



ATHERTONIAN

Quarterly Newsletter for Atherton Residents

Spring 2001

Power Crisis Information

As summer approaches, the chance of power interruptions increases due to drastic power demands. The Town administration receives little, or in most cases no, advance warning of pending blackouts. The most current energy crisis information can be found on PG&E's website, www.pge.com which has a link to the California Independent Systems Operator, the agency that monitors load demand. 24-hour information on electrical outages is also available by calling PG&E at 800-743-5002.

Parcel Tax Election

With input from a wide cross-section of the Atherton community, voters will be asked to approve a Parcel Tax on June 5th. The amount of the tax is the same as in the past, except for an increase in the amount charged to private clubs. For those residents with a house on 1/2 acre to 2 acres, the maximum tax will be \$750 per year. Those residents with a house on 1/4 to 1/2 acre will be assessed a maximum tax of \$570 per year. These amounts are the maximum tax that could be levied, but the City Council in the past has levied lesser amounts in all categories.

The City Council and those citizens who have attended the Public Hearings on the Parcel Tax have agreed that a majority of the monies should be directed to capital improvement projects. With this in mind, Town Staff has proposed the use of these monies for the following items:

- **Police Department Overhires** - The Atherton Police Department needs to be prepared for those times when some of their officers are in training, or when some officers leave the Department for other police agencies. To address this need, the City Council has agreed that having two extra officers would allow the Department to remain fully staffed at all times.

Continued on Page 2

Town Welcomes New Staff

In March, three new staff members joined the Town of Atherton. **Public Works Superintendent John Iaquinto** comes to Atherton from the Town of Los Gatos, where he spent 18 years in the Public Works and Parks Departments. John is responsible for park grounds, traffic, streets, drainage, public buildings, and certain capital improvements. John is a resident of San Jose.

Linda Kelly is the new **Assistant to the City Manager**. Linda previously worked for the City of

Continued on Page 8

Vote June 5th

If you wish to register to vote, or need to re-register due to an address or name change, May 21st is the last day to register for the June 5th Atherton Special Election. Your polling place location will appear on your sample ballot, which will be mailed from the County approximately three weeks prior to the election.

Voters wishing to vote absentee may use the application which comes with their sample ballot, obtain an absentee ballot application at the Town Hall, or download an application from the County's website at www.shapethefuture.org. May 29th is the last day to apply for an absentee ballot. Questions regarding the election should be directed to City Clerk Sharon Barker at 752-0529.

Inside...

<i>Directories</i>	3
<i>Survey</i>	3
<i>Classes at H-P Park</i> ..	4
<i>News Notes</i>	6
<i>Calendar</i>	8

One of these positions would be funded from a State grant, and the other position would be funded with Parcel Tax monies.

