



Task Force Invites You To 'Build' Your Own Town Center



The Blue Ribbon Task Force has located a model in the lobby of our Administration Center that allows residents, staff, and visitors to the postal facility to 'build' what they think would be their ideal Atherton Town Center.

The model of the ground area surrounding the present facilities is accompanied by a series of 'one and two story boxes' that can be used to compile the various space needs in different configurations. Each box states its (scaled) square footage, and whether that box is one or two stories high. The numbers on the back also indicate what the box's 'aspect ratio' is; that is whether the ratio of one side to the other is one-to-one (a square) or whether that aspect ratio is one-to-two (ie. a rectangle where one side is twice as long as the other).

YOU get to choose whether you want your Town Center to be a single building or a series of pavilions. If you opt for the single building approach, you have four choices related to your preference for a one or two story building of two different aspect ratios (marked on the boxes as 1::1 or 2::1). If you think pavilions are 'the way to go' then you can have several of one story, or several pavilions of two stories; or you can combine some of the different floor heights and aspect ratios. All the boxes are built of gray-blue foamboard and easily moved. And while the white foamboard model of the 1965 Town Center can be taken away, the green foamboard 1930s Council Chambers and (later) library are immovable – indicating they are to be left in place. The 'lollipop' trees are the larger ones on the site – mostly Heritage Trees – so try building your ideal and 'save the lollipops.'

Everyone is encouraged to put together one or more 'buildings or pavilions' that add up to the total of about 25,000 square feet; the amount estimated as Atherton's present need for public facilities' spaces.

Your design can be a few square feet above or below that target, but remember that we're trying to get a realistic idea of what our residents and others think the Town Center should be.

Once you've decided on your choice of the massing for your new Town Center, you will be asked to fill out a questionnaire concerning those choices. Although the 'boxes' you used are architecturally neutral, you can indicate your architectural and planning preferences and to what depth Atherton ought to go to have its public service facilities be 'Green.'

The questions are:

- *What street would you like as the main entry to the Town Center?*
Ashfield Road
Station Street (Dinkelspeil)
Fair Oaks

Story Continued on Page 2

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- *Do you prefer a single building or pavilion-based Town Center?*
 - A single building for all offices
 - A series of pavilions on one floor
 - A series of pavilions of two floors
 - A series of pavilions of one and two floors
- *Would you be willing to pay more for the construction of a 'Green Building' complex; assuming energy savings pay back the extra costs in 3-7 years?* (The measurement – Leadership In Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) – is gained both by having more energy-savings operations and by finding methods in the design and building that use fewer and recycled or environmentally sustainable materials and processes. The highest LEED solution, Platinum, was achieved in the new Portola Valley town center using materials recycled from local buildings and forests, as well as carefully planned energy conservation.)

- LEED Silver Solution (± 5% more)
- LEED Gold Solution (±10% more)
- LEED Platinum Solution (±15% more)

- *What style architecture would you prefer?*
 - Not decided – want to see architects' offerings later
 - Classical (eg. White House) Style –
 - Spanish or Mission Style –
 - Contemporary Style –
 - Other – (please state)

Come and try out your hand at design. Do it because it will help the Task Force decide what the residents and neighbors to the Town Center want. Do it because it takes only 5-10 minutes and is fun. When you're finished, look on your handiwork as your contribution to make Atherton a better place to live.

ATHERTON DRAINAGE CHANNEL



- Above: Council Member Elizabeth Lewis and Phil Lively gear up to walk the Atherton Drainage Channel one rainy Sunday morning
- Left: Concrete water diversion system along Walsh Road, Atherton

When it Rains—It Flows

Spring Rains Test Atherton Channel

On a recent Sunday morning, Phil Lively and Council Member Elizabeth Lewis layered up with rain slickers and umbrellas to walk the length of the Atherton Drainage Channel. While the rains and watershed run-off from upper Sand Hill and Valley Road properties had clearly filled the channel, Phil Lively remarked that the flow was still not at its highest peak. He visits the watershed and channel several times each winter to observe and monitor the effectiveness of the concrete water diversion systems that Atherton paid for and built in 2005 at a cost of over \$300,000, due to erosion and undercutting of the banks under Walsh Road. Lively was pleased to see that Atherton's investment was worth it.

