



ATHERTONIAN

WINTER
2013

A Quarterly Newsletter for Atherton Residents



WE NEED YOU!

Appointments List of all Regular and Ongoing Local Committee and Commissions
(Government Code Section 54972 - Maddy Local Appointive List Act)

The following is a list of scheduled Committee and Commission vacancies for calendar year 2014:
(A complete description of each Committee can be viewed on the Town's website)

<u>Audit/Finance Committee</u>	<u>Expiration</u>	<u>Term</u>
Greg Conlon	Term expires June 30, 2014	2 years
Jim Massey	Term expires June 30, 2014	2 years
Bob Polito	Term expires June 30, 2014	2 years

Community Center Advisory Committee

One (1) Vacancy No expiration

Environmental Programs Committee

One (1) Vacancy No expiration

<u>Park & Recreation Commission</u>	<u>Expiration</u>	<u>Term</u>
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Frank Merrill (HPP Foundation Rep)	Term Expires June 30, 2014	4 Years
Christina Isenberg (Dames Rep)	Term Expires June 30, 2014	4 Years

The HPP Foundation and Dames representative must be replaced with members from those organizations.

Planning Commission Expiration

One (1) Vacancy 2015

Rail Committee Expiration

1 Vacancy No expiration

The Town will begin accepting applications for committees that currently have vacancies. Those committees include the Community Center Advisory Committee (CCAC), Environmental Programs Committee (EPC), and the Rail Committee.

For committees that have members with terms due to expire on June 30, 2014, the Town will begin accepting applications on Monday, March 3, 2014.

To fill out an application you can visit the Town's website at www.atherton.ca.us and click on Town Government – Committees and Commissions, or you can contact City Clerk Theresa DellaSanta at tdellasanta@ci.atherton.ca.us or 650-752-0529.



THE STATE OF OUR STREETS

The pavement on the Bay Area's 42,600 lane-miles of local streets and roads remains in "fair" condition, with the typical stretch of asphalt showing serious wear and likely to require rehabilitation soon. Data released in November by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) puts the region's 2012 Pavement Condition Index (PCI) score at 66 out of a possible 100 points, as computed on a three-year moving average basis. This marks the fourth consecutive year the region has registered an average PCI score of 66, and is within two points of readings going back to 2006.

By contrast, the Town of Atherton's PCI score has been steadily on the rise since 2004. The Town currently boasts PCI #1 in San Mateo County and among the top 5 in the entire Bay Area with a current score of 81, "very good" rating. This score can be directly attributed to Atherton's approach of spending its parcel tax dollars on both repairs of severely distressed streets and aggressive preventative maintenance program. Dollars spent treating good streets before they become so damaged that a costly rehabilitation becomes required saves the Town about nine dollars for every one spent.



Children's Activities in Atherton in the 1920s



While the boys were likely to go off fishing or shooting or hitching rides on the ice wagon as it made deliveries, life for the girls of Fair Oaks (Atherton) revolved around their ponies. They actually formed a little club, "The Riding and Driving Club" and they had a publication *La Quirta*. Eleanor Weir Tilden asked her mother if they could have a circus. She said it was fine but they ought to give it for charity. The first year the circus was held in the Weir field. Riding games, pony drills and jumping were the games but they also had other animals and a ringmaster. They raised \$500 for the Stanford Home for Convalescent Children.

The fame of the circus spread throughout the area and by the fourth year the event was so large that 16 families got together and bought the property that is now the Menlo Circus Club.

Read more about the wonderful history of Atherton in "Under the Oaks, Two Hundred Years in Atherton" by Lund and Gullard. It is available at a special price of \$65.00 from the Heritage Association (650-688-6540) or Marion Oster (650-325-0714).



ATHERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT WELCOMES NEWEST OFFICER



Atherton PD hired Officer Dan Larsen who previously worked for CSU East Bay and the San Carlos Police Department. Dan has a Bachelors Degree in Political Science/Public Affairs and Administration, and currently lives in the area with his wife.

Officer Larsen has experience as a defensive tactics instructor, terrorism liaison officer, and impact weapons instructor.

In his spare time, Dan enjoys martial arts, playing soccer and spending time with his friends and family. He recently passed the 3-month Field Training Officer program so Officer Larsen is now a solo unit as a member of the Atherton police family.

Traffic Question

The Atherton Police Department encourages everyone to drive safely and always follow all traffic laws. With this in mind, see if you know the answer to the below question:

TRUE or FALSE: You can enter a bicycle lane to pass a stopped and/or left-turning vehicle?

