



ATHERTONIAN

Quarterly Newsletter for Atherton Residents

Summer 2001

Parcel Tax Approved by Voters

Thank you to the Atherton voters who took the time to cast ballots in the Special Municipal Election held on June 5th for Measure F, the Parcel Tax Measure. The measure gained the two-thirds vote required for passage.

Election Results

Yes....1,275 (67.32%)
No.....619 (32.68%)
Voter turnout: 38.31%

The passage of the measure shows the support of the community for the future of Atherton. Through its adoption, the measure enacts an ordinance which allows the City Council to levy a special tax on real property for the next four years, totalling \$1.6 million per year.

For the first year of the tax, the City Council has made infrastructure improvements a priority, budgeting the majority of the funds for the following categories of projects:

- Street Projects
- Street Patch, Seal, and Overlay
- Atherton Channel Repairs
- Valparaiso/University Study

A smaller percentage of the first year's revenue will be transferred to the Town General Fund, to provide for Town operations, including compensation adjustments and two Police

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New City Manager Appointed

In May, the City Council announced the appointment of James H. Robinson as the Town's new City Manager. Jim was selected by the City Council after the Council conducted an exhaustive recruitment throughout the United States.

Jim most recently served as the Town Manager for the Town of Corte Madera in Marin County since 1996, and has worked in various local government administrative positions since 1974. He began his career as a City Manager in 1983 serving as the first City Manager of San Ramon, California. In San Ramon, he had the unique experience of establishing its municipal government after the city's incorporation. He holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Masters of Public Administration degree from Brigham Young University.

Jim is 52 years old, has been married for 25 years to his wife Lois and has three sons, James, 23, David, 21, and Robert, 17.

"I look forward to working with the Atherton City Council, Town staff and its residents to ensure the continued success of the Town of Atherton," Jim said. Jim's first day with the Town was July 23rd.

Welcome Reception September 6th

A welcome reception to introduce Mr. Robinson to the community will be held on Thursday, September 6th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Pavilion at Holbrook-Palmer Park. Everyone is invited. Refreshments will be served.

Quick Energy Tips

- Set your thermostat to 85° or higher when you leave your home for more than 4 hours.
- Close shades and drapes to keep out heat.
- Landscape with deciduous plants to shade your home and windows.
- Plan ahead to wash dishes and clothes in the late evening.

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Department overhires to cover for vacancies and for when officers are in training.

In a small community like Atherton, which has no sales tax, transient occupancy tax, or utility users tax, the parcel tax is a crucial means by which the Town can continue to operate to meet the needs of its residents, and address some of its infrastructure repairs. The Town administration appreciates the participation of the community in the public hearings and dialogue regarding this measure, and welcomes feedback of the residents on the future use of parcel tax monies.

Resident Survey Results

Thank you to all the residents who responded to the "Quick Resident Survey" in the last issue of the *Athertonian*. A total of 74 surveys were submitted. The information collected will prove to be an additional resource for the City Council and staff to consult when discussing Town goals and the allocation of fiscal resources and staff time. The five statements on the survey received the following responses:

1. The Town should provide more program opportunities for children's recreation at Holbrook-Palmer Park.

Strongly Agree = 18
Agree = 13
Neutral = 12
Disagree = 8
Strongly Disagree = 16

2. The Town should develop a new center or do extensive remodeling and/or expansion of the Pavilion at Holbrook-Palmer Park.

Strongly Agree = 10
Agree = 7
Neutral = 18
Disagree = 12
Strongly Disagree = 20

3. The Town should undertake a major capital improvement project for streets and storm drainage with yearly assessments on all properties.

Strongly Agree = 30
Agree = 10
Neutral = 9
Disagree = 5
Strongly Disagree = 13

4. The Town should upgrade facilities for all Town government.

Strongly Agree = 6
Agree = 11
Neutral = 21
Disagree = 11
Strongly Disagree = 17

5. The Town should provide more information and interactive issues on the Town's website.

Strongly Agree = 10
Agree = 19
Neutral = 26
Disagree = 6
Strongly Disagree = 6

For a full copy of the report of the results, which includes all supplemental comments made by residents, please contact Linda Kelly, Assistant to the City Manager, at 752-0546, or e-mail your request to lkelly@ci.atherton.ca.us.