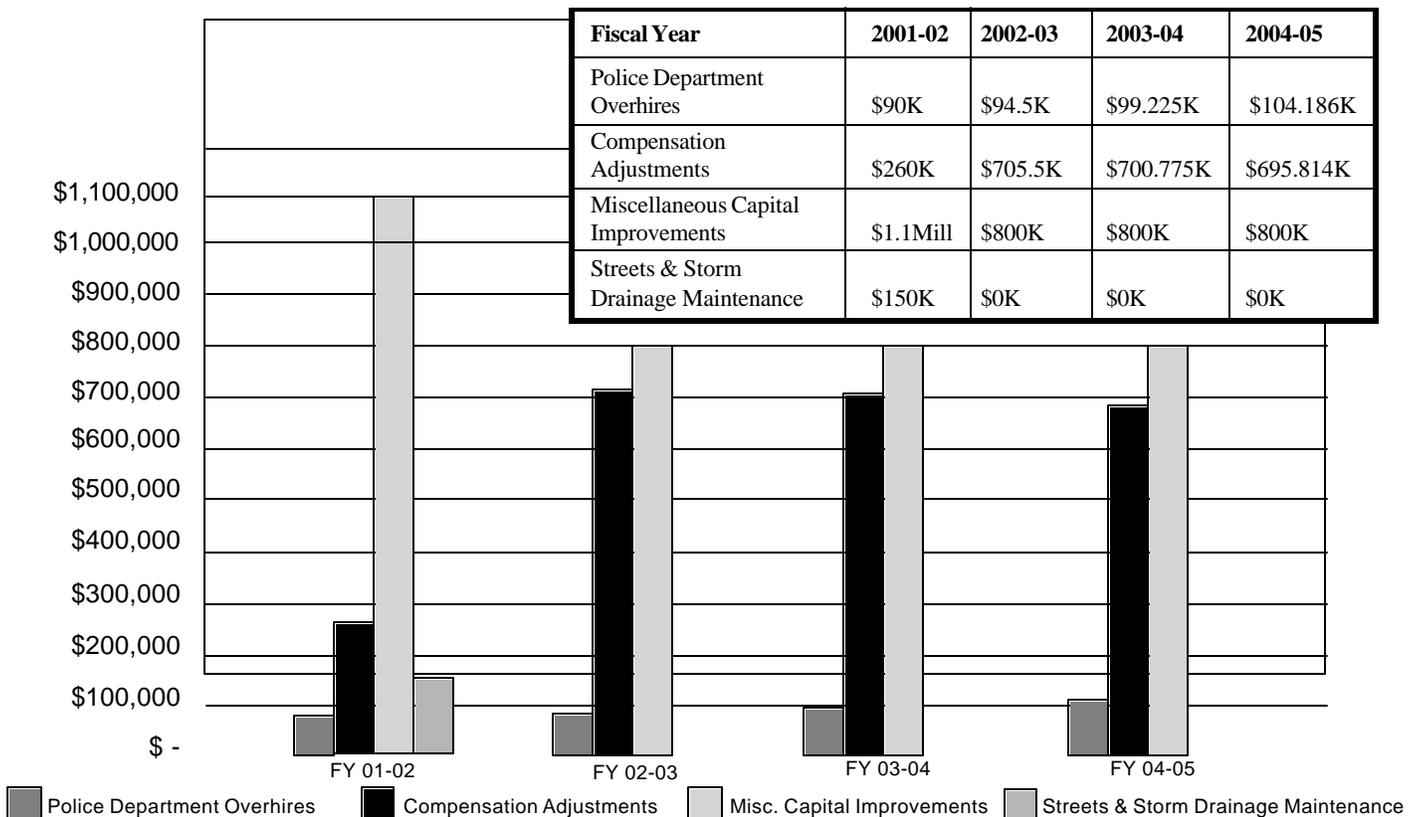
• **Compensation Adjustments** - Retention and attraction of well-qualified Town employees are critical to this organization. The City Council contracted with an outside firm to conduct a Classification & Compensation Study last year. The results of that Study indicated that salaries and benefits in all positions needed to be increased to be competitive with the benchmark agencies used in the Study. The City Council has voted to increase salaries to remain competitive to other agencies in the local area. A portion of the monies from the Parcel Tax will enable the Town to keep compensation at a competitive level in future years.

• **Miscellaneous Capital Improvements** - Improvements to the Town's facilities and infrastructure would be determined each year by the City Council after input from the public. It is envisioned that these capital improvements will be prioritized annually during the Town's budget process in order to evaluate priorities on a regular basis.

• **Street & Storm Drainage Maintenance** - Parcel Tax monies will be earmarked for a more aggressive street and storm drainage maintenance program. This maintenance would be geared at maintaining this infrastructure at current levels until a more definitive capital improvement program can be put into place. There are several options for funding these improvements that have been presented to the City Council during the past year. The magnitude of these improvements, however, has resulted in the need for additional study and analysis of the scope of improvements that are needed.

