



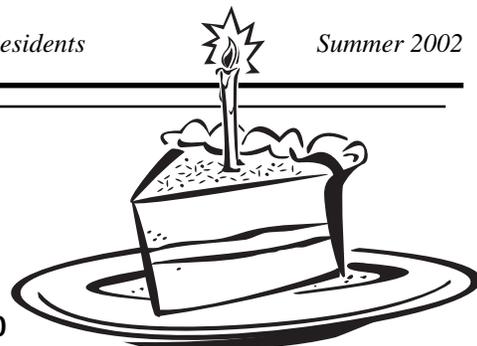
ATHERTONIAN

Quarterly Newsletter for Atherton Residents

Summer 2002

Come to the Atherton Birthday Party!

The Friends of the Atherton Library and the Atherton Heritage Association are sponsoring a historic talk on the early history of Atherton at a birthday celebration to be held on Thursday, **September 12, 2002 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** in the Town Hall Council Chambers at 94 Ashfield Road. The speaker will be talented historian Michael Svanevik, an author and lecturer who specializes in the history of San Mateo County. Mr. Svanevik has an engaging way of making history come alive, so you won't want to miss this special presentation! Join us for a slice of birthday cake as we celebrate the 79th year of Atherton's official Town incorporation date, September 12, 1923. For more information, contact Marion Oster, Chairperson, Atherton Heritage Association, at 688-6540.



New Playground Opens

The new children's playground in Holbrook-Palmer Park opened in June. Thanks to the efforts of Dorothea Collins, Michelle Dollinger and Alison Ross, this project was paid for entirely through donations amounting to approximately



\$340,000. The new playground replaced the older playground, which was dismantled by a Rotary Club and taken to Mexico for reassembly for needy children to use. The new playground includes a fenced tot lot with a play train, a teeter-totter, a climbing structure and slide, swings, and a water and sand play area. Donors of over \$250 are honored through the children's handprint stones, which have been placed on the walkway path from the parking lot leading to the playground. The new playground is safety compliant, meets Americans with Disabilities Act standards, and is a significant park enhancement that will serve generations of Atherton children for years to come.

Alison Ross and Michelle Dollinger cut the ribbon on the new playground on June 14, 2002.

Resident Handbooks Distributed

The new Atherton Resident Handbook was mailed to all residents in June. The handbook was revised by the Atherton Crime Prevention Task Force and includes updated phone numbers and information on crime prevention as well as disaster preparedness. If you are in need of another copy of the Resident Handbook, please contact the Police Department at 688-6500.

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Park Survey Results Under Review

Thank you to all the residents who took the time to respond to the Holbrook-Palmer Park Survey which was mailed out in February. The purpose of the survey was in part to gauge Atherton residents' interest in Park programs and satisfaction with Park maintenance, activities and usage. Approximately 25% of the surveys were returned to the Town for tabulation. The Town of Atherton Park and Recreation Commission, which is made up of citizen volunteers, was charged with reviewing and analyzing the survey. In June, the Commission issued the following summary of the survey results:

- There is a general satisfaction with the Park as it is now configured, maintained, and operated.
- There is considerable resistance to additional facilities in the Park, particularly if they are at the expense of open space.

- There is support for additional community-wide events in the Park, such as theatrical, musical, artistic or speakers of public interest.
- Additional restroom facilities are supported.
- A fix-up of the tennis courts, with utilization by the residents at either a nominal fee or for free, seems to have support.

The Park and Recreation Commission will be utilizing the results of the survey plus additional sources of public input and information, including the findings of its August 2001 report to the Council, to produce a new five-year strategic plan for the Park. The Park Strategic Plan is slated for presentation to the Atherton City Council later in 2002.

We appreciate the interest of those residents who responded to the survey, many of whom provided a number of constructive ideas and suggestions regarding the Park. **If you would like a copy of the survey results, please contact Linda Kelly, Assistant to the City Manager, at 752-0546.**

Committees Tackle Tough Issues

In January of this year, the Atherton City Council created two new standing Committees of the Council, which are subcommittees made up of two council members each. The members of the Atherton Channel Drainage District Committee are Vice Mayor Jim Janz and Council Member Kathy McKeithen. In addition, Atherton resident Phil Lively was recently appointed as a citizen advisory member. Many residents may not be aware that the Atherton Channel, or creek, which runs northeasterly through Town from Highway 280 to Bay Road, is governed by its own Special District created in 1958 and is funded through a small tax assessment on properties within the District. The Committee has been actively studying and researching the history of the Channel, erosion and damage along the Channel, potential sources of additional funding for the Channel, as well as the many state and federal regulations that apply to storm water.

