



ATHERTONIAN

Quarterly Newsletter for Atherton Residents

Winter 2002

Winter Storm Update

The Town was hit hard by the first real storm of the winter season on November 24th, which brought rainfall with high, gusty winds.

The Public Works and Police Departments responded to over 35 calls for flooding, downed trees and hazardous situations such as downed power lines. Traffic delays were kept to a minimum as both Town staff and hired contractors worked tirelessly to keep roads open.

The mop-up efforts continued into the following week and the Town began to resemble "pre-storm" appearance until suddenly the next storm hit on Sunday, December 2nd. This storm brought periods of torrential rainfall that, coupled with the heavy leaf drop of autumn, brought some small-scale flooding. Once again, Public Works crews responded by cleaning drains and clearing downed trees and limbs.

During the upcoming winter months, our crews will concentrate on preempting storms with the good practice of cleaning up drain grates and gutters prior to the rains. The Town's Public Works staff is ever-vigilant in looking out for broken and/or hanging tree limbs that could become a hazard to public safety should they fall. Crews also can be spotted potholing, trimming back vegetation to clear signs, and doing streetlight repair.

Remember that if you must travel during a storm, please exercise extreme caution in traveling near road crew vehicles with their trademark rotating amber lights. This could be a sign of a downed tree or flooding, but usually at the least indicates that a worker is out of the vehicle and may be in the roadway. Please look out for the crew as they work to clear the streets for you!

To report a hazardous road condition, please contact the Public Works Department at 752-0570 (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.). For after-hours and weekend calls, please contact the Police Department at 688-6500.

Be Prepared for the Rainy Season

In order to assist residents with preparing for the rainy season, the Town has a stockpile of sand and sandbags available to Atherton residents, located at the south end of



the Atherton train station parking lot adjacent to the Public Works Corporation Yard. Sandbags are free to Atherton residents, but residents must bag their own sand. **For more information regarding sandbags, call Public Works at 752-0570.**

As a reminder, property owners and contractors are responsible for keeping vehicles from tracking mud out onto the roadway. Mud that gets onto the roadway causes the streets to become slippery and unsightly, and the mud can eventually end up in the Bay. All communities in the Bay Area are required by federal mandate to eliminate or minimize erosion and polluted runoff from construction sites to storm drains and other bodies of water. Most mud entering the Bay this time of year comes from construction sites.

Residents should also be aware that they are responsible for keeping roadside shoulders, drainage ways and gutters cleared of encroaching vegetation, leaves and debris. This is necessary in order to maintain the drainage capacity needed to carry run-off from a winter storm, and to minimize the exposure of public and private property to potential flooding.

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Tree Committee News

The Atherton Tree Committee recently received notice that they have been awarded a grant from the **California ReLeaf 2002 Tree-Planting Grant Program**.

The Tree Committee, in a joint effort with **Sacred Heart Schools** and **PG&E**, will be planting trees on Elena Avenue. The tree planting will take place this spring in conjunction with the Town's Arbor Day event.

Look for more detailed information in the spring issue of the *Athertonian*.



Atherton Arts Committee Children's Art Classes for 2002

Winter Art at the Park

Class Dates: January 14th – March 28th

Ages & Days:

Pre-K – 2nd Grade.....Tuesday or Wednesday

3rd through 5th Grades.....Thursday

New! 6th through 8th Grades.....Monday

Time: 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

10 weeks of classes.....\$250

Note: No classes February 18th through 22nd

Seasonal Craft Workshops

Friday Classes

Ages: Pre-K – 6th Grade

Projects and Dates: Valentine's Day - **Heart Card** - February 8th
Saint Patrick's Day - **Lucky Clovers** - March 15th
Easter - **Egg Ornaments & Tree** - April 5th
Mother's Day - **Heart-shaped Box** – May 10th
Father's Day - **Mini Clay Golf Clubs** – June 14th
Fourth of July - **Flags** – June 28th
Time: 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Six Workshops.....\$100



Contact & Sign-up:

**Atherton Arts
Committee**

482-9824

e-mail: atherton_art@hotmail.com

New Mayor and Vice Mayor

At its meeting on December 19th, the City Council chose Vice Mayor **Alan B. Carlson** to serve as **Mayor** and Council Member **James R. Janz** to serve as **Vice Mayor**. Annually, the Council appoints two of its members to serve in these important roles.

**Congratulations Mayor Carlson
and Vice Mayor Janz!**



Alarm Inspection Service

The Atherton Police Department is ready to complete our annual on-site premise alarm and security inspection for those who have the "Direct Connect Alarm Service" with us.

**If you would like to make an
appointment for an Officer to
inspect your residence, please
contact Jennifer Frew at 752-
0503.**

Join the Friends of the Atherton Community Library

If you would like to participate on the FACL Board, please call Joan Sanders at 325-4912 or speak to an Atherton Librarian.



