



ATHERTONIAN

Quarterly Newsletter for Atherton Residents

Fall 2000

Street and Storm Drainage Studies

During the summer, the City Council awarded two consultant studies to analyze streets and storm drainage within the Town of Atherton. The consulting firms Nichols Consulting Engineers of Santa Cruz and Nolte Associates of San Jose, studied the Town's streets and storm drainage respectively. The purpose of these studies was to determine what improvements were needed to bring this infrastructure to levels that would require only routine maintenance each year to keep them in good condition. During the past decade, a fairly small amount of dollars has been expended on street and storm drainage improvements. Maintenance of the streets has been limited, and the deficiencies in the drainage system were evident during the heavy rainy seasons in the 1990s. To comprehensively address these infrastructure problems, the City Council charged the consultants with the tasks of identifying recommended improvements, prioritizing these improvements, and calculating the costs for doing these improvements.

Estimated Costs & Presentation Information

Representatives from both firms will be making detailed presentations to the City Council and the community at the December 13th City Council meeting. This will be the first opportunity for the com-

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The Website...

[www.CI.ATHERTON.CA.US](http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us)

Since the spring of this year, the Town of Atherton has had a Town Website. Prior to that time, the Atherton Police Department had a Website that pertained exclusively to their Department. The primary reason for establishing this website is to communicate more effectively with residents. With the dedication of our website consultants, Ginny Moore and Guy Gilchrist, Town staff has improved the website with additional information each month. For those residents who want to know more about Council meetings, ordinances of the Town, events and programs at Holbrook-Palmer Park, how to contact Councilmembers and Town staff, building statistics, and budgetary information, this website is an invaluable source of information.

City Council agendas and packets are on the website prior to the date of the meeting for review, so that everyone knows the issues before coming to the meetings. The Town's Municipal Code, which is codified on a regular basis, is there in its entirety. Dates and times for all Town meetings are publicized on our site. We continue to add information, and will be adding new information on Building Permit activity, Town Commission and Committee meeting agendas, the General Plan, and the Zoning Ordinance in the near future. The Town's entire FY 2000/2001 Budget will be on our site this month, as well as the FY 1999/2000 Town Audit and the Audit Report of the Audit Committee. If you would like to communicate with Councilmembers or staff, click on and send them an e-mail. If you are at the Atherton Library, log on and visit our site, or do it from your home.

If you have any ideas for information that should be on our website, give us a call or send an e-mail to us. The information is always there day or night.

Other items on our site:

- Holbrook-Palmer Park facilities and programs
- Arts Committee
- Atherton Library link
- Police Department programs and information
- News Briefs 

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munity to learn what recommendations these consultants have, and this will begin the process of community discussion on how Atherton will address these infrastructure needs. The costs that have been estimated for these improvements are significant, and it clearly reflects the deficiencies in our street and storm drainage systems. Nolte has estimated a cost of \$30 million for general storm drainage improvements, and an additional \$8 million for more localized improvements. Nichols has recommended \$18.9 million for street improvements with graded shoulders and dirt swales as edge drainage improvements, or \$26.3 million with concrete swales as edge drainage improvements.

These numbers will dictate a careful analysis of all improvements, and discussion of how to reduce these costs to a more manageable number. This challenge will present an opportunity for the community to work on building consensus on what is needed, and how the Town should pay for the needed improvements. Neighborhood meetings to discuss the improvements for specific areas should be held in order to look at these improvements with the impacted residents being directly involved in the discussion process. In the end, reports from neighborhoods could be brought back to City Council meetings to assemble into one better-defined project.

At \$25 million, assessments over 30 years divided equally among all parcels would result in a yearly assessment of approximately \$750 per year.

Financing Options

The municipal bonds for projects of this type are generally structured as long-term, fixed rate debt instruments, with semi-annual interest payments and annual principal payments. In the current market, these tax-exempt instruments would carry an average interest rate between 5.65% to 5.85%. The term of the indebtedness could be up to thirty years because there is very little added interest cost for a term of over twenty years.