The Buildings and Facilities Committee consists of Mayor Alan Carlson and Council Member Dianne Fisher, and was formed to address and consider the building and facility needs of the Town. Many of the Town's public buildings are older, and the modern uses of these facilities have outgrown the structures. The Committee is studying facility improvement needs along with future building options and potential financing mechanisms.

Meetings of these committees are on an as-called basis and are noticed through postings on the Town's public bulletin boards and on the Town's website www.ci.atherton.ca.us. **Residents with questions regarding these committees may contact Sharon Barker, City Clerk, at 752-0529.**

Walking Your Dog in the Park?



As was noted in the Spring issue of the *Athertonian*, we are once again reminding dog owners that **all dogs in Holbrook-Palmer Park must remain on a leash at all times.** Also, it is the dog owner's responsibility to remove and immediately dispose of anything left behind by his or her pet in the Park. Pet waste disposal bags are available in a dispenser in the North Meadow of the Park, near the parking lot. (Atherton Municipal Code Section 6.04.060)

Due to a need to keep Holbrook-Palmer Park a safe, clean and inviting place for all residents to enjoy, the Atherton Police Department is patrolling Holbrook-Palmer Park and seeking park users' cooperation in keeping their dogs on leash. Leash law violators are initially being verbally warned by officers, and if violations persist, infraction citations are issued which carry a fine of \$78. The Peninsula Humane Society is also monitoring the Park and will normally issue a citation on the first offense. Help keep our Park a peaceful and safe environment for all to use by keeping your dog on a leash. The Town appreciates everyone's cooperation.

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: kmckeithen@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



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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
Kim Salera, Asst. Director 752-0538
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

Emergency Water Supply

Are You Prepared?

Recent media attention has focused on the integrity of the Hetch-Hetchy water system, and whether its water delivery infrastructure could withstand a major earthquake. Atherton households are advised to keep enough water on hand so that each person in the household would have one gallon a day for at least 72 hours, preferably one week. Remember to store water for your pets as well. Water should be stored in airtight containers and replaced every six months. Some bottled waters are stamped with a date indicating expected shelf life. Also store disinfectants such as iodine tablets or chlorine bleach, to be used at the rate of eight drops per gallon for water, for water purification if necessary.

Other sources of water after an earthquake include the water in your hot water heater tank, if the tank remains upright after the disaster. Disaster experts advise that swimming pool water should be used for hygiene purposes only. Do not use pool water for drinking, as it can cause diarrhea due to chlorine content and can even cause permanent kidney damage.

Under serious disaster conditions, no public water supply can be presumed safe. Finding and decontaminating water could be a major problem. A supply of stored water could be your most precious survival item, so learn how to prepare today. Brochures regarding emergency preparedness can be downloaded from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services website at www.oes.ca.gov.

Sources: Governor's Office of Emergency Services website www.oes.ca.gov and Long Beach Water Department Safe Drinking Water in Emergencies brochure.

New Police Explorer Post

The Police Department will again be sponsoring a Police Explorer Post, a high school-age youth program which has been part of the Atherton Police Department since the early 1970s. In this program, youth participate in a variety of activities to assist the

Police Department and the Atherton community while learning good citizenship and valuable work skills.

The program's advisors are Police Officer Matt Erdozain and 9-1-1 Public Safety Dispatcher

Joanne Thomas-Smith, both of whom began their careers in law enforcement as part of an Explorer Post in other agencies.

Exploring is a part of the Learning for Life Division of the National Boy Scouts of America and is one of the largest youth programs in the United States. Members attend monthly training sessions, participate in a wide range of law enforcement and community activities, learn leadership skills that will stay with them for life, and interact with their peers in an active and interesting program to channel their high energy into positive directions.