Help Us Honor Our Fallen Heroes

Do you have information about an Athertonian who died serving our country? Marion Oster, Chair of the Atherton Heritage Association, is looking to create a list of fallen war veterans to be honored in some permanent way. Contact Marion at 325-0714 if you have information to share.

Playschool Openings

Knox Playschool in Holbrook-Palmer Park has openings in both Pre-Kindergarten and Young Fives programs for fall. Pre-K is offered Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to Noon or Monday-Thursday from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Children must be 4 years old by December 1. Young Fives is offered Monday-Thursday from 1:00-4:00 p.m. and children must turn 5 by January 1. The Playschool offers small classes, exceptional teachers, and a great family program. Call 854-6705 for information or stop by the Playschool for a visit.

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

Council Appoints New Commissioners and Committee Members

Congratulations to the following citizens who were recently appointed by the City Council to serve on Town advisory Boards, Commissions, and Committees:

Planning Commission	Marion Oster
General Plan Committee	Jim Dobbie Alex (Sandy) Kaye Joan Sanders
Arts Committee	Jean Schaff
Park and Recreation Commission	Henry Cartan III (reappointment; Holbrook-Palmer Park Foundation Representative) Jeanne Wangsness (reappointment; Atherton Dames Representative)
Audit Committee	Arlan Kertz (reappointment) Robert O'Donnell (reappointment)
Mid-Peninsula Access Corp.	Maureen Dickey (reappointment)

The City Council makes its annual appointments to advisory boards each May. Citizens interested in serving should contact Sharon Barker, City Clerk, at 752-0529.

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, City Attorney 967-6941

City Manager

Jim Robinson, City Manager ... 752-0504
Sharon Barker, City Clerk 752-0529
Linda Kelly,
Assistant to City Manager 752-0546

City Planner

Neal Martin, City Planner 593-1685
Lisa Costa Sanders,
Senior Planner 802-4207

Finance

Bill Yeomans,
Interim Director 752-0531
Paula Pierce, Finance Asst. 752-0519

Library 328-2422

Police

Robert Brennan, Chief 752-0506
General Information 688-6500
Emergency 911

Post Office

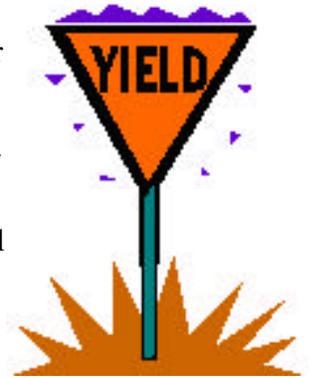
General Information 752-0500

Public Works

Cliff Temps, Director. 752-0532
John Iaquinto,
Superintendent 752-0541
Information/Permits 752-0570
Jean Cardona,
Park Program Mgr. 752-0534
Kathy Hughes Anderson,
Town Arborist 752-0526

CAUTION: ROAD WORK AHEAD!!!

The Town recently let contracts for patching five miles of its streets and crack sealing another 15 miles. The Public Works crew is also gearing up to do another five miles of crack sealing. The patching and Town crew crack sealing started in July, and the contract crack sealing is scheduled for August. The Town is also out to bid on surface sealing about a mile-and-a-half of streets, likely to take place in September. The main streets involved in July's work are Atherton Avenue, Stockbridge, Barry, Elena, Valparaiso and James. Work on these roads will cause traffic delays and, in some cases, detours. Work on other streets can probably be done with only minor traffic control measures and inconveniences, and advance notice by way of door knob hangers and signs will be given where practical. Residents with questions regarding road work should call 752-0570.



Live Air Traffic Radar on the Web

Now, you can track live aircraft flight track data showing where aircraft are flying in the San Francisco Bay area, at what altitude and over which neighborhoods, compliments of San Francisco International Airport's Noise Abatement Office. The intent is to give the public a way to report more precise information to the Noise Abatement Center, which it can then use to report more accurately the origin of a noise event and the airline responsible. Due to safety and other operational issues, the display is delayed approximately 10 minutes. Map data on the site shows the state of aviation over the Bay Area as it was a few minutes before.

