



# ATHERTONIAN

Quarterly Newsletter for Atherton Residents

Fall 2003

## Athertonians Celebrate 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Town

*The evening of September 12th saw the Pavilion at Holbrook-Palmer Park transformed into a 1920's "speakeasy" as over 160 Athertonians celebrated the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the incorporation of the Town of Atherton, which took place on September 12, 1923.*

The Atherton Dames, in conjunction with other community groups, put on a glitzy evening of "fun and follies." Celebrants showed off their finest 1920's costumery and enjoyed an evening of Charleston dance lessons, Chinese hors d'ouvres (which were all the rage in the 20's), drinks, Atherton birthday cake, a singing Mae West impersonator, a piano player, and historical displays including a timeline of Atherton history, provided by the Atherton Heritage Association. Antique Model A cars were on display, courtesy of the El Camino A's. (See pages 4 and 5 for more photos from the party.)

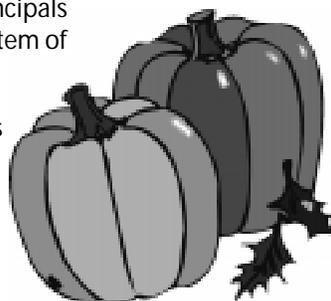


## **\$** Town Audit Update

*The Town's independent auditors Caporicci & Larson have completed fieldwork on the annual financial audit of the Town of Atherton's financial records and have begun the preparation of the general purpose financial statements for the fiscal year which ended June 30, 2003.*

A draft copy of the financial statements provided to Town management and to the Town Audit Committee shows that, in spite of weak economic conditions, the Town's financial position improved slightly in Fiscal Year 2002-03. This was accomplished through numerous budget reductions at mid-year, enhanced revenue tracking and tighter controls on and consolidation of purchasing. Additionally, the auditors are expected to report that the Town's financial statements conform in all material respects to generally accepted governmental accounting principals and that the Town has maintained an effective system of internal controls during the past year.

With the completion of this year's audit, the Town is on target for having an unqualified audit of its financial records for the third year in a row.



## Annual Police Department Town Meeting

Hosted by the Atherton Citizens' Crime Prevention Task Force

Major topics to be presented include:

- Identity Theft – Atherton's Fastest Growing Crime Trend
- Internet Safety for Children and the Family
- Current Crime Trends in Atherton

**Thursday, October 30th, 7:00 p.m.**

**Sacred Heart School  
150 Valparaiso Ave.**

**Sigall Building, Room 18**

Attendees should enter through the Elena Avenue gates and you will be directed to parking and the meeting.

## Inside...

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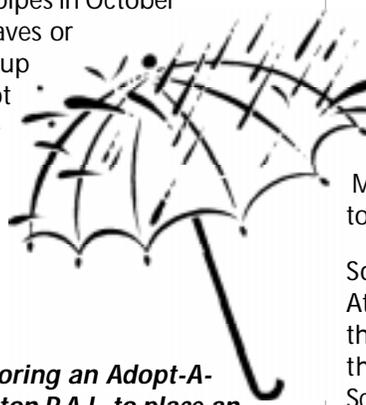
## Getting Ready for the Rainy Season

The rainy season is on the way. Sometimes there is more rain than the Town's drainage system can handle. To assist residents in dealing with potential flooding, 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.

Contractors and property owners 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 will 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 creeks.

Residents should also be aware that they are responsible for keeping roadside shoulders, drainage swales 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.

Public Works crews will be cleaning out catch basins and pipes in October to get ready for winter rains. Please do not place any leaves or other debris in the catch basins. This material will end up floating into the Bay. Despite being natural, leaves are not healthy for the Bay. Before houses, streets and drains were built, the leaves stayed on the ground, composting to provide nutrients for plant growth. Please recycle those leaves so they can be made into compost.