With revenues from past Parcel Taxes, much of the revenue was directed at operational expenses of the Town at the expense of capital projects. The City Council, Town Staff, and the public, all agree that committing Parcel Tax revenues for multiple uses as proposed above, will address many of the needs of this community. Preliminary projections have been made by Staff that have been presented to both the City Council and the Audit Committee. The projections for Parcel Tax funding in each of these four (4) areas are as follows:

Parcel Tax Revenues - Projected Funding Commitment



TOWN OF ATHERTON

91 Ashfield Road • Atherton, CA 94027

City Council

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

Dianne M. Fisher, *Mayor* 329-8290
term expires 11/2002 e-mail: dfisher@ci.atherton.ca.us

Alan B. Carlson, *Vice Mayor* 408-998-4150 (wk)
term expires 11/2002 e-mail: acarlson@ci.atherton.ca.us

William R. Conwell, *Councilmember* 368-0994 (wk)
term expires 11/2002 e-mail: wconwell@ci.atherton.ca.us

James R. Janz, *Councilmember* 325-8666
term expires 11/2004 e-mail: jjanz@ci.atherton.ca.us

Kathleen McKeithen, *Councilmember* 321-3633
term expires 11/2004 e-mail: kmckeithen@ci.atherton.ca.us

Quick Resident Survey

We need your input on proposed Town projects. Please take a few moments to share your thoughts with us.

Please indicate your level of agreement/disagreement with the following Town priorities: 1= strongly agree; 2 = agree; 3 = neutral; 4 = disagree; 5 = strongly disagree.

The Town should:

- _____ Provide more program opportunities for children's recreation at Holbrook-Palmer Park.
- _____ Develop a new center or do extensive remodeling and/or expansion of the Pavilion at Holbrook-Palmer Park.
- _____ Undertake a major capital improvement project for streets and storm drainage with yearly assessments on all properties.
- _____ Upgrade facilities for all Town government.
- _____ Provide more information and interactive issues on the Town's website.
- _____ Other: _____

Options for returning your survey **no later than May 18th**:
Fax to the Town at 614-1212, mail or hand-deliver to the Town at 91 Ashfield Road, 94027, or take the survey on-line at www.ci.atherton.ca.us. The results will be tabulated and shared in a future issue of the *Athertonian*.

