



Atherton Citizen's Police Academy

Have you ever wondered why police officers do things the way they do or how they are trained? Have you ever wondered how a decision was reached in the field or what happened next? The Atherton Police Department is soliciting interest in a newly formed Citizen's Police Academy where Town residents can learn about their Police Department and have an opportunity to ask questions about practices and procedures. The program will be limited to Atherton residents 18 years of age and older. Those who attend must not have any felony criminal convictions, which will be verified by an electronic Department of Justice background records check. Interested individuals should contact Officer Don Dunphy by e-mail at ddunphy@ci.atherton.ca.us. If enough interest is generated, a return e-mail will be sent with more information.



Improving Communications Through Town Community Meetings

Last month, City Manager Jerry Gruber and Police Chief Mike Guerra held the first of many Town community meetings to solicit community input and address resident's questions and concerns. Police Chief Guerra would like to invite residents to a series of Town community meetings to focus on Atherton Police Department issues. The series of Town community meetings will be held on the fourth Thursday of each month beginning April 22nd from 9:00-10:00 AM and 6:00-7:00 PM at the Town Library's Reading Park located at 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton. If it is raining at the scheduled time, the alternate meeting place is the Council Chambers located at 94 Ashfield Road, Atherton. Residents are encouraged to visit <http://athertonpolice.wordpress.com> for any time changes or cancellations of these meetings. City Manager Gruber will also be available to meet with residents at Town Hall to discuss any concerns, questions, and/or suggestions on the fourth Monday of each month from 2:00-5:00 PM beginning Monday, April 26th. Please contact Theresa DellaSanta in the City Clerk's Office at 752-0529 or tdellasanta@ci.atherton.ca.us to schedule an appointment.

A Message From Your City Clerk



If you would like to be added to the City Clerk's electronic mailing list, please send an email to Theresa DellaSanta at tdellasanta@ci.atherton.ca.us. This will help Town staff update the community on upcoming City Council regular and special meetings, Town Commission and Committee meetings, study sessions, and Town community meetings and workshops.

The Town of Atherton will be holding a General Municipal Election on November 2, 2010, to fill three City Council seats for a four-year term expiring in November 2014. The Nomination Period opens Monday, July 12, 2010, and closes Friday, August 6, 2010, at 5 PM. For information on becoming a candidate, interested registered voters of the Town should contact Theresa DellaSanta in the City Clerk's Office at 752-0529 or tdellasanta@ci.atherton.ca.us.



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Volunteers Needed for Holbrook-Palmer Park Beautification Day

Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 18th between 8:30 AM and 12:30 PM to be part of a community effort to enhance our lovely Holbrook-Palmer Park's setting through landscaping improvements to the park itself. Our park's current upkeep requirements overwhelm available resources. The Town's ability to support the park's needs have been limited due to the present financial climate facing local municipalities, counties, and the State of California. This community participation day will give park users the opportunity to assist maintaining Atherton's wonderful setting for the enjoyment of everyone.

The beautification activities will focus on different areas throughout the park for planting bushes, trees, and ground cover. Area team leaders with the necessary landscaping plans and required materials for a successful four-hour effort will guide each focus group. A BBQ for volunteers and dedication by the City Council of the new "William Conwell Pedestrian Walking Bridge" and the Landscaping Lawn area between the Pavilion and Water Tower facilities will bring the day to a celebratory close.

Working with the Atherton Tree Committee, this combined effort will also encompass Atherton's Arbor Day activities. Various homeowner associations, youth sporting groups, and other users of the park will have an opportunity to combine their resources to provide the needed volunteer energy. Everyone is welcome.

We need you! Dedicating four hours of your time will go a long way to ensuring our park benefits from citizen involvement and continues to be a haven of beauty.

Join us and be prepared to have a fun time. All you need is warm clothing and gloves. Everything is designed to be user friendly. If you wish to have friends, groups, associations, and sporting teams organized together on a single landscaping project, we can accommodate you. Please contact Richard Moore, Beautification Volunteer Coordinator at 678-0091 or chiefboss@gmail.com.