## Adopt-A-School-Defibrillator

*The Atherton Police Activities League (P.A.L.) is sponsoring an Adopt-A-School-Defibrillator Program. It is the goal of the Atherton P.A.L. to place an Automated External Defibrillator on each school campus in Atherton.*

Sudden cardiac arrest is the leading cause of death in the United States and in many instances the use of a defibrillator, even by a layperson, gives the victims their only chance of survival. The American Heart Association's mission to reduce death and disability from cardiac disease has led to encouraging the public to have defibrillators as available as fire extinguishers.

The Atherton Police Department was the first law enforcement agency on the west coast, and only the second in the country, to deploy defibrillators in patrol cars. Only a few months after deployment, Atherton Police Officers saved the life of an Atherton resident before the arrival of paramedics. In neighboring Redwood City just a few weeks ago, bystanders applying a necessary shock from a nearby defibrillator saved the life of a man in cardiac arrest.

Over 6,500 students, staff and faculty members attend Atherton schools every school day. In April of 2003, two young boys (one in California and one in Georgia) died from sudden cardiac arrest after being hit in the chest with baseballs. In recent years, the availability of a defibrillator on an Atherton school campus may have saved the lives of staff members on two different occasions.

If you would like to adopt a defibrillator to be located on an Atherton school campus, please contact Lt. Glenn Nielsen at (650) 752-0508. The cost of a defibrillator and the supporting accessories is \$2,465, which is a tax-deductible donation to the Atherton P.A.L. We appreciate your support of this life-saving program.

## Exercise Your Right to Vote!

The November 4, 2003 Consolidated Election features issues and candidates that are within the voting boundaries of the residents of Atherton.

The Menlo Park Fire Protection District provides all fire protection services for all of the Town of Atherton. All residents who are registered to vote may cast ballots to elect two candidates to the Board, each for a term of four years.

The San Mateo County Community College District covers the entire Town of Atherton, and voters will be electing three Trustee candidates, each for a term of four years.

Some voters in Atherton reside within the boundaries of the Menlo Park City Elementary School District. The district has two measures on the ballot, Measure A and Measure B, both relating to special taxes for the district.

Some voters in the northern section of Atherton reside within the boundaries of the Redwood City School District, where three candidates are to be elected for School Board, each for a term of four years.

Registered voters within the boundaries of the West Bay Sanitation District and the Sequoia Union High School District are also voting for representatives on their respective boards.

If you are registered to vote, you will receive a sample ballot which will inform you as to which district elections you are eligible to vote in. The last day to register to vote in the election is October 20, 2003. The last day to apply for an absentee ballot is October 28, 2003, and absentee ballot applications can be obtained at the Atherton Town Offices. Voted absentee ballots may be deposited into the ballot box located in the lobby of the Atherton Town Offices.

For more information, or the location of your polling place, contact the San Mateo County Registrar at 312-5222. On the web, visit <http://www.shapethefuture.org>, the County's election website.

# 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

**James R. Janz, Mayor**..... 325-8666 (wk)  
term expires 11/2004

**Kathleen McKeithen, Vice Mayor**..... 321-3633  
term expires 11/2004

**William R. Conwell, Council Member**..... 368-0994 (wk)  
term expires 11/2006

**Alan B. Carlson, Council Member**..... 408-998-4150 (wk)  
term expires 11/2006

**Charles E. Marsala, Council Member**..... 328-7113  
term expires 11/2006



## Helpful Phone Numbers

(All area codes are 650 unless otherwise noted)

Comcast Cable (formerly AT&T) .....(800) 945-2288  
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



**PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER.**

## 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,  
Deputy Town 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

Duncan Jones, 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

# West Nile Virus – Be Informed and Prepared

*At the September City Council meeting, Robert Gay, Manager of the San Mateo County Mosquito Abatement District, presented information regarding the spread of the West Nile Virus and its relevance to the Atherton community and San Mateo County at large. Mr. Gay stated that research indicates that we could be seeing the virus-carrying mosquito in San Mateo County within a year, and that both human and horse cases are predicted. Federal sources predict that California could become the next "epicenter" of the West Nile Virus due to the filling of duck ponds and the rice fields in Imperial Valley, which create conditions for breeding the virus-carrying mosquitoes, which could travel very rapidly to Northern California.*

## Mr. Gay shared the following information to educate the residents of Atherton.

The West Nile Virus (WNV) is a virus that can cause sickness in humans, horses, and birds. It is common in parts of Africa, Europe, and Asia and was first detected in the United States in 1999. Most people infected with this virus do not get sick. A small percentage of infected people will show symptoms, including fever, rash, and headache; to meningitis (inflammation of the tissue surrounding the brain), encephalitis (inflammation of the brain), and death.