Answer: FALSE – You can only enter a bicycle lane for the following reasons:

- 1) To park where parking is permitting (as long as your vehicle does not block a bicyclist and/or there is not a “No Parking” sign posted)
- 2) To enter or leave the roadway
- 3) To prepare for a turn within a distance of 200 feet from the intersection

The above information can be located in the California DMV Driver’s Handbook, as well as California Vehicle Code section 21209(a).

If you have a traffic question you would like answered, send your question to Sgt. Anthony Kockler at akockler@ci.atherton.ca.us. He will try to answer as many questions as possible. Also, look for more traffic questions and answers in upcoming issues of The Athertonian.

Mid-Year Budget Process

When the budget is adopted each year in June, Town staff monitors expenditures of the budget as it moves along. We focus on ensuring that expenditures match the Town’s established service priorities.

The General Fund is the main operating fund of the Town. All general tax revenues and other receipts that are not allocated by law or contract to other funds are accounted for within the General Fund. Expenditures from the General Fund are most commonly general operating expenses which include the departments of administration, planning, building, public works, and police. The Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Adopted budget for expenditures is \$10.4 million. As the year moves along, staff tracks expenditures monthly. As we approach the mid-point of the budget cycle (December/January), the Town begins to receive a majority of its revenue (Property Taxes). Property taxes come in two major installments – the first in December and the second in June.

After the mid-point of the budget, for the City Council to see where we are at mid-year and provides the opportunity for corrections to budgeted expenditures where necessary. If there are significant changes in expenditures due to unforeseen circumstances, the mid-year budget review is the time to make adjustments. In general, the City Council focuses on the big picture for the budget. The City Council must approve any major course corrections that affect the Town’s budget. The City Manager has the authority to move funds between various budget categories to ensure the Town meets its service priorities. However, where there are significant adjustments needed or major course corrections, the City Council must review the changes to ensure they continue to be in line with established priorities.

In most cases, because the Town budgets conservatively, the mid-year picture is more accurate with respect to revenues and expenditures and typically more of a positive outlook. Nevertheless, the process of a mid-year budget review is a healthy one to keep the City focused and on-track with its priorities.

Many Master Plans Underway

Starting in 2012, Atherton's City Council authorized master planning projects to analyze various Town facilities to ensure that they are adequately meeting the needs of the town and community. Staff is working with several master plan engineers, planners and architects to evaluate uses and opportunities in the Town's Civic Center and Holbrook-Palmer Park, as well as the structural and use needs of the drainage systems and bicycle and pedestrian pathways. Working with the City Council, the Civic Center Advisory Committee, the Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Bicycle-Pedestrian Stakeholder Group, the Town's Public Works Department is coordinating the four master plans so that any proposed changes can be integrated and communicated to the various professionals performing the studies. More information on each of the master plans follows.

Civic Center Master Plan – The City Council appointed a seven-member Civic Center Advisory Committee (CCAC) to select the most qualified firm to prepare plans for the Civic Center to include City Hall, a library, police station and other features. The CCAC recommended a team led by HMC Architects. Following interviews of the Council and staff to assess current needs and services, HMC led a public workshop encouraging residents to draw their ideal Civic Center. The architects synthesized user input and developed a number of options, which they tested in a series of six meetings held in different Town neighborhoods. HMC refined the alternatives with input from staff, the CCAC and City Council and presented a preferred alternative at a second public workshop in December. Key elements are a City Hall which includes Council Chambers, municipal departments, permit center, post office and police station, and a library facility set within a well-landscaped town center to create a focal point for the community's civic services.



Public Outreach Meeting

Holbrook-Palmer Park Master Plan – The City Council directed that the uses within Atherton's 22-acre park be studied, with input from the public and the Park and Recreation Commission. Landscape architects Bellinger Foster Steinmetz (BFS) were selected to perform the master plan update. BFS began their analysis with an open house at the park which asked users to identify likes, dislikes, desires and concerns. They combined in-person feedback with on-line surveys to draw a picture of the park's present and future. Most residents answering the survey indicated that they wanted to preserve the park's character (over 75% of the respondents), although approximately a quarter of the respondents would like to have more classes, lectures, and events at the Park with another quarter of the respondents indicating they would like an off-leash dog area. BFS will present a Final Report with a recommendation on uses in the Park that address the community's desires, encourage the Park's sustainability, as well as, suggestions on fee policies. BFS hopes to present a draft master plan to the Park & Recreation Commission in February 2014.
(con't on page 5)



Many Master Plans Underway (con't)

Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan – Alta Planning and Design consultants have been working with a Stakeholder Advisory Group to develop a cohesive plan for bike paths and pedestrian paths on various streets in Town. In developing the plan, Alta Planning and Design is focusing not only on Town destinations, but also creating a plan within multi-jurisdictional connectivity. For walking paths, Alta has identified existing streets which offer safe, easy-to-use segments as well as segments which lend themselves to be connected to usable paths, in cooperation with adjacent property owners. Alta hopes to present the draft plan to the Transportation Committee in early 2014.

