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ATHERTONIAN

A Quarterly Newsletter for Atherton Residents

Winter
2009

Atherton To Refund Business License Fees

The Atherton Municipal Code authorizes collection of a business license tax up to the amount of \$250 each year from general contractors, \$150 each year from each sub-contractor with two or more employees, and \$100 from each sole operator sub-contractor.

The Town has been collecting the business license tax only one time at the issuance of a building permit based on a percent formula which in some cases has increased the amount of tax paid by some contractors. This requires a refund.

Under the Town's claims ordinance, refunds are made for a period of one year back from the time a claim is made. The Town could seek underpayments

or under collections of the business license tax for a period as far back as three years. The City Council has decided to authorize claims for refunds for payments of the business license tax beginning December 17, 2006, through December 17, 2008, and will not go back for three years of under collections.

The Town has retained the firm of MuniServices, LLC which will work with the Building Department (and Finance Department) to determine the amount of refunds. The Town will collect business license taxes in accordance with the Atherton Municipal Code.

A form will be developed which must be used to file for a refund. Refunds

will be offset by the annual amount of \$250 per general contractor and \$150 or \$100 per sub-contractor who must be identified by the claimant. The claimant must be the person who originally paid the business license tax. A Form 1099 will be issued to the claimant for the tax year in which the refund was sent by the Town.

Any questions should be directed to the City Manager.

To request a claim form for consideration of business license tax refund, call the Town of Atherton's Administration Department at 650-752-0500 between the hours of 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

New Mayor and Vice Mayor

The City Council meeting of December 17, 2008, was a memorable occasion for the Town. Kathy McKeithen was sworn in as a reelected Member of the Council, and Elizabeth Lewis was newly sworn into her Council seat.

After the oaths of office were administered, the City Council unanimously chose Council Member Jerry Carlson to serve as Mayor and Council Member Kathy McKeithen 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 McKeithen!

Also during the December City Council meeting, outgoing 8-year veteran on the City Council, James R. Janz, was honored for his years of service with many accolades and heartfelt tributes by several civic dignitaries and Atherton residents. He received proclamations from the State Senate, State Assembly and the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors.

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The Fourth Annual Artists' Exhibit and Reception held September 19, 2008, in Holbrook-Palmer Park at Jennings Pavilion, was a great success for its sponsor, the Atherton Arts Committee (AAC).

Eighteen local artists participated and drew an audience of more than 200 people. Over the years, this event has opened up opportunities for the artists to get to know each other, collaborate, and advance their art.

The AAC wishes to thank all those

who participated, the artists and their enthusiastic audience. We are looking forward to our Fifth Annual Artists' Exhibit on Friday, September 18, 2009.

If the subject of Art in our community interests you, please call: Betty Ullman at 650-369-8085; or Samira Plesman at 650-322-8883; or Jean Schaaf at 650-363-1223 for further information. We have openings for our Committee and general membership and would look forward to including you.

Take the Time to Enjoy a Class at Holbrook-Palmer Park

Contact the instructor directly at the number listed for more information and registration fees.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Fridays 7:00 – 8:00 a.m.

Baby Boot Camp (New Class)

Premier prenatal/postpartum fitness classes designed to help moms get fit. Classes combine strength-training exercises with cardiovascular drills. Mat work strengthens abdominals and back. The stroller, resistance tubes are used as an integral part of the workout.

Please call Sarah at 222-0642 for dates and times.

Ballet

Ballet Mistress Kimiko Sugano presents the Peninsula's most comprehensive program of ballet instruction.

Mon & Wed 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.
Tue & Thurs 4:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Kimiko: 326-7182

Dog Training Classes

Offerings include a puppy class featuring obstacles and agility, a beginners' class, and an intermediate class with "canine good citizen" certification. Classes offered quarterly.

Minimum dog age is 3 months.
Mondays 6:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Bari: 851-5500

Music Together

The program is an internationally recognized early childhood music program for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, kindergartners, and adults. By emphasizing actual music experiences rather than concepts about music, this program introduces children to the pleasure of making music.
Mondays 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Thursdays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
408-739-0489

International Folk Dance

Participants can dance their way "around the world" at the Carriage House. Learn dances from places you have traveled to or dreamt of visiting. Build a basic dance repertoire. Previous dance experience is helpful but not necessary.
Wednesdays 7:45 – 10:00 p.m.
Suzanne: 854-3184

Team Sheeper

Stationary Bike Workout takes place in the Carriage House. Bring your bicycle and it will be made stationary for a great workout.
Mondays 5:45 - 8:00 p.m.
Tim or Carol: 473-4067

HELP ALERT!