DIRECTORY

Contacts & Telephone Numbers

TOWN SERVICES

Main Number 752-0500

Fax Number 688-6528

e-mail atherton@ci.atherton.ca.us

Animal Control 363-4840

Building

Mike Hood, Bldg. Official 752-0523

Information/Inspections 752-0560

Daily Inspection Schedule 752-0561

City Attorney

Marc Hynes 967-6941

City Manager

Ralph Freedman, Interim 752-0504

Sharon Barker, City Clerk 752-0529

Linda Kelly,

Assistant to CM 752-0546

City Planner

Neal Martin 593-1685

Lisa Costa Sanders,

Assistant Planner 802-4207

Finance

Bill Yeomans,

Interim Director 752-0531

Finance Assistant 752-0519

Library 328-2422

Police

Robert Brennan, Chief 752-0506

General Information 688-6500

Emergency 911

Post Office

General Information 752-0500

Public Works

Cliff Temps, Director. 752-0532

John Iaquinto,

Superintendent 752-0541

Information/Permits 752-0570

Jean Cardona,

Park Prog. Manager 752-0534

Kathy Hughes-Anderson,

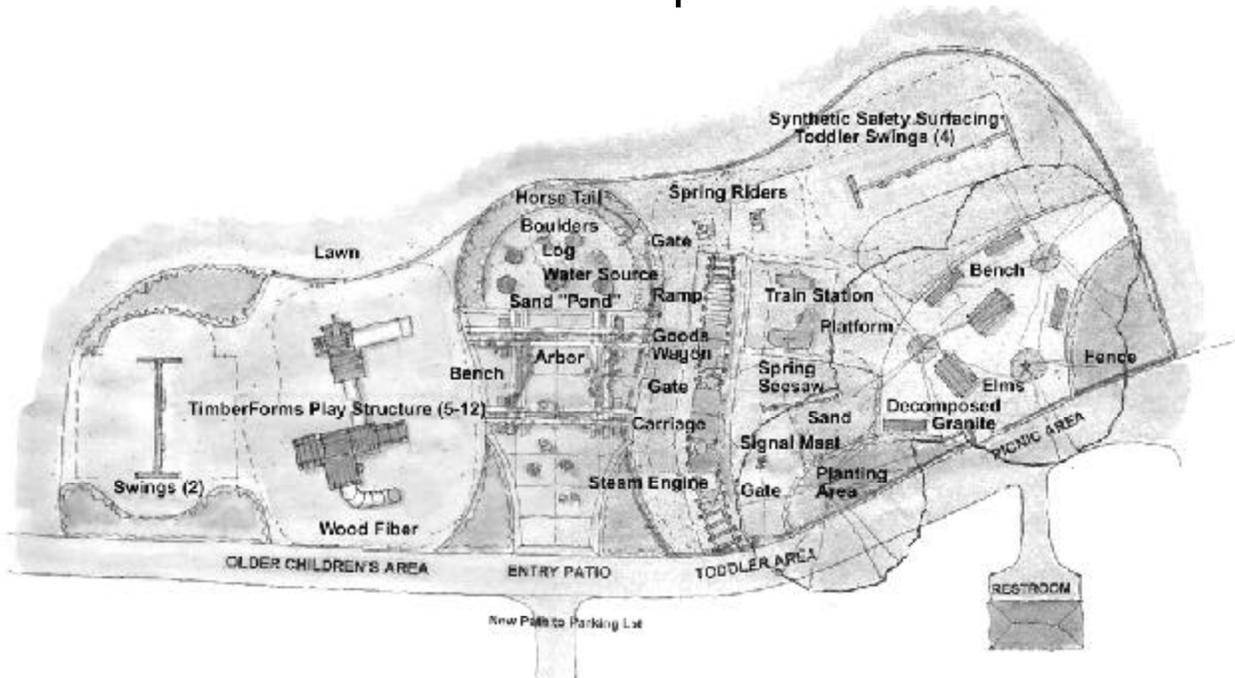
Town Arborist 752-0526

Take the Time to Enjoy a Class at Holbrook-Palmer Park

The following is the current schedule of classes held at Holbrook-Palmer Park. Contact the instructor directly at the number listed under his/her name for more information and registration fees.

Class	Day/Time	Contact
Jacki's Aerobic Dance Classes begin with a warm up of light cardiovascular routines, moving to floor work, Vertiform with hand-held weights (optional), heart rate booster, aerobic routines, and end with a cool-down period.	Tue & Thur 8:00 - 9:00 am	Sharon 343-5909
Kinetic Energy Hour Low-impact aerobics, Shiatsu (Japanese finger pressure therapy), ballet movement and floor exercise to recreate your body and aid you in the discovery of perfect body alignment, recharge your energy and promote a healthier, more beautiful you! No dance experience required.	Mon & Wed 8:30 - 9:45 am	Kimiko 326-7182
Yoga - Morning Stretch Classes include the discipline of Yoga postures and physical exercises which encourage stretch, flexibility, and stamina. The classes incorporate exercises for maintaining optimum back health, and participants are introduced to relaxation and stress management techniques.	Tuesdays 10:00 - 11:00 am	Lynn 369-5196
Ballet Ballet Mistress Kimiko Sugano, advisory member to the International Ballet Competition, presents the Peninsula's most comprehensive program of ballet instruction.	Mon & Wed 4:00 - 5:30 pm Tue & Thurs 4:00 - 6:30 pm	Kimiko 326-7182
Lady's Highland Dance Enjoy this combination of ballet, country dancing, and Scottish highland dancing which combines fun movements with a great way to get exercise. Classes are for women only and drop-ins are welcome to watch the dancers in action. New class starts in September.	Tuesdays 7:00 - 8:00 pm	Jo 328-0474
Deer Creek Morris Men This dance originated in Southwestern England as a ritual dance to rid evil spirits. The dance moves are very active and include the use of bells. Classes are for men only and beginners are welcome to join anytime.	Tuesdays 8:15 - 10:00 pm	Bruce 328-0474
International Folk Dancing Participants can dance their way "around the world" at the Carriage House. Learn dances from places you have only traveled to or dreamt of visiting. Build a basic dance repertoire. Previous dance experience is helpful but not necessary.	Wednesdays 7:45 - 10:00 pm	Suzanne 854-3184
Scandinavian Dance Enjoy Scandinavian couple turning dances with recorded and live music. Instruction is at the beginner-intermediate level. Bringing a partner is not required.	Fridays 7:30 - 10:00 pm	James 323-2256
Border Morris Folk Dance This English ritual and celebratory dance used to be a local tradition by which workingmen would beg for "beer money." Enjoy this unique and energetic form of dance. Classes are open to anyone; join anytime.	Mondays 7:00 - 10:00 pm	Ric 326-3665
Dog Training Classes Offerings include a puppy class featuring obstacles and agility, a beginners' class, and an intermediate class with "canine good citizen" certification. Classes offered quarterly. Minimum dog age is 3 months.	Mondays 6:30 pm & 7:30 pm	Bari 851-5500
Tennis Lessons & Tournaments Individual and group lessons may be scheduled. Call the Tennis Pro for information about any upcoming tournaments. Tennis keys are available at the Park Office: residents \$150; non-residents \$200.	Call for Info	Alan Margot, Tennis Pro 752-0540
Summer Tennis Camp View more information at http://www.alanmargot-tennis.net/	June through August	Alan Margot, Tennis Pro 752-0540