Drainage Master Plan – Atherton's most recent drainage master plan was prepared in 2001. Since that time, numerous improvements have been completed to mitigate local flooding issues as well as to improve the Town's drainage facilities. However, there is more to be done to address local issues as well as updates due to new Stormwater regulations enacted by the state and federal government. NV5, a consulting civil engineering firm, has set about updating the Town's drainage plan. A major element of their work is to assess the Town's compliance with water quality improvements which have been mandated by Federal and State laws. In early 2014, NV5 will host a public input workshop to solicit feedback from the community to identify remaining areas which may require drainage improvements.

In addition to gathering continuous public input, all of the master plans described above must be reviewed to comply with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act. For more information on any of the above projects, please contact Gordon Siebert, City Engineer, gsiebert@ci.atherton.ca.us or by phone at 650-752-0532.

Atherton Dames

Children and adults alike greeted the holiday season with merriment at the ever popular Atherton Dames Annual Holiday Tea held at Holbrook-Palmer Park, on Sunday, December 8, 2013.

Over 90 children and approximately 60 adults joined Santa Claus in a fun afternoon of treats, stories and a performance by the Fratello Marionettes. Attendees donated toys for Ronald McDonald House at Stanford. This event was made possible by event Chair Barbara zu Putlitz and a team of dedicated volunteers. Proceeds from the event benefit Holbrook-Palmer Park.

2013 was a very successful year for The Atherton Dames. Their success is largely due to bridging generations by augmenting their traditional activities of organizing community events such as the Holiday Tea and Egg Hunt, with monthly programs that includes a speaker or field trip. Dedicated to enhancing and preserving Holbrook-Palmer Park, the Atherton Dames welcomed 28 new members. The Atherton Dames encourage all who are interested in making our precious open space better and serving our community to join. Upcoming events in 2014 include: New Year Cooking Class at Sur la Table on January 23rd from 6:30 to 8:30 pm and a New Residents Party with wine tasting at a private residence on February 13th. Please check the Dames website at www.athertondames.org for information.



Holbrook-Palmer Park

Holbrook-Palmer Park, the Town's only recreation site, is a lovely municipally-owned 22 acre garden setting with indoor and outdoor facilities, including a ball field, tennis courts, playground, and gardens and walking paths. Significant structures available for rental include the Main House, Jennings Pavilion, and Carriage House.

The Main House is a classically designed home which consists of a 700 square foot meeting room with a fireplace, two smaller rooms for breakout sessions or small conferences, and a fully equipped kitchen. The Main House can accommodate 70 in the living room for a ceremony and approximately 50 when set up with round tables for dinner. Approximately 25 people can be accommodated at classroom style tables and chairs. A large porch, wide brick steps and an oak-covered patio area are suitable for refreshments or outdoor luncheons.

In 1977 the Jennings Pavilion was constructed at the Park to accommodate larger groups for weddings, receptions, dinners, meetings and lectures. Large windows on all sides create relaxing vistas of the stately trees and rolling green lawns. The room comfortably seats up to 150-theatre style and 80-100-classroom style. Dinner for 120-130 is served at round tables. A large kitchen with a commercial sized refrigerator, two home-size ovens, and commercial gas range enables caterers to serve quickly and efficiently. The large adjoining patio is often used for barbecues and cocktail receptions and a walkway connects the building to the Main House and its patio area.

The Carriage House provide a point of interest for Park visitors. The Carriage House was built to replace the original barn that was destroyed by fire in 1896. The sturdy wood floors, windowpanes, moldings, and iron grills in the horse stalls have remained the same for over 100 years. The Carriage House is available for classes, dances, meetings, bridge and workshops. It seats 80 for lunch or dinner and 90 for meetings. The Meadow and Patio areas can be reserved with the building for outdoor events. Classes currently held at the Park include: Folk Dance, Tennis camps, and dog training lessons – for more information log on to: <http://ca-atherton.civicplus.com/facilities>

Below is some information for each of the facilities you can rent at Holbrook-Palmer Park along with a link to enjoy a virtual tour of each space.