Often, callers to SFO's noise abatement hotline report noisy aircraft in vague terms such as "a big jet over my house waking me up at midnight," for example. With scores of aircraft in the air at any moment and passing over many points only two or three minutes apart, such information sometimes is of little value.

Here is how to use the web page:

- First note the time of an aircraft noise event.
- Go to the flight track web page at <http://live.airportnetwork.com/sfo/>.
- Click on the sweeping radar button to launch the applet that tracks flights. When the map appears, zero in on your community or neighborhood.
- Note the digital time display in green at the lower left corner.
- When the time in the digital display is the same as the event you noted in step one, the aircraft you wish to report will be represented by an airplane icon closest to your location on the map. If the icon color is black, then it is a general aviation aircraft such as a helicopter, private aircraft or sightseeing plane. If the icon color is red, it is a commercial aircraft bound for one of the region's airports. If it is green, it is a commercial aircraft that has departed one of the airports and is traveling out of the area. If it is white, it is a commercial aircraft traveling throughout the area. Note the color of the icon.
- Move your cursor over the aircraft icon. To the right of the digital clock, an altitude reading, such as "Alt 9500' msl," will appear in blue. The altitude is reported in feet above mean sea level, or msl. If you want to lock onto that aircraft and have the altitude display track it, click on its icon, turning it yellow. A new yellow bar will appear at the lower right showing the continuously-updating altitude of the aircraft you are tracking.
- Communicate the information you obtained to the Noise Abatement Office at (650) 876-2219 or toll-free at (877) 206-8290.

Source: *San Francisco International Airport Community Roundtable Monitor Newsletter, June 2001.*

Recycling and Environmental News

Solid Waste Fee Increase

The Town has a franchise agreement with Browning-Ferris Industries (BFI) which allows for the collection of refuse, recyclable material, and plant material within the Town limits. Under the agreement and the Town's participation in the South Bayside Waste Management Authority (SBWMA), BFI is required to submit cost and performance data to SBWMA, who in turn uses a consultant to determine appropriate rates for the Town. The consultant's study concluded that Atherton's rates have been too low to cover the cost of service for years.

The Town's Solid Waste Reduction Committee was given information showing how different rate increase strategies would eliminate the deficit over one, two or three years. The Committee considered the options and decided to recommend that the Council adopt a level rate that was calculated to eliminate the deficit over three years. At its meeting of March 21st, the City Council approved the rate schedules retroactive to March 1. The complete report to Council on this issue is available on the Town's website www.ci.atherton.ca.us. From the home page, click the "Town News" section.

Weed Abatement

Residents are reminded that it is the responsibility of abutting property owners to maintain all landscaping, including trees, in the "parkway" portion of the street right-of-way. This responsibility includes weed abatement, cutting back all vegetation encroaching into the street pavement and any vegetation that might obscure visibility at street intersections.

The Town's Encroachment Ordinance requires that rocks, logs and stumps, as well as newly planted trees, be kept a minimum of six feet back from the edge of pavement. The encroachment of plant material (ground cover, shrubs, low overhanging tree limbs and weeds) along property frontages can create a potential hazard for pedestrians and motorists. The Town is asking for your cooperation in abating this overgrowth to provide both a safe and aesthetic environment for our streets.

TREE AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Town of Atherton is currently accepting nominations for its eleventh annual Tree Awards Program. The Atherton Tree Committee initiated the program in 1991 as a way to recognize and encourage the good care and nurturing of trees. "The Tree Awards program recognizes the pride Athertonians have for their trees," said Shirley Carlson, Chairperson of the Atherton Tree Committee, "and rewards homeowners who realize the importance of maintaining our Heritage Trees." Eligible candidates are any specimen trees that meet one or more of the following criteria: outstanding condition; unique in size, age, species or historical significance, or a grove of mature trees native to this region. Special awards will also be given for the best newly planted tree, the tallest tree and for a mature tree for which special preservation measures have been taken to protect from construction impacts. Winners will be selected by the Tree Committee and Town staff.