Park Play Area Slated for Improvements



Through the efforts of Atherton residents Michelle Dollinger and Dorothea Collins, approval of a proposal to replace the existing playground equipment and expand the playground area at Holbrook-Palmer Park has been obtained from the City Council and the Park and Recreation Commission. Recognizing the need for an improved play area for the children of residents and non-residents alike, Ms. Dollinger and Ms. Collins—at their own expense—contracted with MIG, Inc., a planning and design firm with extensive playground experience.

The proposal as shown above, includes the design of the playground site, the development of construction documents, bidding assistance, and the oversight of the construction of the new playground. The proposal calls for 4,000 square feet of playground area (currently 1,500 square feet), plus an additional 2,600 square feet of picnic and seating areas. The inadequacy of the existing playground in meeting the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements, proper distance between the pieces of equipment, materials under the equipment, separation of equipment based on appropriate age groupings, state of the art equipment, and the safety of children will all be addressed in this project.

The project cost is estimated at \$330,000. Fundraising is being spearheaded by Alison Ross, Co-Chairperson of the Playground Committee. Already, \$220,000 has been raised and it is anticipated that the needed funds will be obtained by early May through donations from Atherton residents. No Town funds will be expended on the project. The project should be completed by October due to the delay in getting the playground equipment manufactured.

In addition to the opportunity to donate funds for the project, individuals, families, and groups will have the chance to become a permanent part of the play area through a donor recognition project. All donors over \$250 will have the option of having their names or other inscriptions on decorative pavers which will be used in this project.

Individuals interested in donating to the Holbrook-Palmer Park playground project may contact Alison Ross at 854-1700 or e-mail to aross@smartfinance.com for more information.

News Notes...

• **The Holbrook-Palmer Recreation Park Foundation** has announced plans to make substantial repairs to the Water Tower located at Holbrook-Palmer Park. The Water Tower, circa 1860-70, is experiencing problems with mold due to water leakage, and the catwalk is in need of replacement. This Park icon will benefit from the generosity and care of the Foundation members, who also plan to refurbish the exterior of the structure by patching holes, replacing missing molding, rebuilding or restoring the stairs, and preparing the exterior for painting by the Town. A schedule for the repairs has not been

finalized yet. The Foundation is an organization which raises much-needed funds for capital improvements to the Park to ensure that its historical significance is preserved for current and future generations to appreciate and enjoy.