There are three basic financing alternatives under California State Statutes for a project of this type. These alternatives and a brief description of each are as follows:

1. General Obligation Bonds: A General Obligation bond levy is an "Ad Valorem" tax which means that the tax rate is based on the value of each property. The higher the assessed valuation of a property, the greater the assessment for a project of this type. General Obligation bonds are secured by a pledge to

increase property taxes to fully fund annual debt services, if the need ever arises. GO bonds will have the highest bond rating, and will carry the lowest possible interest rate.

2. Parcel Taxes or a Community Facility District: Under either of these two programs, the City Council, with the assistance of consultants, would determine a tax formula that applies to all properties in a reasonable and equitable manner. This tax formula could differentiate between parcels based upon size, if the City Council wishes. For example, parcels of 1/2 acre, 1 acre, and 2 acres could be assessed at different rates. The interest rates under these alternatives would be marginally higher than the rates for a GO bond - five to ten basis points or 1/10th to 1/20th of 1%.

3. Special Assessment Financings: Special Assessment financings require a qualified engineer to determine the precise "engineering benefit" of all properties that receive a direct benefit from the proposed improvements. In the case of a Townwide Street and Storm Drainage Project, this determination would be quite difficult because the engineer is required to certify the direct benefit in dollars. With the passage of Proposition 218, this assessment alternative on a townwide basis could be subject to a court challenge, thus making engineers hesitant to become involved in a project that could potentially end up in litigation. The interest rate for this type of financing would be slightly higher than the interest rates for a Parcel Tax/Community Facility District financing.

Voter approval is required under each of these financing alternatives. A two-thirds approval is required for General Obligation bonds and Parcel Taxes/Community Facility district financing. Special Assessment Financing only requires a simple majority for approval, but any disgruntled property owner could challenge the assessment methodology in court, potentially causing delays and having the assessment methodology being ruled improper.

News Notes...

- The Town of Atherton, along with other Police Departments in the State, was awarded a grant of \$300,000 which will be disbursed in equal, yearly installments over the next three years. The Atherton City Council, at their November meeting, has decided to utilize this year's funding to place an officer in Menlo-Atherton High School, and to hire an additional officer for the Patrol Division to lessen the impacts from future turnover in the Department.
- Presentations by representatives from Nolte Associates and Nichols Engineering on the

storm drainage and street needs of the community will be made at the **Wednesday, December 13th City Council meeting.**

- The rash of burglaries in Atherton several weeks ago has revealed a trend that must be highlighted. Many of the homes that were entered, did not have their burglar alarms activated or doors were left open. The Police Department recommends that you use your alarm system, leave lights on when you go out of town, and contact the Police Department when you go on vacation so that the Police Department can do security checks. Call the Department and have a Police Officer come to your home

to do a security inspection of your property. For more information, contact Bob Brennan, Police Chief, at 752-0506.

- The installation of the two new members of the Atherton City Council, Jim Janz and Kathy McKeithen, will take place at **7 p.m. on Wednesday, December 13th at the Town Council Chambers.** At this meeting, the City Council will also choose a new Mayor and Vice Mayor. Just prior to this installation, outgoing Councilmembers Malcolm Dudley and Bob Huber will be recognized for their service on the City Council.

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Atherton Recycles

The California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB), at a public hearing held on November 14, 2000, agreed to take Atherton off of the Compliance Order we have been under since September, 1999. The Town was placed on a Compliance Order for not having reached 25% diversion in 1995 or 1996. The Town continues to make great strides in meeting the mandated 50% diversion requirement. To order additional or larger recycling containers, call BFI at 637-1411. Additional yardwaste bins are no longer available free of charge, but can be ordered from BFI at a cost of \$60 to purchase, or \$3 per month to rent. If you have extra greenwaste, consider composting.