For more information on pricing and availability, please contact us at 650-752-0500 or via email to jfrew@ci.atherton.ca.us or jherren@ci.atherton.ca.us



JENNINGS PAVILION
2360 SQUARE FEET
MAXIMUM INDOOR SEATING – 157
OUTDOOR SEATING – 100
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3aQ_lezRO7g

CARRIAGE HOUSE
1160 SQUARE FEET
MAXIMUM SEATING – 90
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07YbnytG9vM>

MAIN HOUSE
600 SQUARE FEET
MAXIMUM SEATING – 40
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mGYiMdmXb7Y>



Dear Atherton Resident:

The Atherton Civic Interest League (ACIL) is a non-partisan volunteer organization dedicated to bringing attention to and sponsoring public discussion and debate about matters important to all Atherton Residents. Such matters include but are not limited to:

- The new Atherton Civic Center Master Plan
- High Speed Rail
- Cal Train Electrification
- Disaster Preparedness
- Cargil Salt Works Development
- Menlo School and College Cartan field development
- The use of Holbrook-Palmer Park
- Traffic and Safety in your neighborhood
- Local Elections



All of our efforts and funds go towards sponsoring forums and events that address local issues in order to keep you, our members, and Atherton citizens informed and involved. Join us today by sending in your contribution with the enclosed membership card. We, the ACIL Board, look forward to serving you by addressing your interests and concerns.

Warm Regards,

John Davey and Bob MacLean
Co-Presidents ACIL

Newly Organized Atherton Arts Foundation Seeks Board and Artist Members

The Atherton Arts Foundation (AAF) is a newly-launched non-profit 501 (C)(3) organization that replaces the Atherton Arts Committee that was operated by the Town of Atherton and ceased operation in July. The AAF needs board members interested in promoting the arts and is offering membership to local artists. Together with Silicon Valley Open Studios it sponsored its first juried art exhibit at Holbrook-Palmer Park on September 6 and 7. The mission of the AAF is to build a strong foundation for the continued growth and enjoyment of visual and performing arts in Atherton and surrounding communities. To achieve this end it is planning a series of activities, including:

- Scheduling of shows and other events where artists and public can come together;
- Holding artist workshops and retreats to exchange ideas and learn new techniques;
- Making studio and exhibit facilities available to members;
- Offering art classes and workshops for adults and children;
- Acquisition of art for public display in Atherton;
- Creating a virtual community of artists and art lovers to facilitate contact and exchanges of ideas and information.

The AAF board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 1:00 PM at the Main House in Holbrook-Palmer Park. Board member applications can be made by submitting comments about the applicant's interests and background to Betty Ullman, arts@athertonartsfoundation.org.

The AAF is strongly encouraging working artists to also join in this enterprise. Artist members will receive a number of benefits including: A personal webpage on the AAF site including a link to their own site; access to space in the AAF facility in Atherton's Holbrook Palmer Park for workshops, classes and shows; and discounts on entrance fees for AAF exhibits and supplies from local businesses. A Membership Application Form can be accessed at the Artist Application page of the AAF website, www.athertonartsfoundation.org.



Town Directory

TOWN OFFICE'S

Administration	650-752-0500	jherren@ci.atherton.ca.us
Building Department	650-752-0560	bhale@ci.atherton.ca.us
City Attorney	831-601-1100	wconners@ci.atherton.ca.us
City Clerk/Human Resources	650-752-0529	tdellasanata@ci.atherton.ca.us
City Manager	650-752-0504	grodericks@ci.atherton.ca.us
Finance Department	650-752-0552	rbarron@ci.atherton.ca.us
Heritage Room	650-688-6540	meo@rjoster.com
Planning Department	650-752-0544	amardesich@ci.atherton.ca.us
Police Administration	650-688-6500	jfrew@ci.atherton.ca.us
Police Investigation	650-752-0565	
Police Support Services	650-752-0506	
Police Records	650-752-0579	
Public Works Department	650-752-0541	krobertson@ci.atherton.ca.us

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Cary Wiest	650-357-7122	cwiest@ci.atherton.ca.us
Vice Mayor Rick DeGolia	650-793-2800	rdegolia@ci.atherton.ca.us
Councilmember Bill Widmer	650-530-0078	bwidmer@ci.atherton.ca.us
Councilmember Jim Dobbie	650-327-3946	jdobbie@ci.atherton.ca.us
Councilmember Elizabeth Lewis	650-533-8830	elewis@ci.atherton.ca.us

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