Let's demonstrate that Atherton is a great place to live and raise our families. Be sure to be at the park at 8:30 AM and you will be given your assignments, along with all the needed support resources. We then can celebrate our accomplishments over a great outdoor BBQ and dedication of the two new park enhancements.



Bridge Landscaping Area Project

Photo by Melanie Brabenc



Front Gate Area Project

Photo by Melanie Brabenc

Remember, your involvement is key to the success of Holbrook-Palmer Park's Beautification Day. Everyone is welcome from teens to seniors. Make it a family, friends, neighbors, and group affair. We all will be winners at the end of the day! 🌿

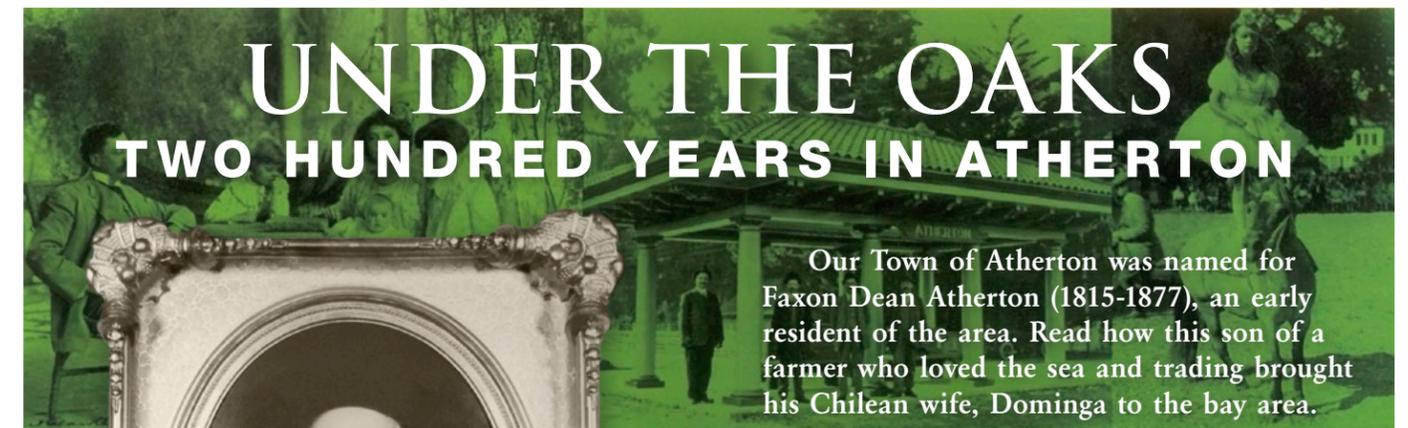
Additional Photo Credits
Calendar Page, Holbrook-Palmer Park Fountain
Photo by Melanie Brabenc
Page 6, Atherton Library Entrance in the Spring
Photo by Ed Jasmin

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Our Town of Atherton was named for Faxon Dean Atherton (1815-1877), an early resident of the area. Read how this son of a farmer who loved the sea and trading brought his Chilean wife, Dominga to the bay area.

Turn to page 19 of UNDER THE OAKS, TWO HUNDRED YEARS IN ATHERTON by Pam Gullard and Nancy Lund to read this interesting, historic story of the early days of Atherton.

The Atherton Heritage Association still has copies of this wonderful book available at the Atherton Heritage Room on Tuesdays from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM. You may contact them at 688-6540.