Get Involved in Your Town, Please Volunteer to Serve!

Town residents are encouraged to apply for membership on Town commissions and committees. Many openings exist. We are recruiting for new members to serve on the following: Arts Committee, Audit Committee, Environmental Programs Committee, Rail Committee, General Plan Committee, and Transportation Subcommittee. If you are a registered voter of the Town and would like an opportunity to serve your community by participating on a Town commission or committee, contact Kathi Hamilton, Acting City Clerk, at 752-0500. Applications are available on the Town website at www.ci.atherton.ca.us/armm.html and will be accepted in the Town Administrative Offices, 91 Ashfield Road, until positions are filled.

Kinetic Energy Hour

Low-impact aerobics, Shiatsu (Japanese finger pressure therapy), ballet movements and floor exercises to recreate your body and recharge your energy. No dance experience required.
Mon & Wed 8:30 - 9:00 a.m.
Kimiko: 326-7182

Lady's Highland Dance

Enjoy a combination of ballet, country dancing, and Scottish highland dancing which combines fun movements for great exercise. Classes are for women only.
Tuesdays 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Jo: 328-0474

Tennis Lessons, Tournaments and Summer Tennis Camp

Individual and group lessons may be scheduled. Call the Tennis Pro for information about upcoming tournaments. Tennis keys are available at the Park Office. Residents \$150.00
Non-residents \$200.00
Alan Margot: 752-0540

Yoga – Morning Stretch

Classes include the discipline of Yoga postures and physical exercises which encourage stretch, flexibility, and stamina. The classes incorporate exercises for maintaining optimum back health, relaxation, and stress management techniques.
Tuesdays 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Lynn: 369-5196



TAKE THE TOUR!

Atherton's first Town Center was built in 1928 and was outgrown by the mid-1960s when a larger, modern facility was needed and built. By the 1970s, the Police Department needed more space and modulars were added.

Thirteen years ago, Atherton's Town Council recognized that Public Works and the Building Department needed more space, and the current Administration Building was non-code conforming. State mandated police procedural changes resulted in additional space requirements. Two years later, Public Works and the Building Department were moved to 'temporary' modulars. A 1995 study concluded that a new, versus a remodeled, building was better suited for long-term solutions.

A second study was done in 2006, again concluding the Town Center needed to come into compliance with codes, had increased space requirements, and a new building was a better solution than retrofitting the existing building. In addition to earlier conclusions, records storage was deemed inadequate, if not dangerous.

Today, Atherton needs about 25,000 square feet of code-conforming space. The buildings don't conform with codes for earthquakes or fire, nor with Federal OSHA and Justice Department requirements, nor those for the disabled (ADA). Today, the State requires both special police handling of evidence, victims, prisoners and witnesses; and that Atherton have a 'hardened' Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

Atherton's employees are working in, and residents are visiting, unsafe and cramped facilities. Neighboring towns have successfully raised private funds for part or most of the costs; and Atherton's residents, police, and administrators would benefit from more and safer spaces.

The Blue Ribbon Task Force established by the Council to report on the political, economic, and operational feasibility of a Town Center seeks input from residents and encourages residents to ask staff for a tour of current facilities and to fill out a survey.

Updating Town Facilities has the following benefits to Atherton residents:

1. Police and dispatch spaces would conform with California's Essential Facility Requirements for safe spaces for victims, suspects, witnesses and public inquiries, plus Federal ADA and Equal Opportunity laws and regulations – as well as house Atherton's Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
2. Town management and professionals will work in earthquake, fire, and ADA code-compliant spaces, with much-needed privacy for senior management.
3. Contractors, developers, architects, and residents will have better layout areas to consult with Building, Planning, and Public Works - leading to greater employee productivity.
4. Fire and earthquake safe civic structures for residents to visit and attend meetings.
5. Cultural and educational events could be held in the current or new Chambers.
6. CARA neighborhood improved by eliminating the modular trailers and police entrance now on Ashfield.
7. Atherton will be in compliance with Federal (OSHA, ADA, Equal Opportunity) and State mandates; lowering financial risks to the Town.
8. An expanded postal contract facility with boxes will increase revenues from sales tax.
9. Caltrain's right-of-way along train tracks currently used by Public Works will be addressed and access provided to Public Works' corporate yard.
10. Easier access to staff by residents, management by staff, files by staff, and staff to each other resulting in better employee retention and increased value for our tax dollars.
11. A "LEED Certified" (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Town Center will reduce the Town's CO2 emissions and showcase examples to residents on environmentally friendly construction, helping to bring the Town into compliance with State Law AB32 to reduce Green House Emissions.