### What is California doing to protect us?

Mosquito Abatement Districts and health agencies are working together to protect our residents through monitoring and controlling mosquitoes, and monitoring human and horse encephalitis cases, sentinel birds, mosquitoes, and wild birds. The Districts, State Health Department, and universities are working hard to find the best ways to prevent the spread of this disease.

### How is West Nile Virus spread?

The West Nile virus is spread primarily by mosquitoes. It lives in a bird-mosquito cycle. Mosquitoes feed on infected birds, and in turn infect other birds. Sometimes, these infected mosquitoes feed on other animals such as humans. Humans and horses are known as "dead-end hosts": we

don't produce enough virus in our bodies to re-infect mosquitoes. Only a small percentage of mosquitoes are actually infected with the virus. More recent research found that WNV can be transmitted through contaminated blood, breast milk, organ transplants, and in bird feces and saliva. In the United States, birds, humans, and horses can become very sick when infected with the virus. Other animals have also been found to be infected with the virus.

### How can I keep my family safe?

Birds, horses and humans are infected with West Nile Virus from being bitten by an infected mosquito. Preventing mosquitoes from developing around your home will benefit the entire neighborhood! One of the kinds of mosquito that can carry the virus in the San Francisco Bay Area is the house mosquito. These mosquitoes like to live in polluted water. Make sure you don't have any water that sits around your property for more than five days. Residents can also get free mosquito-eating fish from the San Mateo County Mosquito Abatement District for their ornamental fishponds. And, don't over-water your lawn! This can produce standing water which attracts mosquitoes.

If you notice standing water somewhere, which could be on an abandoned property or public right-of-way, please contact the San Mateo County Mosquito Abatement District as soon as possible at 344-8592.

### How can I protect my horses?

In February 2003, a West Nile virus vaccine was approved for horses. This vaccine has been proven to be safe and effective in preventing West Nile Virus infections in horses. Please contact your veterinarian for more information.

### What do I do if I see a dead bird?

Please help the District's surveillance program by reporting dead birds to the California Department of Health Services' toll free hotline at (877) WNV-BIRD. They are especially interested in the following:

- Birds that are dead for less than 24 hours.
- Chest cavity is intact.
- Crows, ravens, scrub jays, stellar jays, magpies, and red-tailed hawks
- Birds that do not show obvious signs of decomposition.
- Birds that have not been infested with maggots.

If you are unsure of any of the above conditions, please report the bird anyway, as our trained staff will determine if the bird is suitable for testing. Please do not touch the bird. **The San Mateo County Mosquito Abatement District will arrange for pickup and laboratory testing for WNV if appropriate. Contact the District at 344-8592 for more information.**

*Anniversary Photos con't from Page 1*



## New Principal at Selby Lane School

Bernie Vidales, former principal of Hawes Elementary in the Redwood City School District, recently became Principal at Selby Lane School in Atherton.. Since July 1997, when Bernie joined Hawes, the school has exceeded the State's educational growth targets of 5% with a consistent 10-15% yearly growth. The school's Advanced Placement Index (API) has grown to over 30% of its original score.

Bernie takes pride in having created a "culture of reflection, analysis and continuous learning" for students, staff and community which contributed in reducing staff turnover to only one new staff member this last school year. Apparently he is so popular with the staff that many have offered to follow him to Selby.

His background includes an undergraduate degree from Stanford in Industrial Engineering. He also completed the Prospective Principals Program at Stanford, where only six participants are admitted each year, and received a Masters of Arts in Public Policy and Educational Administration there. He worked as a teacher and Director of Parent Engagement and Education in the San Francisco Unified School District.