TOWN EMPLOYEE NEWS

KELLI ROBERTSON
EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Congratulations to Office Specialist Kelli Robertson for being selected as the Employee of the Quarter for the months of January 2009 through March 2009!

The Finance Department would like to extend a BIG thank you to Kelli Robertson for all of her willingness to help assist them as needed for the past quarter. Kelli currently works in the Atherton Building Department as an Office Specialist supporting the Building Official, Building Inspectors, and Permit Technician. Kelli took the time out of her busy schedule to help support Finance when they needed an extra set of hands. Again, we thank you Kelli and congratulate you in accepting this honor for Employee of the Quarter.



Global Volunteer Effort To Gansu, China

Mr. Kenneth Huo, Building Inspector/Plan Checker for the Town of Atherton volunteered to lead a team of other engineers on a diplomacy effort in Gansu, China. They offered their expertise, brought learning tools, like school bags, and donations were given such as backpacks, books, pencils, etc. (supplied at their own expense) for the rebuilding effort. Their mission also worked to build a bridge between Foster City Audubon Elementary and a quake damaged school, to create friendship and support. Kenneth believes that there are ways to break down stress which comes from helping others... even from far reaching locations...as far away as China. The Gansu province, a region still in an earthquake recovery phase, learned of a dynamic and holistic strategy to rebuild.



From left, John Mullins (Hillsborough), F.L. Kong (San Jose), Center behind Kenneth Huo (Atherton), Chinese Noodle Master, Fred Turner (Sacramento - California Seismic Safety Commission), K. N. Li (Tokyo)

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED
TO THE

ATHERTON DAMES'
Annual Easter Egg Hunt

SATURDAY, APRIL 11TH
10:00 a.m. - NOON

HOLBROOK-PALMER PARK
150 Watkins Ave, Atherton

\$5/PERSON
BRING YOUR OWN BASKETS & CAMERA!
INVITE FRIENDS! OPEN TO EVERYONE.

Easter Egg hunt (starts promptly at 10:00 a.m.)
Gerald the Magician
Photos with the Easter Bunny
Police Car & Fire Truck viewing
Breakfast Food and Drinks for all
Specialty coffees for adults

To reserve your spot call VERONICA 650.853.0503
vkogler@yahoo.com



The Atherton Train Station started as a "flag stop" in the late 1800s when residents of San Francisco purchased land and built summer homes. At that time Atherton was known as "Fair Oaks" and the train would only stop at the station if there was a person waving a flag.

When Atherton was incorporated in 1923, the name was changed from Fair Oaks to Atherton since there was already a Fair Oaks near Sacramento. Atherton Heritage Association

Atherton Arts Committee's New Advances

Demolition has begun in the Garden Room of the Main House in Holbrook-Palmer Park for the Atherton Arts Committee's (AAC) Gallery. Local artists will be invited to exhibit their works and classes encompassing the arts will be scheduled.

The AAC Agenda for the next several months is as follows:

The Arts Committee will participate with the Friends of the Atherton Community Library (FACL) on Sunday, April 19, 2009, to host the classical guitar performance of Peter Fletcher at the Library, 2 Dinkelspiel Lane. The AAC and FACL Reception of tasty morsels and drinks will be held at 4:30 p.m. and the concert follows from 5:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.

The AAC has been asked to help feature local Artists on one half of the Atherton Library walls beginning in June 2009. The Menlo Park Art League has the responsibility for the other half of the Exhibit. Our first AAC representative is Larry Calof, a photographer of warm and delightful wildlife, during June and July. Our second scheduled artist, Alice Marston, whose medium is oils, will exhibit the months of August and September.

Outreach Programming has been one of the AAC's basic interests since its inception. This year we have scheduled a week of art for children's classes for either July or August. More details will follow. The popular, local teacher, Claudia Myall, conducted our classes in 2008, and we are planning on her availability this year.

Our pride and joy AAC Exhibition and Reception, the Fifth Annual in our history, will be held September 18, 2009, at Jennings Pavilion in Holbrook-Palmer Park from 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Local artists are asked to participate.