Nomination forms are available at the Town Administrative Offices, the Permit Center, the Atherton Library and on the web at www.ci.atherton.ca.us. The deadline for entry is 5:00 p.m., August 31, 2001. For more information, contact Kathy Hughes Anderson, Town Arborist, at 752-0526.

Problem Pesticides Banned by the Federal EPA

Evidence shows that a growing number of commonly available pesticides can be harmful to both people and the environment. The toxicity of the pesticides and volume used contribute to these problem pesticides ending up in our water, air and soil. Residents, home gardeners, and pest control professionals--not farmers--use over half of the pesticides causing water quality problems in urban areas.

Last year, two common organophosphate pesticides lost their registration with the US Environmental Protection Agency. Organophosphate pesticides are broad-spectrum, nerve gas compounds. They act by attacking the nervous systems of organisms. Common uses include flea, cockroach, aphid, spider and wasp control, however they are highly toxic to birds, honeybees and other beneficial insects and mammals. Below are the two poisons that are being banned from residential use.

Chlorpyrifos (trade name Dursban) - In June 2000, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced an agreement with pesticide manufacturers that will remove Dursban products from retail sale and most professional uses by December 2001. EPA's action was based on scientific research indicating that chlorpyrifos is more toxic to infants, children, and women than previously understood.

Diazinon - In December 2000, the

EPA announced the chemical would be phased out by December 2004. This pesticide is a major urban pollution problem. It is commonly found in air, rain, and fog.

Check the labels of the products you purchase and use. Be sure to properly dispose of all unwanted chemicals through the Household Hazardous Waste Program. Call

363-4718 to make an appointment. San Mateo County Environmental Health recommends a less toxic approach to pest control. Check out the fact sheets on line at www.stopp.net or call 599-1514 for information on suggested alternatives. Less-toxic fact sheets are also available in the Public Works Department at Town Hall.

Free Mulch!

Free mulch is available to Atherton residents at Holbrook-Palmer Park. Give back to your garden what BFI has made available to the Town from collecting your greenwaste. You can bag it or send your gardener to the mulch pile, which is located behind the Eucalyptus trees, adjacent to the Park corporation yard.

Recycling Household and Automotive Waste

Everyone has heard about the danger industrial hazardous wastes pose to human health and the environment. What you may not know is that your own home may be full of toxic waste!

Household products like cleaners, paints, pesticides, and automotive products are generally considered safe if used and stored correctly. However, when improperly disposed of, they become environmental pollutants. When put in the trash, these toxic wastes can seriously injure trash collectors and other refuse workers. When dumped in the gutter, in the Bay or ocean, or down the drain, these wastes can contaminate our drinking water, ocean and Bay and can potentially harm the environment and kill wildlife.

Do your part in properly handling and disposing of household and automotive chemical products. Use these helpful numbers to find out how:

- Household Hazardous Waste appointment line (650) 363-4718
- Environmental Hotline: 1-800-CLEANUP or www.1800cleanup.org
- Environmental Health Website:
www.smhealth.org/environ/toxic/hhw.html

To receive a brochure with this information in Spanish, call Kathy Hughes Anderson, Town Arborist, at 752-0526.

Meet the New Town Staff...

Over the past few months, several new employees have joined the Town.

Dan Coughlin, Building Inspector/Plan Reviewer, joins us from the Town of Woodside Building Department. He has 20 years of residential construction experience, and once worked in commercial fishing in Alaska. In his free time, he enjoys hiking, steelhead fishing, and prospecting. Dan is impressed with the Town's policy of positive interaction with the public....

Robert Espino, Public Works Maintenance Worker, learned to be a mechanic from his father when he was 13 years old. He and his wife have an 8-month-old son, and Robert enjoys

cooking and learning new things all the time...**Jaime Flores, Public Works Maintenance Worker**, brings experience in the plumbing and painting businesses. He and his wife have a one-month-old daughter. Jaime enjoys tennis and hiking...**Kristin Lee, Police Officer**, is experienced in asset protection, private investigation, and fraud investigation. Her hobbies include dancing, reading, painting, and martial arts. Kristin is a former captain of the NBA-Golden State Warrior Dance Team...**Eddie Lopez, Public Works Maintenance Worker**, comes to Atherton from the City of Redwood City, where he worked as a Storm Drainage Maintenance Worker and a Street Maintenance Worker. His favorite pastime is playing basketball, baseball and football. Eddie enjoys the staff teamwork in Atherton....