Atherton	Year to Date 1997 Tons	Year to Date 1998 Tons	Year to Date 1999 Tons	Year to Date 2000 Tons
Commercial Waste	741	827	846	939
Residential Waste	1,986	2,159	1,956	2,003
Self-Haul	3,892	2,117	4,226	1,982
Commercial (other)	3,249	3,799	2,915	3,031
Subtotal Disposal	9,868	8,902	9,943	7,955
Self-Haul Greenwaste	215	167	119	346
Curbside Greenwaste	420	642	1,568	2,441
Recyclables	722	751	695	1,064
Transfer Station Diversion	N/A	N/A	125	200
Ox Mountain Diversion	N/A	N/A	191	943
Subtotal Diverted	1,357	1,560	2,698	4,994
TOTAL DIVERSION	11,225	10,462	12,641	12,949
% DIVERSION	12.1%	14.9%	21.3%	38.5%

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, *Vice Mayor* 329-8290
term expires 11/2002 e-mail: dfisher@ci.atherton.ca.us
- Malcolm H. Dudley, *Councilmember* 858-3556 (wk)
term expires 12/2000 e-mail: mdudley@ci.atherton.ca.us
- William R. Conwell, *Councilmember* 368-0994 (wk)
term expires 11/2002 e-mail: wconwell@ci.atherton.ca.us
- Alan B. Carlson, *Councilmember* 408-998-4150 (wk)
term expires 11/2002 e-mail: acarlson@ci.atherton.ca.us
- Robert Huber, *Councilmember* 324-3180
term expires 12/2000 e-mail: roberthuber@att.net

PLANNING COMMISSION

The Planning Commission is authorized by the California Government Code. The powers and duties of the Planning Commission are as set forth in the Government Code. The Commission is the Town's administrative agency for zoning issues. Each Commissioner must file a public "Statement of Economic Interests" form annually. **Meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. • Town Council Chambers • 94 Ashfield Road.**

- Jennifer Acheson, *Chair* 322-3412
term expires 4/2004 jacheson@ropers.com
- James Ransohoff, Jr., *Vice Chair* 366-7983
term expires 4/2001 jransohoff@aol.com
- Robert Andrews 326-8226
term expires 4/2003 bandrews@ontariotechlogies.com
- Rose Hau 325-6840
term expires 4/2003 rhauaia@aol.com
- Philip Lively 328-7660
term expires 4/2004

The Athertonian will be published in December, March, June, and September.



Printed on Recycled Paper

Additional information about composting or how to recycle unwanted items can be found on the County's recycling website at [www. RecycleWorks.org](http://www.RecycleWorks.org), or by calling Kathy Hughes Anderson at 752-0526.

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

City Planner

Neal Martin 593-1685
Lisa Costa Sanders 802-4207

Finance

Hector Lwin, Interim Dir. ... 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
Information/Permits 752-0570
Jean Cardona 752-0534
Park Programs Mgr.
Kathy Hughes-Anderson ... 752-0526
Technician

PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION

The Park and Recreation Commission advises the City Council on matters regarding Park and Recreation programs, develops and revises the master plan for the Park, reviews the annual budget for the Park, and makes recommendations concerning long-term capital projects. Meets the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. • Main House • Holbrook-Palmer Park.

Chair

Mike McPherson 323-4859

Vice Chair

Marion Oster 325-0714

Paul Tonelli 367-7192

Charles Marsala 328-7110
cemarsala@yahoo.com

Polly B. Berquist 330-0636
tom_and_polly@hotmail.com

Jeanne Wangsness 321-0556

Henry Cartan III 323-4281



ARTS COMMITTEE

The function and purpose of the Arts Committee is to assist the City Council and the Park and Recreation Division in matters that pertain to arts programs, classes, workshops, performances and other arts activities, as may be directed by the City Council. Meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 11:00 a.m. in the Meeting Room • Town Administrative Offices • 91 Ashfield Road.

Chair

Francesca Eastman 321-6674
franeastma@aol.com

Polly B. Berquist 330-0636
tom_and_polly@hotmail.com

Charles Marsala 328-7110
cemarsala@yahoo.com

Kathleen Balestra 328-4042
balestra@ix.netcom.com

Alice Marston 364-5866

Mindy Perez-Rubio 366-2092
mindypr@ispchannel.com

Joanne Baciocco 367-0988

Jan Zones 322-6116

Margueuette S. Paponis .. 323-1284

AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee provides oversight of the annual audit, makes recommendations to the City Council on matters related to the annual audit, and provides guidance to Town Staff on financial controls throughout the year. Meets on a quarterly basis in the Meeting Room • Town Administrative Offices • 91 Ashfield Road.