Bernie shares, "I am looking forward to working with the Selby Lane community of teachers, parents, children and other interested community members to improve student learning for students already at the school, help to create a school program that is attractive and responsive to potential families, and implement a program that has strong academic focus as well as provides opportunities for children to be enriched with experiences both within and outside of the school."



## School Looking for Computer Donations

If you have a **Macintosh iMac** computer that is less than three years old, and no longer have need for it, consider making a donation to Selby Lane School in Atherton. The school, which serves grades Pre-K to 8th grade, would make good use of the computer. The school also accepts monetary donations to be used to purchase computers. All donations are tax deductible, and donors will receive a letter of receipt with donors assigning the fair market value for the items donated. If you are interested in assisting Selby Lane School, please contact Principal Bernie Vidales at [bvidales@rcsd.k12.ca.us](mailto:bvidales@rcsd.k12.ca.us).

## Playschool Openings

The Playschool in Holbrook-Palmer Park has immediate openings in the Afternoon Preschool, Afternoon Pre-Kindergarten, and Afternoon Young Fives programs.

### Afternoon Preschool:

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday  
1 – 4 p.m. (children must be 3 years old by March 1st).

### Afternoon Pre-Kindergarten:

Monday > Thursday, 1 – 4 p.m. (children must turn 4 by December 1st).

### Young Fives:

Monday > Thursday, 12:30 – 4 p.m.  
(children must turn 5 by January 1st).

The Playschool offers small classes, exceptional teachers and a great family program. **Call 325-1623 for information or stop by for a visit.**



## Library Programs

Mondays at Four - Fall 2003 Children's Programs for All Ages:

October 27 - Gerald the Magician will return with more amazing magic! 45 minutes.

November 3 - The Fratello Marionettes will perform Sergei Prokofiev's classic, "Peter and the Wolf." 30 minutes.

December 8 - Holiday Songs and Tales with Singer Mary Lee Sunseri. 45 minutes.

Fall Storytimes

Tuesdays, September 16 - November 18

Itsy-Bitsy (infants to 3) at 10:30 a.m.

Preschool (ages 3 to 6) at 3:30 p.m.

All programs are sponsored by the Friends of the Atherton Library.

The Atherton Library is located at 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton, 328-2422.



## Get to Know the Media Center

*The Midpeninsula Media Center is a little-known but valuable resource available to Atherton residents.* All residents and community groups are able to utilize the equipment and services of the Media Center, which is available since the Town of Atherton is a member of the Cable Joint Powers Authority. **In November 2003, the Media Center is relocating to a new state-of-the-art facility at 900 San Antonio Road in Palo Alto.**

The Media Center produces five channels of local access television and government programming (Cable Channels 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30) with such popular programs as NEWSwatch, the Regional Game of the Week, Community Journal and City Beat. The Media Center also offers the following services to the community:

- Training in Field Production, Editing and Studio Workshops
- Portable video production equipment available to be checked out for use in the field
- "Auto Pilot Studio" for simple one camera announcements or productions
- Internship Program for high school and college students
- Studio available for commercial rental
- Studio production for community members with trained volunteer crews, including three cameras, teleprompter and chromakey capability

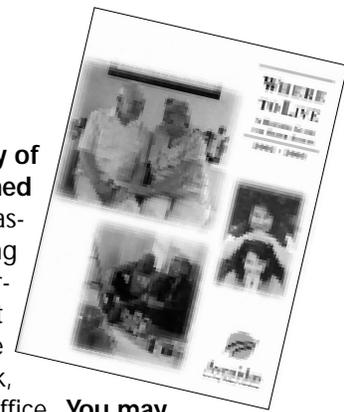
For more information, contact the Media Center at 494-8686, on the web at [www.communitymediacenter.net](http://www.communitymediacenter.net).