Helpful tips from your Code Enforcement Officer Robert Cushing

When placing your waste and recycling containers out for pickup, please take a moment to consider where you are placing the cans. Cans should be placed away from the paved road on the morning of your pick-up and should be removed before dark on pickup day. Please make sure your cans are washed and sanitized on a regular basis to eliminate odor. A thorough rinse with a little dish soap works very well. Thank you for doing your part to keep Atherton a pleasant place to live.

Winter is Here, Time to Prepare

As winter approaches, it is a good time to prepare your households for the heavy rains, power outages, and falling debris that inevitably occur throughout our Town during a typical wet weather season. Your Public Works Department has worked hard this fall to insure our storm drainage system performs well during heavy rainfall events.

This is a reminder to keep your flashlights filled with fresh batteries and in a handy location, as well as candles and lanterns to help deal with a small scale power outage. For those concerned with the possibility of small scale flooding issues, the Town offers, free of charge, sandbags to its residents. They need only come down to the Public Works Corporation Yard at 99 Station Lane and load them up.

Please remember that if you must travel during a storm, to observe our vehicles with their trademark rotating amber lights. This could be a sign of a down tree or flooding, but it usually, at the least, marks a worker out of his/her vehicle. So please look out for us while we're looking out for you!



Disposal

The Atherton Police Department has a place for you to drop off your unused, expired medications. (prescription or non-prescription) The large white metal container is located in front of the Police Department (83 Ashfield Road) to the left of the front door. It is a secured bin where once it becomes full, the contents are taken to the County for disposal.

For more information about our drug disposal program, please contact 688-6500.

Please **DO NOT** place syringes or **SHARPS** materials in this box
The nearest place to dispose of those items is:

Menlo Pharmacy
650-322-1888
1610 El Camino Real, Suite A, Menlo Park
(Across the street from Menlo College)

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Jerry Gruber Editor
Melanie Brabenc Assistant Editor
Ed Jasmin Graphic Designer

GreenSTART Launches Again In 2009

What do you do if your child comes home from school and announces that he/she is going to help you improve the energy efficiency of your home? If your child's school is one of the 18 local schools that organizers expect will be participating in the new GreenSTART program, then you can respond by saying, "Okay, tell me what we should do?" You will be sure to get enough good ideas to save a sizeable amount off of your energy bill! If you have two kids in different grades, they will even come home with different sets of tasks that a family can do, adding even more sophistication to your home efficiency program.

Yet, what the kids suggest need not be where you stop in your efforts to improve household efficiency and economy. One of the best features to this new and improved version of the GreenSTART program that previously ran in 2008 (but with a different format) is the work the organizers have done to



help you assess your needs. They start by providing a clear menu of the diverse professional services that are available from local home energy efficiency firms and providing some criteria by which to select from among them. Not only do they make it really easy to figure out which firms can help you with the specific needs your home has, but also there is an extra special incentive for homeowners to get the professional help they need with specially discounted rates from all of the firms signing on as sponsors of this innovative program.

Atherton's GreenSTART program makes it just about irresistible to lock in long-term home efficiency savings at an affordable price. This is great

news for all homeowners, whether you are just trying to save on heating and energy costs or whether you care to reduce your home's carbon footprint. You may even still be having trouble absorbing the science behind the impact of carbon emissions on our climate and the threat this poses to life on earth. You can still take advantage of the home-efficiency know-how and savings offered by this program. Simply click on the GreenSTART program link at the EPC's website at www.athertongreen.net and follow the directions. Once there, you can find more information about GreenSTART and all EPC programs, and you can follow the progress of GreenSTART's collaborative community competition and see how each school is doing. There are tons of prizes for students, great savings opportunities for homeowners and, best of all, GreenSTART's goals will go a long way to help Atherton in its efforts to reduce the Town's carbon footprint. We also want to hear from you and get your thoughts, so there is a resident survey posted at www.athertongreen.net that will help us understand how we can serve you better! Thanks for taking the time to respond to our online survey and for supporting GreenSTART!

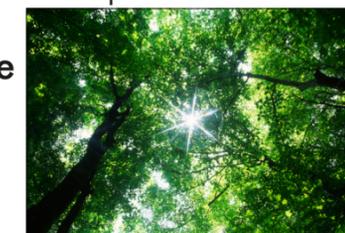
The Atherton Heritage Association

The Atherton Heritage Room is located in the Town Hall at the corner of Dinkelspiel Lane and Ashfield Road and is open on Tuesdays from 10 until noon. If you are interested in Town History, your home's history, old maps or old photographs, drop by some Tuesday. Our phone number is 688-6540.