In anticipation of this event, the public is invited to view four of our local Atherton artists this month and April. The juried San Mateo County Women's Art Show is currently exhibiting women artists in the Caldwell Gallery located in the County's Hall of Justice, 400 County Center in Redwood City, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. The four Atherton artists showing their works there are: Martha Berliner, Judy Gaulke, Lenore Horowitz, and Mary Yotopoulos. The AAC extends its congratulations!

PROGRAMS AT THE ATHERTON LIBRARY

Library 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton 328-2422

CHILDREN'S STORYTIMES

Toddler Time

Tuesday at 10:30 AM
Ages 18 to 36 months

Preschool Storytime

Tuesday at 3:30 PM
May 15 - August 14
Ages 3 - 6

Musical Storytime

2nd & 4th Thursday of month
June - August at 4:00 PM
June 11 & 25; July 9 & 23;
August 13 & 27
For all ages

Saturday Family Storytime

Once month Saturday at 11 AM
April 11, May 9, June 13
All ages welcome

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

April 13 at 4 PM – Nancy Cassidy
Children's Musician
For all ages

Thursday, April 30 at 4 PM –
Día de los Niños/Día de los Libros
A Spanish bingo game for children

April 27 at 4 PM – Strega Nona

Pasta Party
For ages 4 & up
Registration required

May 11 at 4 PM – Dana Smith

Juggling and Circus Arts
For all ages

June 29 at 4 PM – Steve Chaney

Ventriloquist
For ages 3 & up

July 6 at 4 PM – CLAP Arts Assembly

For ages 5 & up

July 13 at 4 PM – Dave Rodriguez

Astro Wizard
For all ages

July 20 at 4 PM – Magic Mike

For all ages

Paws For Tales

4th Saturday of each month
from 11 AM to Noon
Ages 5 & older sign up in advance &
read to trained therapy dog
April 25, May 23, June 27, July 25

Final Friday Flicks @ 7:00 PM

Family films are shown
April 24, May 29, June 26, July 31

Ice Cream Social & Book Exchange

Saturday, June 20
from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Bring a book, take a book,
& have some free ice cream

Summer Reading Program Begins

June 1 for children & teens!
Theme is Be Creative @ Your Library
for children
Express Yourself @ Your Library
for teens

ADULT PROGRAMS

Film Nights Fridays

April 17, May 8, June 12 at 7 PM
Contact the library for the film title

Classical Guitarist Concert

with Peter Fletcher
Sunday, April 19 at 5 PM,
Reception at 4:30 PM

Parenting Workshop

Wednesday, May 27 at 7 PM
"Turning No into Yes"
Adults only please



2nd National Conversation on Climate Action April 20 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Holbrook-Palmer Park Pavilion

Atherton residents were recognized for Green Building at the last Climate Action night by the Atherton Environmental Programs Committee (EPC):
Photo: left to right Wendy Adams, EPC Chair Council Member Charles Marsala, Jackie and Cris Gaertner, Carol Flaherty, and James Witt.

Atherton Environmental Programs Committee with Yale School of Forestry and ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability will participate in a National Conversation on Climate Change.

Eighty-five people turned out for the first event held in 2007 with officials from Menlo Park, Woodside, and several angel investors and venture capitalists speaking. Three Atherton residents and their contractors will receive Atherton's Green Building Awards for projects completed in 2008.

If you are involved in CleanTech, or want to hear how local visionaries are responding to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, creative solutions, and reduce energy consumption, this is a great opportunity to learn and network.

To attend: RSVP to www.AthertonGreen.net; if you are involved in CleanTech Technologies and want to be on the panel, contact Council Member Charles Marsala. (650) 328-7113.

Atherton Garden Guild

Not only do the members of the Atherton Garden Guild tend their own gardens and arrange their flowers, they are pleased to provide floral arrangements for the Atherton Community Library and take care of the Rose Garden at Holbrook Palmer Park.

Tree Committee News

The Atherton Tree Committee invites residents to celebrate Arbor Day on April 25th at Holbrook-Palmer Park. This year's annual event will feature a one-hour Tree Walk with the Town's arborist Kathy Anderson and Ron Eicher from Arborwell. ISA certified arborists will lead a walk around the Park to identify and point out the key features, interesting characteristics, and histories of diverse trees in the park, many of which could be attractive additions to home gardens. These ISA certified arborists will be happy to take questions. The walk will be followed by a tree planting ceremony to celebrate Arbor Day. Meet at the Carriage House at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday April 25, 2009.