"SOD Blitz" in Atherton



Photo courtesy of John Bienapfl, University of California, Davis

The Atherton Tree Committee is sponsoring a Sudden Oak Death (SOD) training event on Saturday, May 8th at 10:00 AM, at the Carriage House, Holbrook-Palmer Park, 150 Watkins Avenue. A "SOD Blitz" is designed to inform and educate the community about Sudden Oak Death, get locals involved in detecting the disease, and produce detailed local maps of disease distribution. Researchers have discovered that "Phytophthora ramorum," the pathogen that causes SOD, spreads most often on infected California bay laurel leaves. Symptomatic bay leaves are often the first sign that SOD has arrived at a location, and generally precedes oak infections. Timely detection of the disease on bay laurel leaves is key for a successful proactive attempt to slow down the SOD epidemic. If we detect the disease early, more management options are available with a more effective outcome. To RSVP or for more information, please contact Kathy Anderson at 752-0526, or kanderson@ci.atherton.ca.us

What's New in Planning

The Atherton General Plan Committee has been asked by the City Council to review and consider the creation of two new ordinances. In response to the States' adoption of AB1881, the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELO), the Committee will be making a recommendation to either adopt the State's ordinance, or develop an ordinance for Atherton that can be shown to be as effective as the State's ordinance. The Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) has developed an ordinance that could be used as a model for creating the Town's ordinance. The General Plan Committee is also looking at adopting a mandatory Green Building ordinance. The Environmental Programs Committee has made several recommendations and is working with the General Plan Committee on developing an ordinance that is custom fit for Atherton. A task force was formed with members of the General Plan Committee, the EPC, and Town staff. Both of these items will be heard at the next General Plan Committee meeting on May 5th at 6:00 PM, in the Council Chambers. For more information, please contact Deputy Town Planner Lisa Costa Sanders at lcostasanders@ci.atherton.ca.us or 333-0248.



“What Can Be Measured Can Be Fixed”



by Valerie Gardner, EPC member

Increasing numbers of Atherton residents are making a nearly invisible leap into the digital era as PG&E methodically swaps out the old analog meters, designed during the Kennedy administration, for new, wireless, two-way SmartMeters.

This is part of PG&E's efforts to modernize the power grid. Meter change-outs take less than 15 minutes and are a critical first step in helping California develop a smart grid that will allow PG&E to identify and correct power outages without leaving the plant. Say goodbye to your old meter reader, since PG&E will no longer need to send flesh and blood to your home to know how much to bill you. But how does this change impact you?

In fact, SmartMeters are providing PG&E's customers with a benefit that can be said to be truly measurable: homeowners can have immediate, near real-time access to their energy usage through the PG&E website, whether you are home, at work or vacationing in St. Moritz.

Face it, how many of us take the time to study our bill from PG&E? If you had, you might have noticed that PG&E's 5-tiered pricing has become increasingly progressive. For users in the top tier (nearly all Athertonians), rates have surged a whopping 26% annually, rising from \$0.13 per kilowatt ten years ago, to \$0.47 per kilowatt as of PG&E's most recent rate hike in January.

Let's say you are at work and no one is home. You log into your PG&E account and check the usage status: your empty house is humming away at a steady 1,200 watts per hour! What's going on? Assuming you turn off lights and your kids are not actually home having a party, this is your electric "base load." Just for this, you are likely paying between \$400 and \$500 per month, and much of this energy is simply being wasted!

There are many easy ways to reduce your home energy use and especially to reduce wasted base load energy. The fastest way to fix this problem in your home would be to bring in an expert to do an energy audit. If your PG&E bill is over \$1,000 per month, this could save you a lot almost instantly.

Another way will be to participate in the Atherton Environmental Program Committee's upcoming energy program, being developed and managed by Acterra. Atherton selected Acterra, a local non-profit with a 40-year history serving the Mid-Peninsula area, to help it submit a joint application for Federal Stimulus Funds along with Los Altos Hills, Woodside, Portola Valley, and Monte Sereno, all towns that share Atherton's high energy home profile. Acterra will receive funding from the California Energy Commission to design and implement a program, anticipated to start later this spring, that will provide detailed analyses of a home's energy use by utilizing specially-developed energy diagnostics to review SmartMeter data to pinpoint areas of greatest savings at the least cost to homeowners.