We will be letting you know about a new book on the History of Atherton, *Atherton the City of Trees*, in the middle of next year. It has been written by Nancy Lund and Pam Gullard who also wrote the Portola Valley and Palo Alto histories. We are very excited about the quality of the book and know you will be also.

Nominate A Special Tree

Atherton Tree Committee Accepting Nominations For 2009 Tree Awards



Enter your exceptional tree in the 2009 Atherton Tree Awards. The Atherton Tree Committee is accepting nominations for the 19th Annual Tree Awards program. Eligible candidates are any species of tree that meet one or more of the following criteria: outstanding specimen; unique in size, age, species or historical significance; a grove of mature trees native to this region. Awards are also given for the best newly planted tree and the best preserved during construction. Nomination forms are available at the Town Administrative Offices, the Permit Center, and on the Web at www.ci.atherton.ca.us. The deadline for entry is 5:00 p.m., March 31, 2009. For more information contact Kathy Anderson at (650) 752-0526.

TOWN EMPLOYEE NEWS

STEVE MARSHALL NEW POLICE OFFICER

Officer Stephen Marshall was raised in New England and has resided in California for the last 20 years. Officer Marshall has worked for the Menlo Park Police Department, where he served as a Field Training Officer and Acting Watch Commander. Prior to his work at Menlo Park, Officer Marshall worked for the Union City Police Department. In addition to patrol, he worked an assignment with the Southern Alameda County Narcotics Enforcement Team and worked as a School Resource Officer at James Logan High School. Officer Marshall holds a Bachelor's Degree in English and a Master's Degree in Public Administration.



JOE AIELLO NEW BUILDING INSPECTOR/PLAN CHECKER

Joseph Aiello is excited to be working for the Town of Atherton! "I work with a great bunch of people, all of whom have made me feel right at home."
Joseph's professional odyssey has taken him from a career in construction to the world of corporate management, and then back to construction again.

"As a Building Inspector, I get the up-close-and-personal view of Atherton that most people don't get to see. I have to say, I like what I see."

Joseph and his wife Diane have four kids, five dogs, a talking bird and a father-in-law named Ward!

"Our family is truly the source of inspiration. We have three beautiful daughters; one in college, two in high school, and a nine-year-old son with more energy than the Eveready Bunny. Come to think of it, they might be the source of our exhaustion as well!"

"I do consider myself extremely fortunate to get to do what I do and have so much fun doing it. It makes me feel good to have the opportunity to give something back to the community from which I earn my living, and I feel privileged to be able to do just that, by serving the people of Atherton."



KEVIN CITTADINI PROMOTED TO SENIOR BUILDING INSPECTOR

Kevin grew up on the Peninsula in Belmont. He attended California State University, Chico, where he received a Bachelors of Science degree in Civil Engineering with a minor in Business Administration. After graduation, he moved up to Lake Tahoe and worked as an engineer doing structural design of houses and cabins. In August of 1998, he came to the Town of Atherton as a temporary Building Inspector/Plan Reviewer that eventually ended up turning into a full-time position. He has been here ever since. Outside of work, he enjoys traveling the world, designing and making furniture, and spending time with family and friends.



MELANIE BRABENEC EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Congratulations to Office Specialist Melanie Brabenc for being selected as the Employee of the Quarter for the months of October 2008 through December 2008!

This quarter has been a whirlwind for Melanie. During the past two months, Melanie has done the job of two employees. Not only did Melanie continue to fill her position as Office Assistant, she also stepped up and is running the Town's Post Office. In her spare time, Melanie is training one of the Town's part-time employees in the administration of the Post Office; AND she applied, tested, and was promoted to Office Specialist.

Melanie has served Atherton residents over the past holiday season with a smile and tons of patience. Melanie is a shining example of the integrity and professionalism of Atherton Town employees.