• **Atherton Art Night in the City:** Smuin Ballets, San Francisco, has set aside 40 good seats for Atherton residents to enjoy its Christmas Ballet performance on December 16th at 7:00 p.m. in San Francisco. Reservations will be taken until October 20th and can be made by calling 482-9824. The cost is \$35.00 per ticket. The San Francisco Chronicle says "This crowd pleaser

works wonderfully. It brings down the house with exhilarating classical precision, plus plenty of sexy charm. The mood is merry and bright!" The Atherton Art Committee is interested in organizing other such events. Citizens are encouraged to offer suggestions to the Committee.

• **The Police Dispatch Center** will soon be receiving a much-needed upgrade through the use of State grant funding. On March 6, the City Council approved an agreement with Specialized Communication Services for the redesign of the computer console and work area used by the Police Dispatchers. Approxi-

Continued on Page 7

Atherton Dames to Improve Carriage House

The Gen Merrill Carriage House at Holbrook-Palmer Park will soon undergo needed improvements thanks to the Atherton Dames. The Dames are taking on this special project to improve and preserve one of the oldest historical points of interest in the Park. The plans include upgraded lighting, acoustical improvements, and repairs to the heating system. The Carriage House's sturdy wood floors, windowpanes, moldings, and iron grills in the horse stalls have remained the same for over 100 years. This unique facility is routinely reserved by residents and non-residents for classes, dances, meetings, bridge and workshops. The Atherton Dames are donating the needed funds for this project through their own fund-raising efforts. The Dames is a philanthropic women's organization that raises funds to support capital improvements to the Park, and is the fundraising arm of the Holbrook-Palmer Recreation Park Foundation. Atherton residents interested in joining this worthwhile organization may call Dames President Estelle Hoffman at 366-9069 for more information. The Dames meet on the second Friday of each month at locations throughout the town. Interested individuals may contact Pattie DeWalt at 752-0536 at the Park Administrative Offices for meeting location information.



Playschool to Expand

More Atherton residents will soon be able to enroll their children in the highly-accredited Knox Playschool located at Holbrook-Palmer Park. At its meeting of March 6, the City Council approved an agreement with Playschool owner Susan Knox to allow expansion of the existing facility through the addition of a new modular to be attached to the existing modular. Under the five-year agreement, Ms. Knox will provide the building, landscaping, and maintenance, and pay for the land lease. After five years, the building will be turned over to the Town at no cost to the Town. At the end of the initial lease, Knox Playschool has the option of extending the term of the lease for an additional five years. The addition will increase the facility by over 2,000 square feet, and will allow more children to be served by the Playschool. Knox Playschool currently has a waiting list of over 60 Atherton children, and over 270 children who reside outside of the Town limits. Atherton children are given preference on the waiting list. Knox Playschool is the only school for infants and pre-school aged children in Atherton.

"E-Waste" Program Kicks-Off

BFI, the Town's refuse contractor, has implemented the County's first electronics recycling program. Now you can recycle computers, keyboards, monitors (no broken glass), printers, zip drives, fax machines, copy machines, power cables, typewriters, stereo equipment, speakers and VCRs. Materials are accepted at the San Carlos transfer station during normal business hours, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily. The program is open to all Atherton residents at no charge. There is no limit to the number of items a resident may bring in, however, BFI can only accept a maximum of ten items including five monitors and one copy machine per business due to the difficulty and cost of recycling those items. Materials do not need to be in working order to be eligible for

Garbage Collection and Recycling Now on Same Day

Residents of Atherton now have garbage and recycling collected on the same day of the week. Atherton's pick-up day is Friday. Garbage will be collected every Friday; recycling and yard waste will be collected every other Friday. The change is intended to encourage people who are not currently recycling to do so by making it easier for them. The Town needs all residents to recycle in order to meet the state-mandated 50% diversion goal. All of Atherton is on a Friday pick-up schedule with the exception of the following addresses, which are on Thursday: 264-362 Bay Road; 102-196 Encinal Avenue; 25-151 Laurel Place; and 2032-2091 Camino at Lago Lane.