Atherton's portion of the Federal Stimulus Funds—about \$40,000—will fund detailed analyses and efficiency programs for up to ten percent of Atherton homes. Efforts will be made to provide the program to homeowners based on greatest need, in this case how large the PG&E bill is, to get the biggest energy-saving bang for the buck. Fondly dubbing this the "biggest losers" approach, organizers hope this prioritization, combined with a focus on the "low hanging fruit" of home energy savings, will help them make a dent in Atherton's ranking as the highest energy consumer per household on the Peninsula.

Research indicates that only measurable problems can be fixed. For Athertonians not happy about paying tens of thousands of dollars for their energy, the new SmartMeters provide a big step forward in energy measurability. Later this spring, Acterra's high energy expertise will help some homeowners make sense and reduce dollars out with that information, but all homes with SmartMeters can get smarter about energy use. You can check up on the latest information and status about the upcoming energy program by visiting the EPC's website, www.athertongreen.net.

If you think you qualify for the upcoming program, send an email to info@athertongreen.net and you'll be contacted once the program is launched.

Valerie Gardner is a member of the Atherton EPC. More information about all EPC programs can be found at the EPC's website: www.athertongreen.net.



20 Things Your Burglar Won't Tell You

1. Of course I look familiar. I was here just last week cleaning your carpets, painting your shutters, or delivering your new refrigerator.
2. Hey, thanks for letting me use the bathroom when I was working in your yard last week. While I was in there, I unlatched the back window to make my return a little easier.
3. Love those flowers. That tells me you have taste... and taste means there are nice things inside. Those yard toys your kids leave out always make me wonder what type of gaming system they have.
4. Yes, I really do look for newspapers piled up in the driveway. And I might leave a pizza flyer on your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it.
5. If decorative glass is part of your front entrance, don't let your alarm company install the control pad where I can see if it's set. That makes it too easy.
6. A good security company alarms the window over the sink and the windows on the second floor, which often access the master bedroom and your jewelry. It's not a bad idea to put motion detectors up there too.
7. It's raining, you're fumbling with your umbrella, and you forget to lock your door — understandable. But understand this: I don't take a day off because of bad weather.
8. I always knock first. If you answer, I'll ask for directions somewhere or offer to clean your gutters (Don't take me up on it).
9. You really think I won't look in your sock drawer? I always check dresser drawers, the bedside table, and the medicine cabinet.
10. Hint: I almost never go into kids' rooms.
11. You're right: I won't have enough time to break into that safe where you keep your valuables. But if it's not bolted down, I'll take it with me.
12. A loud TV or radio can be a better deterrent than the best alarm system. If you're reluctant to leave your TV on while you're out of town, you can buy a \$35 device that works on a timer and simulates the flickering glow of a real television. (Find it at www.faketv.com)
13. Sometimes I carry a clipboard, or dress like a lawn guy and carry a rake. I do my best to never, ever look like a crook.
14. The two things I hate most: loud dogs and nosy neighbors.
15. I'll break a window to get in, even if it makes a little noise. If your neighbor hears one loud sound, he'll stop what he's doing and wait to hear it again. If he doesn't hear it again, he'll just go back to what he was doing. It's human nature.
16. I'm not complaining, but why would you pay all that money for a fancy alarm system and leave your house without setting it?
17. I love looking in your windows. I'm looking for signs that you're home, and for flat screen TVs or gaming systems I'd like. I'll drive or walk through your neighborhood at night, before you close the blinds, just to pick my targets.
18. Avoid announcing your vacation on your Facebook page. It's easier than you think to look up your address.
19. To you, leaving that window open just a crack during the day is a way to let in a little fresh air. To me, it's an invitation.
20. If you don't answer when I knock, I'll try the door. Occasionally, I hit the jackpot and walk right in.