The National Arbor Day Foundation recently recognized Atherton as a "Tree City USA" for the nineteenth year in a row.

The National Arbor Day Foundation (www.arborday.org) is a non-profit organization with a mission to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees. The Atherton Tree Committee understands that trees are a vital component of the infrastructure in our Town, and they provide many environmental and economic benefits. Among other activities, the Tree Committee planted ten new trees on Middlefield Road in January.

The Tree Committee is gearing up for Phase I of the Trees for El Camino planting project. The first of the new trees for El Camino are scheduled to be planted in the summer of 2009. Donations are still needed to fund the entire project. Send your tax deductible donation to The Atherton Tree Committee, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, CA 94027. For more information see www.ci.atherton.ca.us/treecommittee.html

Do you miss the Tree News newsletter sent to all Atherton residents? Due to the state budget crisis, the winter edition never made it to press. Many other non-profit groups across the state had their projects halted as well. We hope to hear good news on grant funding from California ReLeaf to publish a spring or summer Tree News.

New Alarm Service for Residents

February 2009

The Atherton Police Department has upgraded our alarm receiver and alarm software. These upgrades not only allow your Police Department to monitor your alarms, but also enable us to tell where the activation point is by programming your zones into our software at the Police Department. This allows the Officers responding to the alarm to know exactly where the activation point is.

To take advantage of this service, please contact your alarm company and have them supply the Police Department with a written list of your zones.

Some older alarm systems may only tell the Police Department that it is a burglary activation, fire activation or medical activation. In these cases it might be necessary for your alarm company to re-program your alarm system if possible.

The Police Department will not know how your system was programmed. This information should be obtained from your alarm company. Also, be aware that if you have an older alarm system, the system may or may not be able to be reprogrammed with specific zone information.

Steps to take:

1. Call your alarm company if you need information on how your system is programmed.
 2. Your system can be programmed to ring into the Police Department, for no fee. Be aware, some alarm companies are reluctant or simply will not program the system to the Police Department and they may charge you a programming fee. This is between you and your alarm company.
 3. If your system is already programmed with zones, please have your alarm company supply the Police Department with a written, detailed list, so the zones can be programmed into our alarm software.
 4. Your alarm company should only test your system zones after the Police Department has programmed this new information into our system.
 5. Contact your homeowners insurance to see if you qualify for a rate reduction, once your system is installed and connected to your Police Department.
- Your Atherton Police Department is pleased to be able to provide you with this enhanced service.



Members of the Town Council

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

Jerry Carlson, Mayor

jcarlson@ci.atherton.ca.us
321-1327

Kathleen McKeithen, Vice Mayor

kmckeithen@ci.atherton.ca.us
321-3633

Charles E. Marsala, Council Member

cmarsala@ci.atherton.ca.us
328-7113

Jim Dobbie, Council Member

jdobbie@ci.atherton.ca.us
327-3946

Elizabeth Lewis, Council Member

elewis@ci.atherton.ca.us
533-8830

Contact Information

Town of Atherton
91 Ashfield Road • Atherton, CA 94027

OUR MISSION Town of Atherton Organizational Mission Statement

The Mission of the Administration of the Town of Atherton is to:

- Provide high-quality, innovative services;
- Appreciate and develop human resources;
- Manage physical plant and financial resources efficiently;
- Protect the unique environment that makes Atherton special.

INCORPORATED SEPTEMBER 12, 1923

Helpful Phone Numbers

Menlo Park Fire District
Emergency: 911 or 323-2404
Business Administration Office
688-8400

County Services

Animal Control
363-4840
Assessor
363-4500
Richard Gordon,
Supervisor, 3rd District
363-4569
Voter Registration
312-5222
Mosquito Abatement
For Collecting and
Testing Dead Birds
For West Nile Virus
(877) 968-2473
Service Calls
Or Information
344-8592
www.smcad.org

Utilities

Comcast Cable
800-945-2288
California Water Service
367-6800
Pacific Gas & Electric
800-743-5000
Fair Oaks Sanitation District
363-4100
West Bay Sanitation District
321-0384

Waste/Recycling

Allied Waste
592-2411
Recycling
637-1411

POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES Video Monitoring Services

Driving along the streets of Atherton, one can see the proliferation of cameras owned by our residents. Homeowners use these cameras to monitor their gates. Some use them to keep an eye on their homes while they are away. Some corporations even use them to monitor the properties of their executives who live in Town.