BFI, the Town's waste hauler, is also implementing "on-call" clean-ups to replace the scheduled spring and fall clean-ups. You can now choose the date for two clean-ups per year. A clean-up appointment can be scheduled by calling 592-2411. Appointments must be scheduled two weeks in advance, and may also be made through BFI's website at www.bfipeninsula.com.

this program. An electronics recycling facility in San Francisco picks up the materials collected, and equipment that still has value is refurbished and resold. Certain equipment is

repaired and resold to other countries (where "old" equipment may still be cutting-edge), or disassembled and recycled. For more information, call BFI at 592-2411.

News Notes continued....

mately \$40,000 in grant funds will serve to bring this critical 24-hour operation into compliance with modern ergonomic standards and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements, making for a healthier and safer workplace. The work, scheduled for completion in September, will also help reduce the Town's potential liability for repetitive motion injuries and provide accommodation for persons with disabilities.

- **Celebrate Arbor Day!** The Atherton Tree Committee invites all residents to the Town's 12th annual Arbor Day Celebration, to be held Saturday, April 28th at

10:00 a.m. The Tree Committee, in conjunction with PG&E's SafeTree Program, will be planting trees on the Alameda de Las Pulgas to replace Eucalyptus globulus that were under powerlines and topped. The event is a joint venture to plant trees and promote education on planting the appropriate tree species under powerlines. Free T-shirts will be available for tree planters plus a chance to win some great prizes in the drawing. Must be present with shovel to win! Meet at 1 Mandarin Way, one block north of Atherton Avenue. For more details, contact Kathy Hughes-Anderson at 752-0526.

- **Tennis Key Fees Reduced:** The fees for keys to the tennis courts have been reduced from \$200 to \$150 for Atherton residents and from \$250 to \$200 for non-residents. Keys are sold at the Park office. Contact Jean Cardona for more information at 752-0534.
- **Information about composting** or how to recycle unwanted items can be found on the County's recycling website at www.RecycleWorks.org, or by calling Kathy Hughes-Anderson at 752-0526.

CALENDAR

Call 752-0500 for information on changes and special meetings

April

23	C. M. Listening Session	7:00 pm	Council Chambers
24	Arts Committee	11:00 am	Admin. Offices, Mtg. Rm
25	Planning Comm.	6:00 pm	Council Chambers

May

2	Park & Rec Comm.	6:30 pm	H-P Park, Main House
9	City Council	7:00 pm	Council Chambers
16	City Council	7:00 pm	Council Chambers
22	Arts Committee	11:00 am	Admin. Offices, Mtg. Rm
23	Planning Comm.	6:00 pm	Council Chambers
28	C. M. Listening Session	7:00 pm	Council Chambers

June

5	Special Election	7 am - 8 pm	Polls Open
6	General Plan Comm.	6:00 pm	Council Chambers
6	Park & Rec Comm.	6:30 pm	H-P Park, Main House
13	City Council	7:00 pm	Council Chambers
20	City Council	7:00 pm	Council Chambers
25	C. M. Listening Session	7:00 pm	Council Chambers
26	Arts Committee	11:00 am	Admin. Offices, Mtg. Rm
27	Planning Comm.	6:00 pm	Council Chambers

New Staff . . .

Continued from page 1

Sunnyvale as a Senior Management Analyst in the City Manager's office. Her prior experience includes nine years' experience in cities in Southern California. Linda's responsibilities include analysis, project coordination, and human resources assistance. Linda is a resident of Sunnyvale, and like John, commutes to Atherton via the convenient CalTrain.

Bill Yeomans is serving as the **Interim Finance Director**. Bill recently retired from the City of South Pasadena as its Finance Director, and brings to Atherton 20 years of experience in public sector finance. Bill heads the finance team and is responsible for all budgeting and accounting functions. Bill resides in Pasadena and will be staying with his sister in Menlo Park during the workweek.

Visit our website at
www.ci.atherton.ca.us
for information on your Town

The Town of Atherton



91 Ashfield Road
Atherton, CA 94027

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
P A I D
PERMIT NO. 26
MENLO PARK, CA

Atherton Resident
Atherton, CA 94027