Jerome W. Carlson 321-1327
raljer@ix.netcom.com

Ronald G. Fick 378-3700

Robert L. Jenkins 328-6669

Arlan H. Kertz 369-9346
akertz@seiler.com

Robert G. O'Donnell 322-4016
sodonnell@msn.com

Alan B. Carlson 408-998-4150

Dianne M. Fisher 329-8290



COMMUNITY GROUPS

Groups that are not affiliated with the Town of Atherton and function under self-governing by-laws. Act as advisory resources to the Community on matters related to its particular interest.

Atherton Civic Interest League

Charles Ramorino, *President*
369-6957

Atherton Dames

Estelle Hoffman, *President*
366-9069

Holbrook-Palmer Recreation Park Foundation

Robert Simonds, *President*
365-7853

Lindenwood Homes' Assn.

Alicia Seebold, *President*
322-9893

Lloyd Park Homeowners' Assn.

John Sisson, *Chair*
366-9464

Victoria Manor Homeowners

Jack Phillips, *President*
327-6157

GENERAL PLAN COMMITTEE

The General Plan Committee advises the City Council and Planning Commission on planning matters, reviews the General Plan, and makes recommendations to the City Council, Planning Commission and Town staff regarding the operation of the ordinances and policies in the community. Meets quarterly, the first Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p. m. • Town Council Chambers • 94 Ashfield Road,

Chair

James Ransohoff, Jr. 366-7983
jransohoff@aol.com

Vice Chair

Dianne Fisher 329-8290

Philip Lively 328-7660

Shirley Carlson 321-1327
raljer@ix.netcom.com

Lida Urbanek 324-9105
urbanek@aol.com

Teri Watts 326-7244
twatts@ispchannel.com

Linda Liebes 321-0898



OTHER SERVICES

ATT Broadband Cable 856-8181

California Water Service ... 367-6800

County Services

Animal Control 363-4840

Assessor 363-4500

Library 328-2422

Supervisors

Richard Gordon

3rd District 363-4569

Menlo Park Fire District

Business 688-8400

Emergency 911

Sanitation

Browing Ferris Industries

Garbage 592-2411

Recycling 637-1411

Fair Oaks Sanitation District .. 363-4000

West Bay Sanitation District... 321-0384

CALENDAR

Call 752-0500 for information on changes and special meetings

December

6	Park & Rec Comm.	6:30 pm	H-P Park, Main House
6	Planning Comm.	6:00 pm	Council Chambers
7	General Plan Comm.	6:00 pm	Council Chambers
12	Arts Committee	11:00 am	Admin. Offices Mtg. Rm
13	City Council (Special Mtg)	7:00 pm	Council Chambers
20	City Council	7:00 pm	Council Chambers
26	Listening Session	7:00 pm	Council Chambers

January

3	Park & Rec Commission	6:30 pm	H-P Park, Main House
3	General Plan Comm.	6:00 pm	Council Chambers
9	Transportation Comm.	6:00 pm	Council Chambers
17	City Council	7:00 pm	Council Chambers
23	Arts Committee	11:00 am	Admin. Offices, Mtg. Rm
23	Listening Session	7:00 pm	Council Chambers
24	Planning Commission	6:00 pm	Council Chambers

News Notes continued...

- The City Council and the community wish to thank the Holbrook-Palmer Park Foundation and the Atherton Dames for funding and overseeing approximately \$50,000 worth of improvements to the Carriage House in Holbrook-Palmer Park. On November 9, the Carriage House was officially named after Gen Merrill, who was an important contributor to this community in many ways.
- The Little League ballfield in Holbrook-Palmer Park is nearing completion. Sod for this field will be installed by December 1, weather permitting. Landscaping in and around the field will be completed shortly thereafter. The construction cost of approximately \$200,000 is being paid for by the Menlo-Atherton Little League.
- The recently adopted Road Impact Fee will be implemented on Monday, December 18th, as a means to offset the damage caused by construction equipment on the Town's roads. The fee will be levied at the time a building permit is obtained. For further information or a copy of the study, please contact Public Works Director Cliff Temps.

The Town of Atherton



91 Ashfield Road
Atherton, CA 94027

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