Exploring is not just for young people thinking about a career in public safety. Any high schooler interested in doing something new, challenging, and rewarding is welcome to apply. **For more information, contact Officer Matt Erdozain or Dispatcher Joanne Thomas-Smith at 688-6500.**

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Town Participates in Relay Fund-Raiser

On May 18 and 19, a team of about a dozen Town employees participated in the American Cancer Society's 5th Annual Redwood City/Menlo Park "Relay for Life" at Sequoia High School in Redwood City. The purpose of the relay was to raise funds in the fight against cancer and to raise awareness of cancer in the community. The relay was a 24-hour event wherein team members took turns walking around the high school track with the goal of having a team member on the track for each of the 24 hours. The relay began with a cancer survivors' lap to symbolize the courage which cancer survivors and



Team Atherton's tent (above). Luminaria bags line the track at Sequoia High School (right).



their families display and sustain in their lives. Luminaria bags, sponsored by relay donors, were lit at nightfall to honor both the victims and survivors of cancer.

Team Atherton raised \$1,528 in donations to the American Cancer Society, and overall, the Redwood City/Menlo Park relay raised over \$135,000.

See **RELAY** next page

Police PAL Creates Selby School Spirit Squad

The Atherton Police Activities League (PAL) has created a spirit squad at Selby Lane School as a part of the after school program. Twelve 6th, 7th and 8th grade girls meet twice weekly for practices. The participating girls also receive tutoring in math and reading as part of the after school program.

Atherton Police Officer Kristin Lee, former team captain of the Golden State Warriors Dance Team (Warrior Girls), developed the program and is the squad's coach. Officer Pilar Ortiz, whose daughter is a member of the team, also assists the squad. Both officers volunteer their time to the squad.

The girls learn chants, cheers and dance routines which they ultimately will perform at school



athletic events. Additionally, Officer Lee has made arrangements for the girls to meet with local professional spirit squads. Individual leadership, team participation and responsibility are fundamental lessons the officers are promoting to the girls. **If you would like to support the team, please contact Lt. Glenn Nielsen at 688-6500.**

Atherton Protects Its Trees

Council Strengthens Tree Ordinance

At the June 19, 2002 City Council Meeting, an ordinance amending Chapter 8.10, the Heritage Tree Ordinance, was approved. The changes were made to better protect trees during construction, impose harsher penalties for violations, establish a definition for "damage" to heritage trees and define certain species that are not considered heritage trees. Under the new provisions, which go into effect July 19, 2002, a Tree Protection and Preservation Plan prepared by a certified arborist will be required for new construction. In April 2001, the Council adopted an amendment to the Tree Ordinance to protect native oaks located in the buildable area of a lot. At the discretion of the Planning Commission, where native oaks are allowed to be removed from within the buildable area, they are to be replaced with a native oak of a minimum 48" box size. For more details, please contact Kathy Hughes Anderson, Town Arborist, at 752-0526.



RELAY continued from previous page

Atherton Vice Mayor Jim Janz sponsored the team and manned the team's tent, and Town employee Linda Kelly organized the staff team. If you are interested in participating in, sponsoring or donating to Team Atherton for Relay for Life 2003, please contact Linda Kelly, Assistant to the City Manager, at 752-0546.

Atherton resident Linda Frasch served as the Volunteer Team Development Chair for the Redwood City/Menlo Park relay. Linda's daughter Lauren, along with Julia Duncan (daughter of Carol and Andy Duncan, also of Atherton), served as the relay co-captain of the Freshman class team of Woodside Priory School. The Priory team raised \$12,407, making them the top fundraising team. Congratulations to these youth for doing a great fundraising job for the American Cancer Society!

News from BFI Waste & Recycling:

On-Call "Twice a Year" Clean Up Service is Here.

On-call clean-up is designed to encourage more recycling and meet your needs and your schedule. This service is available to residential customers twice a year.

■ All appointments will take place on your regular collection day, usually within two weeks after your request. Clean-up materials must be placed at the curb by 6:00 a.m. on your scheduled day.

■ All trash must be bagged, boxed, bundled (4 ft. or less) or containerized.

■ Keep yard waste and clean wood waste separate from clean-up materials, as it can be recycled. Yard waste and wood must also be boxed, bundled or containerized. No plastic bags.

■ Prohibited materials include: motor vehicles, vehicle parts and batteries, tires, motorcycles, dirt, rock, concrete, hot ashes, animal waste, poison oak, commercial refrigerators, toxic substances and paint.

■ Please keep mixed paper, cardboard, and bottles and cans separate for recycling.

■ You are encouraged to call a local charity to donate unwanted reusable items. Contact San Mateo RecycleWorks at 1-888-442-2666 or recycleworks.org for donation information.

To schedule your on-call clean-up day, call BFI at 592-2411 or sign-up on BFI's website, www.bfipeninsula.com.

Source: BFI Quarterly Customer Newsletter, Spring 2002