Sources: *Convicted burglars in North Carolina, Oregon, California, and Kentucky; security consultant Chris McGoey, who runs www.crimedoctor.com, and Richard T. Wright, a criminology professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, who interviewed 105 burglars for his book *Burglars on the Job*.*

By Dick Cassam, DMFPO Directory, Website Chair.

Spring & Summer Events at the Atherton Library

The Mondays at 4:00 PM programs, Final Friday Flicks, and Ice Cream Socials are sponsored by the Friends of the Atherton Library. If you wish to sponsor a special children's program, contact the librarian for details at 328-2422, ext. 225.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Mondays at 4 PM, unless noted

April 12 at 4 PM

Dylan Donkin
Preschool dance party
Ages 3 & up

Thursday, April 29 at 4 PM

El día de los niños Craft Program
Ages 6 & up

May 10 at 4 PM

Randal McGee & Groark
Ventriloquist show
Ages 4 & up

June 28 at 4 PM

Musician Jim Stevens
Sing Along campfire/s'mores!
Ages 4 & up

July 12 at 4 PM

**P & T Puppets presents
"The Ugly Duckling"**
Ages 3 & up

July 19 at 4 PM

Build-Your-Own Museum
with Jenni Nelson of the Palo Alto
Junior Museum & Zoo.
Ages 5 & up

July 26 at 4 PM

Captain Jack Spareribs
Pirate & talking monkey for magic,
juggling, & jaw dropping illusions.
Ages 4 & up

Paws For Tales

**4th Saturday each month
from 11 AM to Noon**
Ages 5 & older can sign up in advance
& read to a trained therapy dog.
April 24, May 22, June 26, July 24

Final Friday Flicks @ 7:00 PM

Family friendly films shown last Friday
of each month. Tentative film schedule:
April 30- Tinker Bell & the Lost Treasure
May 28- Ponyo
June 25- Hachi, a Dog's Tale
*Refreshments provided by
the Friends of the Library*

Ice Cream Social & Book Exchange

**Saturday, June 19
from 1:00-3:00 PM**
Bring a book & take book,
& have some free ice cream.

Summer Reading Program Begins

June 1st for children & teens!
The theme is "Make a Splash- READ"
for children
"Make Waves @ Your Library"
for teens

TEEN PROGRAM

Saturday, April 17 at 2 PM

YouTube Film Festival
You pick favorites to be shown,
contact library for details.
Refreshments & prizes!
For middle school & high school age

ADULT PROGRAMS

Film Night Fridays

April 9, May 14, June 11 at 7 PM
Contact the library for the film title

Tuesday, April 13 at 7 PM

Caring for Aging Parents
Dr. John Shen speaks in conjunction
with San Mateo County Psychological
Association. Adults only please

Friday, April 23 at 7 PM

**The Garden: An AI Fresco Studio
for Impressionist Painters**
Fine Arts Museum's docent lecture

Tuesday, April 27 at 7 PM

**Self Regulation Approaches
The Mind Body Connection**
A talk by Dr. Jeffrey Bruno

Tuesday, May 4 at 7 PM

eBay Computer Class

Thursday, May 6 at 7 PM

**Parenting Workshop: Healthy
Eating Habits for Children**

Friday, May 14 at 10 AM

SKYPE Computer class

Wednesday, May 19 at 7 PM

**Native Plant Gardening
for Year-round Interest**

Wednesday, June 16 at 7 PM

**Native Plant Gardening
for Beginners**

Wednesday, July 14 at 7 PM

**Celtic Singer Mary McCloughlin &
Harpist Steve Coulter**

KNIT TOGETHER

Informal gathering of knitters meet
2nd & 4th Saturdays of each month
from 2 to 4 PM. No instruction at this
event. Please bring your own supplies.



I would like to take this opportunity to say hello to all Athertonians and to let you know that my staff and I are here to help you. If you have any concerns, would like to find out more information on a particular item, or just want to stop by and say hello, please feel free to do so. My staff and I look forward to providing you professional service, a timely response, and a warm and friendly smile.

