for \$225. Now it has priced the same 275 food servings at \$109.95 plus shipping. Costco offers what's apparently the same product at even a lower price: \$84.95 (which includes shipping and is only available online at costco.com). The bucket's contents qualify for disaster usage because it only requires heated water to reconstitute it, and the freeze-dried contents are claimed to last up to 20 years!

The need for emergency food is often cited by disaster experts who expect that a major earthquake or pandemic may prevent food and water from reaching us in quantity for five weeks. That's when stored water and a white, water-sealed plastic bucket might make the difference between life or death. This storage device is only a foot in diameter and 15 inches high. Each metallic packet contains five to nine servings. Now might be a good time to purchase a bucket and experiment with flavoring and the ingredients' ability to sustain a productive life.

## Atherton Police Enforce Overweight Truck Ordinance

In order to maintain the integrity of Town roadways, commercial vehicles in excess of 3 tons are not permitted to drive upon Atherton streets unless they have a scheduled delivery or other bonafide business in Town.

Drivers of these heavy trucks violating the town ordinance are subject to citation. Periodically, Atherton Police Officers staff the designated "Truck Stop" on Middlefield Road at Marsh Road.



## E-WASTE RECYCLING EVENT

In conjunction with the GreenSTART Fair at Holbrook-Palmer Park, the Environmental Programs Committee is holding an E-Waste Recycling Event. On Sunday May 4, from 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m., residents can dispose of unwanted electronic devices. AERC Recycling Solutions is partnering with the Town to collect, transport and recycle all materials collected. The following types of electronic equipment will be accepted during the event: Computer equipment including monitors, CPU units, hard disk drives, modems, laptops and computer accessories such as keyboards, speakers, mice, ect.; Office equipment including photocopiers, fax machines, telephones, adding machines; Personal electronics including televisions, cellular phones and telephones, stereos, radios, CD players, DVD players, VCR/VHS players, electronic toys and cameras.

## ARBOR DAY 2008

On Saturday, April 19, the Tree Committee will hold its 19<sup>th</sup> annual Arbor Day celebration at Selby Lane School. Volunteers are needed to help the Committee, along with students, teachers and parents to plant trees and do some spring cleanup of landscaped areas. The event will take place from 9 a.m. - 12 Noon at Selby Lane School, 170 Selby Lane in Atherton. Professional arborists will be on hand to demonstrate the proper techniques for planting trees. Learn how to avoid planting pitfalls such as girdling roots and planting pit preparation that can lead to poor tree development and health down the road. Educational displays and refreshments will be provided.



## EPC's GreenSTART: Moving from awareness to action

Record temperatures were set across the country in 2007, along with record forest fires in California and the continuation of a drought that still threatens the water supply for the whole city of Atlanta. Al Gore, together with the IPCC, won the Nobel Peace Prize for his work to raise awareness on climate change; the IPCC's stunning clear reports have brought the world new appreciation of the views of the world's top scientists of the reality and the severity of the risks the world faces for not addressing climate change.

The year 2007 was also the year that the Atherton Environmental Programs Committee (EPC) first celebrated Earth Day, with a full week of events and programs designed to raise awareness within the community about the things that we can do here at home to address climate change. But rather than repeat its successful Earth Action Week program for a second year, the EPC has decided to mix learning with action. This year, the committee created and launched GreenSTART, a more ambitious program—one designed to move the Atherton community from awareness to action. "Most of us have had enough great opportunities to get information about the environmental problems we're facing. It is now time for all of us to start to make real changes in our own lives", says Valerie Gardner, EPC member and chair of the EPC's 2007 Earth Action Week. "GreenSTART is a collaborative community competition that engages all parts of Atherton in a fun environmental challenge to start taking actions to be greener."

How does GreenSTART do this? It seems that Atherton has around 6,300 students at its 10 schools and just over this number in residents. GreenSTART provides two primary ways to participate. If you are a student, you can enter the student environmental challenge by registering an environmental project idea. These can include putting compost bins in classrooms, improving the bike lanes for your bike ride to school, or even something as ambitious as helping your school get solar power. The contest then requires that the students figure out how they would execute the program and get it to happen.

## PREPARE YOUR GARDEN FOR SPRING WITH FREE COMPOST

Its springtime and that means gardening. Back by popular demand, Rethink Waste, Allied Waste, and the Town of Atherton have teamed up to give away compost on Saturday, April 19, 2008. The compost is made from yard trimmings, which make up more than half of California's municipal waste, collected at the curb, and composted at a local composting facility. Residents may bag the compost, at no charge, from Holbrook-Palmer Park, 150 Watkins Avenue, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., as long as the supply lasts. Residents must bring their own containers and shovels. The compost may be used as an amendment to enrich the soil for lawns, gardens, ornamental plants, trees and potted plants. Applying nutrient rich organic compost to your yard is a non-chemical alternative to fertilizers. Anyone interested in making his/her own compost should contact [www.recycleworks.org](http://www.recycleworks.org) for more information on composting workshops, worm composting, and reduced-priced bins.