The Police Department is now positioned to take its alarm monitoring offer to the next level. In addition to monitoring Atherton alarm systems, we are able to receive feeds from your cameras.

Our implementation was designed around our own surveillance needs at the Town center. It was built, however, with the flexibility to expand to other critical points of interest: the park, intersections, schools, etc. It also offers the possibility of viewing cameras from inside the patrol vehicles.

In crafting our offer to the residents, we paid special attention to privacy concerns. The system will be implemented in such a way that the only time we see your cameras will be when your alarm activates. Having a live camera feed of your residence shortens our "virtual response time" to mere seconds.

It also allows us to better gauge how we respond to events. Our Dispatcher will be able to view video from the minutes immediately preceding an alarm activation. The Police Department can also obtain a live feed of the cameras, enabling us to see persons on your property, vehicle descriptions, and other vital information. A vehicle description, for example, would give a responding Officer the probable cause needed to stop the car if they were to see it on the way to your residence.

If you are interested in having the Police Department accept video feeds from your property, please attend an informational event on Thursday, April 23, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Detective Sherman Hall will provide a demonstration of the system and host questions and answers.

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Jerry Gruber Editor
Melanie Brabenec Assistant Editor
Ed Jasmin Graphic Designer

Directory of Town Offices

Main Number: 650-752-0500
Fax Number: 650-688-6528
Email: atherton@ci.atherton.ca.us
Website: www.ci.atherton.ca.us

Administration

General Information/Post Office

Jerry Gruber
City Manager

Eileen Wilkerson
Assistant City Manager

Theresa DellaSanta
*Executive Assistant/
Deputy City Clerk*

Town Planner

Neal Martin
Town Planner

Lisa Costa Sanders
Deputy Town Planner

City Attorney

Wynne Furth
City Attorney

Police

Emergency: 911

General Information
688-6500

Glenn Nielson
Chief of Police
752-0508

Finance

Louise Ho
Finance Director

Public Works

Information/Permits
752-0570

Duncan Jones
Director of Public Works

Steve Tyler
Superintendent of Public Works

Jean Cardona
Parks Program Manager

Building

Information/Inspections
752-0560

Daily Inspection Schedule
752-0561

Mike Wassman
Building Official

Kathy Hughes-Anderson
Town Arborist

Robert Cushing
Code Enforcement

Library

General Information
328-2422

Library events
www.smcl.org/libraries/ath

Heritage Room

Atherton Heritage Association
688-6540

Contacts & Telephone Numbers

May 2009

S	M	T	W	Th	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 2009

S	M	T	W	Th	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 2009

S	M	T	W	Th	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	

Town Community Calendar Spring 2009

May 2009

6	Environmental Programs Committee Special Meeting	10:00 a.m.	Council Chambers
6	Park & Rec. Commission	6:30 p.m.	H-P Park, Main House
12	Transportation Committee	6:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
20	City Council	7:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
25	Memorial Day Observed	Town Offices Closed	
26	Arts Committee	1:00 p.m.	H-P Park, Garden Room
27	Planning Commission	6:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
28	Tree Committee	4:00 p.m.	Admin. Offices Mtg. Rm.

June 2009

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

July 2009

1	Environmental Programs Committee	10:00 a.m.	Council Chambers
1	General Plan Committee	6:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
1	Park & Rec. Commission	6:30 p.m.	H-P Park, Main House
3	Independence Day Observed	Town Offices Closed	
14	Transportation Committee	6:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
15	City Council	7:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
22	Planning Commission	6:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
23	Tree Committee	4:00 p.m.	Admin. Offices Mtg. Rm.
28	Arts Committee	1:00 p.m.	H-P Park, Garden Room

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



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