## Recycle your Household Batteries

**The Town is still accepting household batteries for recycling.** Simply save your used household batteries and bring them to the Town Administrative Offices or at the Town Permit Center. Look for the white five gallon buckets, marked for battery recycling, to dispose of your used batteries. This program is a cooperative effort between the Town and the San Mateo Household Hazardous Waste Program and the batteries are collected by the County Environmental Health staff. Car batteries and industrial sized batteries are not accepted. Please, recycle your batteries and keep this hazardous waste out of the landfill.

## Housing Guide for Older Adults

The Town now has available for residents to view a copy of "Where to Live: A Housing Guide for Older Adults," published by Avenidas of Palo Alto. The guidebook was published to assist senior adults and their caregivers who are seeking housing choices in the Mid-Peninsula area. The guidebook covers alternatives to moving, and lists adult day care facilities, retirement residences, residential care homes, and other options available in the community. If you would like to view the guidebook, please ask at the front desk of the Town Offices and Post Office. **You may purchase your own copy by calling Avenidas at 326-5362.**



## Fire District Candidate Forum

*The Atherton Civic Interest League (ACIL) is sponsoring a candidate forum for the November 4, 2003 election of the Board of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District. The forum will be held:*

**Thursday, October 23rd, 7:00 p.m.  
Pavilion - Holbrook-Palmer Park**

**150 Watkins Avenue**

The election is for two candidates, each for a four-year term of office. Five candidates are on the ballot. The candidate forum will feature a three minute opening statement by each candidate, a question and answer session, and a one minute closing statement. Refreshments will be available.

The Town of Atherton resides within the Menlo Park Fire Protection District, and all fire protection services for Atherton residents are provided by the district. The district also serves Menlo Park, East Palo Alto and unincorporated areas of the County bordering Redwood City.

For more information, contact ACIL President Bob Jenkins at 328-6669.

## Memorial Library Dedicated



*A dedication ceremony was held on September 13 for the new Memorial Garden at the Atherton Library.*



*Grand tiled benches are the highlight of the garden, which was completed through donations in memory of Bill Derringer, Atherton resident, local landscape designer, and library patron and enthusiast.*



## A Message From Police Chief Brennan

I am beginning my fourth year as the Police Chief for this Fiscal Year, 2003-2004. As each year is completed, we look back upon our accomplishments. This year the Town faced fiscal challenges as a result of the State budget crisis. Your Police Department has had a historical reliance on Federal and State Grant Funding. We intend to find ways to continue to provide the many enhanced services the residents have come to rely on.

We are committed to our renewed relationships with our 10 schools and the families they serve. Our successes include the School Resource Officer Program which has had a calming effect on the campuses of Menlo-Atherton High and Selby Middle Schools. In addition, we are proud of the true community effort that produced "The Every Fifteen Minutes" driver education program at Menlo School, and the Police Activities League-sponsored D.A.R.E. program which will continue in the 5th and 6th grade classes.

Along with the suppression and investigation of what we all know as traditional crimes, Atherton, along with all other jurisdictions, has seen a significant increase in Identification Theft and Technology Crimes. Coupled with a concerted effort to train our staff in recognition and investigative skills, we will be reaching out to the community with different methods and mediums to prevent victimizations from occurring.

Part of being a police officer is the continuous professional training that is not only a mandate by Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST), but is essential in developing the skills of each person on a daily basis. This year, we spent 2,518 hours in training on topics such as Identity Theft, Crisis Communication, Weapons of Mass Destruction and driver education. Each officer on average attended 125 hours of POST certified training. This is what sets us apart from the rest, and I'm excited and proud to lead the fine team of people that represent your Atherton Police Department. They demonstrate to me daily the service and performance that makes Atherton a great place to live and work..

If you ever need to contact me, please feel free to do so. My office door is always open and my direct line is 752-0506.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Brennan

Chief of Police

## Kids – Get Your Glow Necklace!

**The Atherton Police Department has glow necklaces** that will be given away to children on and before Halloween night. The necklaces glow in the dark and last for several hours and will be given to kids in place of candy.

The necklaces can be picked up at the front counter of the police station for free and include a list of safety tips for Halloween night.