Jerry Gruber, City Manager

Members of the Town Council

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

Kathleen McKeithen, Mayor

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

Jim Dobbie, Vice Mayor

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

Jerry Carlson, Council Member

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

Charles E. Marsala, Council Member

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

Elizabeth Lewis, Council Member

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

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

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
752-0500

Jerry Gruber
City Manager
752-0504

Eileen Wilkerson
Assistant City Manager
752-0546

Theresa DellaSanta
*Executive Assistant/
Deputy City Clerk*
752-0529

Town Planner

Neal Martin
Town Planner
752-0544

Lisa Costa Sanders
Deputy Town Planner
752-0544

City Attorney

Wynne Furth
City Attorney
752-0500

Police

Emergency: 911
General Information
688-6500

Mike Guerra
Police Chief
752-0508

Finance

Louise Ho
Finance Director
752-0552

Public Works

Information/Permits
752-0570

Duncan Jones
Director of Public Works
752-0532

Steve Tyler
Superintendent of Public Works
752-0541

Jean Cardona
Parks Program Manager
752-0534

Contacts & Telephone Numbers

Building

Information/Inspections
752-0560
Daily Inspection Schedule
752-0561

Mike Wassman
Building Official
752-0518

Kathy Hughes Anderson
Town Arborist
752-0526

Robert Cushing
Code Enforcement
752-0553

Library

General Information
328-2422

Library events
www.smcl.org/libraries/ath

Heritage Room

Atherton Heritage Association
688-6540

Contact Information Town of Atherton

91 Ashfield Road
Atherton, CA 94027

Helpful Phone Numbers

Menlo Park Fire District

Emergency: 911 or 323-2404
Business Administration Office
688-8400

Atherton Schools

Encinal School _____ 326-5164
Las Lomitas _____ 854-5900
Laurel School _____ 324-0186
M-A High School _____ 322-5311
Menlo College _____ 556-3656
Menlo School _____ 330-2000
Sacred Heart _____ 322-1866
Saint Josephs _____ 322-9931
Selby Lane _____ 368-3996

County Services

Animal Control
363-4840
Assessor
363-4500
Richard Gordon,
Supervisor, 3rd District
363-4569
Voter Registration
312-5222
Mosquito Abatement
West Nile Virus
(877) 968-2473
Service Calls/Info
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

Town Community Calendar Spring 2010

May 2010

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 2010

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 2010

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

May 2010

5	General Plan Committee	6:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
5	Park & Recreation Commission	6:30 p.m.	H-P Park, Main House
11	Transportation Committee	6:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
14	Peninsula Cities Consortium (PCC)	8:15 a.m.	Council Chambers
19	City Council	7:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
25	Arts Committee	1:00 p.m.	H-P Park, Garden Room
26	Planning Commission	6:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
27	Tree Committee	4:00 p.m.	Admin. Offices Mtg. Rm
28	Peninsula Cities Consortium (PCC)	8:15 a.m.	Council Chambers
31	Memorial Day Observed	Town Offices Closed	

June 2010

1	Atherton Rail Committee	6:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
2	Park & Recreation Commission	6:30 p.m.	H-P Park, Main House
11	Peninsula Cities Consortium (PCC)	8:15 a.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.
25	Peninsula Cities Consortium (PCC)	8:15 a.m.	Council Chambers

July 2010

5	Independence Day Observed	Town Offices Closed	
7	Environmental Programs Committee	10:00 a.m.	Admin. Offices Mtg. Rm.
7	Park & Recreation Commission	6:30 p.m.	H-P Park, Main House
13	Transportation 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.
27	Arts Committee	1:00 p.m.	H-P Park, Garden Room
28	Planning Commission	6:00 p.m.	Council Chambers

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

ECRWSS

Spring 2010 Newsletter



Atherton Resident

Atherton, CA 94027

Important Information Inside