Timothy Marks, Police Officer,

has experience with the Oakland Police Department and Jail Facility. Tim enjoys martial arts, is interested in SWAT team activities and hopes to become a defensive tactics instructor....

Joanne Thomas-Smith, Police Dispatcher, has 23 years of dispatching experience and 20 years as an Officer with Menlo Park Police. Her favorite pastime is travel, and she has traveled throughout the world. Joanne says she enjoys working in a service-oriented department...**Shari Weiss, Public Services Assistant**, serves the public in both the Post Office and the Building Department. Shari's experience includes over seven years with the FBI as an administrative assistant, and with Atherton as administrative assistant to the Chief of Police, 1995-96. In her free time, she enjoys shopping, swimming, and reading.

News Notes

• Alarm Fee Adjustment:

After considering different proposals as alternatives to the \$300 annual alarm permit hook-up fee, the City Council at its meeting of June 20th decided to institute a new alarm fee structure. The hook-up fee has been eliminated, with no charge for the first alarm, and a \$100 charge per alarm thereafter (formerly \$50, with the first 3 free). The new policy takes effect July 1st. Residents with questions on this issue should contact Priscella O'Shea, Police Communications Supervisor, at 752-0509.

• Counting and Accounting:

In keeping with the recommendations from the audit of Town finances conducted last year, the Town recently contracted with a fixed assets valuation firm to conduct a complete inventory and valuation of the Town's assets. These assets include land, buildings, vehicles, furniture, computers, and other valuable property. The project provides for property records and valuations to be used for financial reporting, loss prevention and internal control, insurance, depreciation estimates, and property replacement schedules. The inventory will be kept current in the future by the Finance Department as items are surplus and new items are acquired.

• Postal Rate Increase:

Many of our Post Office customers have had questions about the rate increases effective July 1st. Here are the numbers: First-Class letters remain at 34¢ for the first ounce; each additional ounce is 23¢ (formerly 21¢); Postcards have increased from 20¢ to 21¢. For Express Mail, ½ lb. went from \$12.25 to \$12.45, up to 2 lbs. is now \$16.25 (previously \$16.00) and Flat Rate Envelopes are also \$16.25 (previously \$16.00). As a reminder, our Town Contract Post Office is open to serve you Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to Noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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CALENDAR

Call 752-0529 for information on changes and special meetings

August

City Council Meeting Cancelled

1	Park & Rec Comm.	6:30 pm	H-P Park, Main House
22	Planning Commission	6:00 pm	Council Chambers
28	Arts Committee	11:00 am	Admin Offices Mtg. Rm.

September

5	General Plan Comm.	6:00 pm	Council Chambers
5	Park & Rec Comm.	6:30 pm	H-P Park, Main House
19	City Council	7:00 pm	Council Chambers
25	Arts Committee	11:00 am	Admin. Offices Mtg. Rm
26	Planning Commission	6:00 pm	Council Chambers

October

3	Park & Rec Comm.	6:30 pm	H-P Park, Main House
9	Transportation Comm.	6:00 pm	Council Chambers
17	City Council	7:00 pm	Council Chambers
24	Planning Commission	6:00 pm	Council Chambers

News Notes continued...

• **Tennis Shelter Painted:** Thanks to the efforts of Earl Nelson and Bill Awbrey, the Dorothy Bockner Tennis Shelter at Holbrook-Palmer Park received carpentry repairs and a fresh painting. The Shelter is named after the Atherton Dames' first President Dorothy Bockner for her contributions to the tennis program. Volunteers donated over 100 hours to the painting and refurbishing project. Also assisting with the project were Stuart Awbrey, Rachael Croft, John Dore, Barbara Johnson, and Alan Margot.

The volunteer crew wishes to encourage all tennis players to enjoy the spruced-up environs by purchasing a tennis key. Keys are \$150 for Atherton residents and \$200 for non-residents. Contact Jean Cardona, Park Program Manager, at 752-0534, for more information.

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

The 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