Members of the Town Council

Meet the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.
Town Council Chambers • 94 Ashfield Road • Atherton

Jerry Carlson, Mayor
jcarlson@ci.atherton.ca.us
321-1327

Kathleen McKeithen, Vice Mayor
kmckeithen@ci.atherton.ca.us
321-3633

Charles E. Marsala, Council Member
cmarsala@ci.atherton.ca.us
328-7113

Jim Dobbie, Council Member
jdobbie@ci.atherton.ca.us
327-3946

Elizabeth Lewis, Council Member
elewis@ci.atherton.ca.us
533-8830

Directory of Town Offices Contacts & Telephone Numbers

Main Number: 650-752-0500
Fax Number: 650-688-6528
Email: atherton@ci.atherton.ca.us
Website: www.ci.atherton.ca.us

Administration
General Information/Post Office
752-0500
Jerry Gruber
City Manager
jgruber@ci.atherton.ca.us
752-0500
Eileen Wilkerson
Assistant City Manager
ewilkerson@ci.atherton.ca.us
752-0546
Kathi Hamilton
Acting City Clerk
khamilton@ci.atherton.ca.us
752-0529

Police
Emergency: 911
General Information
688-6500
Glenn Nielson
Chief of Police
752-0508

Town Planner
Neal Martin
Town Planner
799-8466
Lisa Costa Sanders
Deputy Town Planner
lisa@nealmartinassoc.com
333-0248

Public Works
Information/Permits
752-0570
Duncan Jones
Director of Public Works
djones@ci.atherton.ca.us
752-0532
Steve Tyler
Superintendent of Public Works
styler@ci.atherton.ca.us
752-0541
Jean Cardona
Parks Program Manager
jcardona@ci.atherton.ca.us
752-0534

City Attorney
Marc Hynes
City Attorney
hynes.marc@gmail.com
967-6941

Finance
Louise Ho
Finance Director
lho@ci.atherton.ca.us
752-0552

Building
Information/Inspections
752-0560
Daily Inspection Schedule
752-0561
Mike Wassman
Building Official
mwassmann@ci.atherton.ca.us
752-0518
Kathy Hughes-Anderson
Town Arborist
kanderson@ci.atherton.ca.us
752-0526
Robert Cushing
Code Enforcement
rcushing@ci.atherton.ca.us
752-0553
Cell 333-0854

Library
General Information
328-2422
Library events
www.smcl.org/libraries/ath/

Heritage Room
Atherton Heritage Association
688-6540

Contact Information

Town of Atherton
91 Ashfield Road • Atherton, CA 94027

OUR MISSION Town of Atherton

Organizational Mission Statement

The Mission of the Administration of the Town of Atherton is to:
Provide high-quality, innovative services;
Appreciate and develop human resources;
Manage physical plant and financial resources efficiently;
Protect the unique environment that makes Atherton special.

INCORPORATED SEPTEMBER 12, 1923

Helpful Phone Numbers

Menlo Park Fire District
Emergency: 911 or 323-2404
Business Administration Office
688-8400

County Services
Animal Control
363-4840
Assessor
363-4500
Richard Gordon,
Supervisor, 3rd District
363-4569
Voter Registration
312-5222
Mosquito Abatement
For Collecting and
Testing Dead Birds
For West Nile Virus
(877) 968-2473
Service Calls
Or Information
344-8592
www.smcad.org

Utilities
Comcast Cable
800-945-2288
California Water Service
367-6800
Pacific Gas & Electric
800-743-5000

Waste/Recycling
Allied Waste/BFI
592-2411
Recycling
637-1411
Fair Oaks Sanitation District
363-4100
West Bay Sanitation District
321-0384



February 2009

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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March 2009

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April 2009

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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Town Community Calendar Winter 2009

February 2009

3	Atherton Rail Committee	6:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
4	Park & Rec. Commission	6:30 p.m.	H-P Park, Main House
16	Presidents' Day Observed	Town Offices Closed	
18	City Council	7:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
24	Arts Committee	1:00 p.m.	H-P Park, Garden Room
25	Planning Commission	6:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
26	Tree Committee	4:00 p.m.	Admin. Offices Mtg. Rm.

March 2009

4	Park & Rec. Commission	6:30 p.m.	H-P Park, Main House
10	Transportation Committee	6:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
18	City Council	7:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
24	Arts Committee	1:00 p.m.	H-P Park, Garden Room
25	Planning Commission	6:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
26	Tree Committee	4:00 p.m.	Admin. Offices Mtg. Rm.

April 2009

1	Environmental Programs Comm.	10:00 a.m.	Admin. Offices Mtg. Rm.
1	Park & Rec. Commission	5:30 p.m.	H-P Park, Main House
1	General Plan Committee	6:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
7	Atherton Rail Committee	6:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
15	City Council	7:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
22	Planning Commission	6:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
23	Tree Committee	4:00 p.m.	Admin. Offices Mtg. Rm.
28	Arts Committee	1:00 p.m.	H-P Park, Garden Room

For information on changes and special meetings call 752-0500
or check the Town Community Calendar at www.ci.atherton.ca.us



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