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

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

James R. Janz, Vice Mayor..... 325-8666 (wk)
term expires 11/2004 e-mail: jjanz@ci.atherton.ca.us

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

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

Kathleen McKeithen, Council Member..... 321-3633
term expires 11/2004 e-mail: kmckethen@ci.atherton.ca.us



Helpful Phone Numbers

(All area codes are 650 unless otherwise noted)

AT&T Broadband Cable856-8181
California Water Service.....367-6800
Pacific Gas & Electric(800) 743-5000

County Services

Animal Control.....363-4840
Assessor.....363-4500
Library.....328-2422
Supervisor, Richard Gordon, 3rd Dist....363-4569
Voter Registration.....312-5222

Menlo Park Fire District

Business/Administration Office.....688-8400
Emergency.....323-2404 or 911

Waste/Recycling

Browning Ferris Industries (BFI) Garbage....592-2411
Recycling.....637-1411
Fair Oaks Sanitation District.....363-4100
West Bay Sanitation District.....321-0384

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 593-1685

Finance

John Johns, 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
Steve Tyler, PW Superintendent 752-0541
Information/Permits 752-0570
Jean Cardona,
Park Program Mgr. 752-0534
Kathy Hughes Anderson,
Town Arborist 752-0526

Your Town Works for You!

The Town of Atherton is organized under the Council-Manager form of government.

This means that the City Council serves as the five-member body elected by the citizens of the Town, and the Council appoints a City Manager to administer the Town's business on a day-to-day basis. The City Manager, in turn, appoints his department heads to handle public safety, building, financial, and public works matters, among many other important duties of the Town.

So, what do you do if you, as a citizen, have a matter that you would like to bring to the Town's attention? The quickest and most efficient way to have your matter handled is to contact the department responsible for the issue (see list of departments on Page 3 of this newsletter). For instance, if the matter is regarding street maintenance, you may contact the Public Works department directly. If it is a matter regarding public policy, or something that you would rather bring directly to the City Manager's attention, you may contact the City Manager's Office at 752-0504 or 752-0546.

You, as a citizen, always have the opportunity of bringing an issue to the attention of your elected Mayor and/or City Council. There are a number of ways of doing this. A citizen can contact the Mayor and Council Members directly by phone, mail, or e-mail (see Page 3 for contact numbers). Citizens can also directly address the City Council in a public forum at one of the Town's regular City Council meetings, which are normally held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. There is a time on the City Council agenda at the beginning and at the end of each meeting for citizens to speak to the Council about any matters within their jurisdiction. The Mayor and/or Council Members may choose to respond to the issue at that time, or they may direct staff to follow-up with the citizen at a later date. All administrative actions in response to citizen concerns are handled by Town staff, at the direction of the City Manager.

Some thoughts on how to Spare the Air in the Wintertime...

- Eliminate or limit woodburning in your fireplace or wood stove.
- Avoid unnecessary driving. Carpool, walk, bicycle or use mass transit as much as possible. For transit information call 817-1717.
- Switch to a natural gas fireplace, or EPA-certified wood stove or fireplace insert.
- Burn manufactured composition logs. They produce 50% less pollution.
- If you must burn wood, learn to "Light it Right" with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's Woodburning Handbook.

For a Woodburning Handbook or more information about wintertime air pollution call **1-800-HELP-AIR** or visit **www.sparetheair.org**.

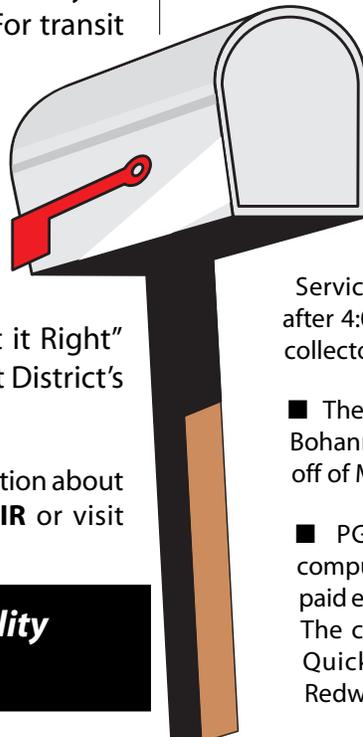
Courtesy of Bay Area Air Quality Management District

Post Office Services

One of the most popular services in our Town Hall is our very own convenient Post Office. Here are a few reminders to make the most of your visit to our contract station Post Office.



- Post Office hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- We do not accept debit or credit cards; only cash, check, or money order.
- The mail is picked up twice daily from the Atherton contract station by the U.S. Postal Service, once around lunchtime and again normally after 4:00 p.m. The exact time depends upon the mail collector and can vary from day to day.
- The closest "full-scale" Post Office is the Menlo Park Bohannon Station, 3875 Bohannon Drive, Menlo Park, off of Marsh Road.
- PG&E payments are accepted but we are not a computerized pay station. PG&E only provides postage paid envelopes to us for mailing your payments for you. The closest computerized pay station is located at: Quick Pay, 1060 El Camino Real (near Jefferson), Redwood City.