EPC's GreenSTART cont'd from page 8

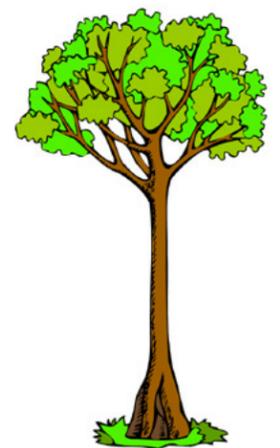
They need to think through all the moving parts and put together a presentation on what they want to do and how they would do it. These presentations will be made to the whole community during the GreenSTART Fair, now scheduled for May 4. Meanwhile, residents and homeowners can get into the act as well. While the students figure out projects for their schools or neighborhoods, residents can take a look at their own home footprint. They can evaluate their use of electricity, natural gas, petroleum, and water and begin to assess whether or not there are ways they can use less. Atherton has larger homes on average than surrounding towns and has historically topped the charts on energy usage per household. The GreenSTART program gives homeowners some of the information and tools they need to begin to make a dent in their traditional usage patterns.

## GREENER HOME HOUSE TOUR

The Environmental Programs Committee is hosting a tour of an Atherton home under construction with open walls showing the green building systems being used. The major renovation of this older home features special innovations in: energy saving walls, floors and roofs; energy efficient heating and cooling; shower heat reclamation plumbing; water reclamation designs; eco-friendly wine seller and more. The owner-led tour will take place on Sunday, April 21, from 1 p.m. -4 p.m. There is no charge, but space is limited. RSVP by April 17 to [events@athertongreen.net](mailto:events@athertongreen.net) or by calling Kathy Hughes Anderson at 752-0526.

## TREES FOR EL CAMINO SECOND SPRING CHARETT

The Atherton Tree Committee once again invites interested parties to join them to discuss planting options for the El Camino Real medians. Public input is being sought before moving forward to present its recommendations to the City Council. The Tree Committee would like to replace the small trees currently planted in the medians with large crowning trees and is inviting residents to be a part of the creative process with their design professionals to brainstorm a conceptual plan for the new and improved El Camino medians. This meeting will build upon the valuable input provided by participants of the first charette held in September 2007. The meeting will be held on Thursday, May 15, 2008, 6:30 p.m., in the Main House at Holbrook-Palmer Park. For more information, contact Kathy Hughes Anderson at (650) 752-0526.



# NEW EMPLOYEES AND OUR EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER



**JERRY GRUBER**  
**NEW CITY MANAGER**

Born and raised in Southern California, Jerry Gruber served in the United States Air Force from 1979 –1985. Jerry spent the next 19 years in Florida and was the manager for Sandestin Utility Company from 1985 – 1987. Jerry worked for South Walton Utility Company from 1987 until 2004 and served as manager. In 2004, Jerry was hired by the Department of Water and Power for the City of Big Bear Lake as the General Manager and served until 2007. Jerry's first day as City Manager for the Town of Atherton was January 14, 2008. Jerry holds a Bachelors Degree in Resource Management and a Master's Degree in Public Administration.

Jerry is married to Melanie, who teaches 5<sup>th</sup> grade, and has two daughters, Nicole 26 and Rachel 24. Jerry enjoys running, biking, and hiking.



**EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER**

Congratulations to Janelle Miller for being selected as the Employee of the Quarter! Janelle was nominated by a fellow employee who feels she deserves this honor for her dedication to the Town. Her coworker commented, "Janelle's positive attitude and patience is what helped her get through training with ease and confidence, as well as the excitement to be on her own when the time came.

She is genuine and shows her loyalty to her job, the Police Department, and the whole town." Janelle became a dispatcher for the Atherton Police Department in 1997 and has been selected as a "Dispatcher of the Year" for San Mateo County. She has also been a school teacher and enjoys educating children on "911 for Kids" classes. Keep up the great work, Janelle, and thank you for all you do for the Town of Atherton!



**JEANNE ENBERG**  
**NEW COMMUNICATIONS SUPERVISOR**

Born and raised in Palo Alto, Jeanne Enberg started with the Palo Alto Police Department as a Dispatcher in 1981. She moved up the ranks to Lead Dispatcher and accepted a position with the Los Altos Police Department as a Police Services Manager in 1998 where she managed the Communications, Records, Property and Evidence and Crime Prevention units.

Her family relocated to the Central Coast, where she took a position with the Santa Maria Police Department as the Communications and Training Manager for the past five years.

She decided it was time to move back home and was selected to be the Communications and Records Supervisor for Atherton Police, where she has been a part-time dispatcher for the past seven years.

Jeanne has a Bachelor of Science and an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice, as well as being a certified Para-legal. In her spare time, she is a certified background investigator.

We welcome Jeanne to our full-time staff!



**NICOLE AMORE**  
**NEW COMMUNICATIONS DISPATCHER**

Nicole was born and raised in Santa Clara, CA with her mother and step-father. She attended Archbishop Mitty High School and was very involved with campus activities such as student government, campus ministry, field hockey, and track and field. She was accepted and made a decision to attend University of the Pacific, in Stockton. It was not too close nor too far from the occasional home cooking. She majored in Speech and Language Pathology and volunteered at a local elementary school for children in the Special Education Program. Living on campus, in the Alpha Phi sorority house, she also kept busy as one of the vice presidents in charge of recruitment, membership, finances, and on-campus Greek affairs. In the midst of endless activities, she relieved her stress with her intramural sports participation.

After finishing school and wanting to take time off from jumping into a Master's program, Nicole went back to work full-time at By-the-Bucket restaurant. She filled many positions such as a server, bartender, manager, and banquet coordinator. She enrolled in the P.O.S.T. Public Safety Consortium for dispatchers and obtained a certificate of completion with the program. After working for the City of Berkeley Police Dept, she was excited to get an offer from Atherton Police Department. This is now her home away from home.

On her days off, Nicole enjoys spending time with her boyfriend, going to hockey and baseball games, and playing with her cat. Nicole looks forward to starting her career here and is very happy being a part of the Atherton Community!