**For more information, contact Atherton Police Department Traffic Enforcement Officer David Metzger at 323-8471.**

## Town Anniversary Sweatshirts

We still have a few 80th Anniversary sweatshirts for sale! We have plenty of size small and medium, and a few large and extra-large sizes are left. Colors are white and light gray. Sizes run large.

For only \$20 each you can commemorate your Town's 80th Anniversary with a sweatshirt! See Kelli Robertson at the city hall front office, or call 752-0500.



## Employee of the Quarter

**Police Officer Anthony Kockler** was recently honored as Employee of the Quarter. His fellow employees who nominated him shared that he "is always quick to lend a helping hand and never needs to be asked twice." In addition, he "recently took on the project of certifying the patrol car radar units, a significant project, without being asked" and is a "top producer in the department." Thanks, Anthony, for being a proactive team player! Anthony has been with the Atherton Police Department since 1995.



# CALENDAR

Call 752-0529 for information on changes and special meetings

<b>October</b>		
22	Planning Commission	6:00 p.m. Council Chambers
23	General Plan – Special Mtg	6:00 p.m. Council Chambers
28	Arts Committee	7:00 p.m. Council Chambers
30	Tree Committee	4:00 p.m. Admin. Offices Mtg. Rm.
30	Police Town Meeting	7:00 p.m. Sacred Heart School

<b>November</b>		
5	Park & Rec. Comm.	6:30 p.m. H-P Park, Main House
<b>11</b>	<b>Veterans Day – Town Offices Closed</b>	
12	Waste Reduction Comm.	10:00 a.m. Admin. Offices Mtg. Rm.
19	City Council	7:00 p.m. Council Chambers
25	Arts Committee	7:00 p.m. Council Chambers
<b>27</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Day – Town Offices Closed</b>	
<b>28</b>	<b>Day After Thanksgiving - Town Offices Closed</b>	
	Tree Committee	TBD

<b>December</b>		
3	Waste Reduction Comm.	10:00 a.m. Admin. Offices Mtg. Rm.
3	Planning Commission	6:00 p.m. Council Chambers
3	Park & Rec. Comm.	6:30 p.m. H-P Park, Main House
17	City Council	7:00 p.m. Council Chambers
<b>25</b>	<b>Christmas Day – Town Offices Closed</b>	
	Tree Committee	TBD
	Arts Committee	TBD

<b>January</b>		
<b>1</b>	<b>New Year's Day – Town Offices Closed</b>	
7	Park & Rec. Comm.	6:30 p.m. H-P Park, Main House
13	Transportation Committee	6:00 p.m. Council Chambers
<b>19</b>	<b>Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday – Town Offices Closed</b>	
21	City Council	7:00 p.m. Council Chambers

TBD – To be determined

## News from the Atherton Dames

The Atherton Dames have announced the following upcoming events:

### New Members Luncheon

November 14th

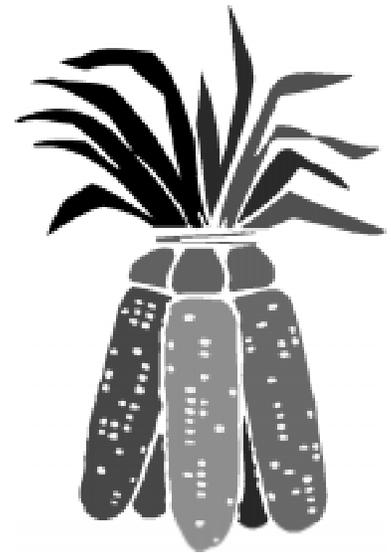
Menlo Circus Club

&

Children's Christmas Tea

December (date to be announced)

Contact Pattie DeWalt at the Park Office for more information, 752-0536.



## The Town of Atherton



91 Ashfield Road  
Atherton, CA 94027

PRESORTED  
STANDARD

U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
MENLO PARK, CA  
PERMIT NO. 26

ECRWSS

**Atherton Resident**  
**Atherton, CA 94027**