Official Town Notice Posting

Ever wonder how to find out about new laws enacted by the Town or about actions taken by our City Council? There are many ways for citizens to stay informed about the business of the Town.

State and Town laws require that citizens have the opportunity to be informed about potential actions of the City Council, both before and after the adoption of new or revised laws, or ordinances, which are one type of city legislative action. An agenda is a list of the items that the City Council will consider at an upcoming

meeting, and serves to give the citizens official notice of Town business to be transacted in a public forum. Interested in viewing these documents?

■ **The Town has six official posting places.** They are bulletin boards located at: Rosewood and Greenoaks Drives, Atherton Train Station, Atherton Library, Atherton Town Offices, Atherton Council Chambers, and Selby Lane at Atherton Avenue.

■ **Recent ordinances and agendas** are posted on these bulletin boards, along with any other official notices of the Town.

■ Agendas and ordinances are also posted on the Town's web site at

www.ci.atherton.ca.us. For Wednesday Council meetings, agendas are normally posted on the site the weekend before the meeting.

■ Most ordinances become codified as part of the Town's Municipal Code, which is the book of local laws that govern the Town's business. Municipal Code books can be viewed at Town Hall and the Atherton Library. The Municipal Code may also be viewed on the Town's web site.

The City Clerk is the official custodian of all Town records. Contact **Sharon Barker, City Clerk, at 752-0529** if you are interested in viewing or researching Town documents.

New Faces on Town Staff

In November, John P. Johns, CPA, was appointed the Town's new Finance Director. John, a resident of Mountain



View, brings to the Town extensive experience as a consultant to various municipalities throughout California. John has worked in the

financial arena for over 15 years. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from U.C. Berkeley, a Master of Business Administration from Santa Clara University, and is a California licensed Certified Public Accountant. He also teaches finance classes at UCSC Extension. On a personal note, John is a marathon runner and a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps. He and his wife of 10 years, Sally, have two children, Steven, 4, and Cecelia, 18 months.

"I'm delighted to have been selected as

Atherton's Finance Director. Having been born and raised in neighboring Redwood City, I know what a remarkable place the Town of Atherton is," John stated.

As Finance Director, John is responsible for all areas of Town finances, including budget, financial reporting, accounting, purchasing, and the Town's contract Post Office. Residents may see John out running at lunchtime along Atherton Avenue, when he is not swimming with Menlo Masters at Sacred Heart School.

Steven Tyler is the Town's new Public Works Superintendent. Coming

to the Town after nineteen years' experience with CalTrans, Steven has served as supervisor of a highway road crew for seven years. His extensive road



maintenance and supervisory experience are a welcome addition to the Public Works Department. Some of his more interesting experiences with CalTrans include serving as an equipment operator plowing snow on I-80 over Donner Summit and helping restore Devil's Slide on Highway 1 during numerous winter seasons.

Steve, a resident of San Mateo, has been married to his wife Karen for 18 years. They have three children, Nick, 14, Alex, 8 and Courtney, 7. In his free time, he enjoys coaching baseball and soccer, and is a golfer, boater and skier. Steve looks forward to becoming a part of the Town of Atherton "team." His duties include overseeing public works maintenance functions and activities relating to parks, roadway landscaping, roads, drainage channels, storm drains and public buildings.

Continued on last page.

CALENDAR

Call 752-0529 for information on changes and special meetings

January

16	City Council	7:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
21 Martin Luther King Day, Town Offices Closed			
23	Planning Commission	6:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
25	Arts Committee	11:00 a.m.	Admin. Offices Mtg. Rm.

February

7	Park & Rec Comm.	6:30 p.m.	H-P Park, Main House
18 President's Day, Town Offices Closed			
20*	City Council	7:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
22	Arts Committee	11:00 a.m.	Admin. Offices Mtg. Rm.
27*	Planning Commission	6:00 p.m.	Council Chambers

March

6	Park & Rec Comm.	6:30 p.m.	H-P Park, Main House
6	General Plan Comm.	6:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
20	City Council	7:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
22	Arts Committee	11:00 a.m.	Admin. Offices Mtg. Rm.
27	Planning Commission	6:00 p.m.	Council Chambers

*Dates tentative. Contact the City Clerk at 752-0529 for further information.

New Faces, continued from page 5.

Last year, Janelle Davenport became a Dispatcher/Records Assistant for the Police Department. Residents

may already know Janelle since she served as a part-time Dispatcher for the Town since 1997. Janelle has a Bachelor of Arts degree in



Communications from San Jose State, and has worked in community service, records and dispatch for over 10 years.

She has also done reserve officer work for the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office.

In her spare time, Janelle enjoys yoga, cooking, crafts, motorcycle riding, roller blading, bicycling and a little golf "now and then." She is engaged to be married in April 2002. Her fiancé Greg works as a Police Detective in San Carlos, and together, they operate a side business as mobile disc jockeys.

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