

# Athertonian

Atherton Newsletter



Town of

# ATHERTON *California*

SUMMER



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

## SAVE THE DATE!

### Tuesday, August 2, 2016

6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Holbrook-Palmer Park

150 Watkins Ave

Please R.S.V.P. to [town@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:town@ci.atherton.ca.us)

or 650-752-0500



On Tuesday, August 2, 2016 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., the Town of Atherton will host its third annual National Night Out in the Park at Holbrook-Palmer Park, 150 Watkins Ave. National Night Out is a nation-wide program designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support and participation in crime efforts, strengthen neighborhood spirit and police community relations, and let criminals know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. Atherton residents are asked to turn on their outside lights, lock their doors, and spend the evening outside with neighbors and police at Holbrook-Palmer Park. Residents are encouraged to come and have fun and use the time to discuss neighborhood issues with their local police and set neighborhood goals and Watch Programs. The event will include a Red E. Fox contest administered by police personnel, prizes, balloon makers and face painters, snow cones and cotton candy, music, a jumpy house, and a BBQ.

For details and contest rules, please visit <http://athertonno2016.eventbrite.com>



## Tuesday November 8, 2016

City Council called the election for purpose of electing two (2) Councilmembers to the City Council for terms ending in December 2020.

The candidate nomination period opened on Monday, July 18. Candidates will have until Friday, August 12, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. to return their nomination forms to the City clerk. The City Clerk's office will only accept nomination forms that have at least 30 signatures.

Contingent upon election results being finalized by the County and available for canvas, new Councilmembers will be sworn in at a meeting in December.

## Trees & Drought Tidbits

As California experiences warmer temperatures and lower precipitation some species of trees are suffering. Pines are vulnerable to the drought. When trees are stressed they are more susceptible to a bark beetle infestation. Once an infestation occurs it is too late. One sign that your Pine has been infected is boring dust at the base of the trunk. Once infected, trees can decline within a few months to a year. Dead trees require a tree removal permit per Atherton Municipal Code Chapter 8.08 and 8.10.

As we cut back on water due to the drought you will want to recognize which trees will be affected. Trees in irrigated areas become dependent on regular watering and after they receive less can decline and die. Consider irrigating (non-Oak's) in late spring or early summer. Place a soaker hose just inside the dripline, cover it with mulch if possible, and run the hose until the soil is moist to a depth of 12 inches. Wait until the upper 12 inches of soil is dry before irrigating again.

For tree related questions please contact Sally Bentz the Town Arborist, [sbentz@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:sbentz@ci.atherton.ca.us) or 650-752-0526.



## Emergency Preparedness Training

August 6, 2016, 9AM - 1PM



- What is it:** A joint training earthquake drill with town resident volunteers, First Responders, & Town officials.
- Where is it being held:** The area behind the Town of Atherton Police Department and Town Hall across from the train station parking lot.
- Volunteers requested:** All CERT members and Atherton residents are encouraged to participate in the drill (no prior emergency response experience required) to learn more about how to respond in an emergency.
- Goals of the drill:** To help better prepare Atherton in case of a major earthquake (or other major emergency – fire, health hazard, electrical grid attack), to improve collaboration between the Town, First Responders and volunteers during an emergency and to expose Atherton residents to what they can do in an emergency for themselves and to help others.
- Sponsoring agencies:** Menlo Park Fire Protection District CERT (Community Emergency Response Team), ADAPT (Atherton Disaster And Preparedness Team), the Town of Atherton, and the Atherton Police Department.
- Items to bring:** Backpack, work gloves, good walking shoes, flashlight, snack, (water will be provided for all participants).

For further information go to the ADAPT website: [www.getreadyatherton.org](http://www.getreadyatherton.org)

## Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon on El Camino Real at Alameda

At the six lane crossing of El Camino Real at Alameda Ave., the Town of Atherton has installed a relatively new concept for California in traffic technology. **The Beacon will be activated on Monday, August 1, 2016.** The pedestrian hybrid beacon is designed to stop vehicles at crosswalks and give pedestrians a controlled crossing through a series of steady and flashing yellow and red lights.



First of its kind device in Town at El Camino Real and Alameda Avenue is specifically designed to get undivided attention of both drivers and pedestrians. The hybrid beacon operates much like a traffic signal, but typically costs three times less than a traditional traffic signal. The cost for the equipment and labor was funded by the Town and the Menlo Park Fire District.

Pedestrians activate the beacon when ready to cross, otherwise the beacon is dark and motorists proceed as usual while pedestrians see a "Don't Walk". Drivers must stop for a steady red light until it becomes a flashing red light and then may proceed only if the crosswalk is clear. Running the beacon's steady red light is comparable to running a red traffic light and may result in a traffic citation with a \$470 fine.

Given the posted speed limit of 35 miles per hour and vehicle traffic exceeding 36,000 vehicles per day, the hybrid beacon will enhance pedestrian safety. It gives pedestrians and drivers plenty of forewarning. Additional intersections along El Camino Real will get Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons as part of a Caltrans



**Emergencies happen when we least expect them. They require fast thinking and action. But different situations call for different approaches. Here are some things to know so you'll be prepared to call.**

### When to Call 911

A 911 emergency is a situation in which someone needs help IMMEDIATELY.

- In-progress crimes - vehicle break-ins, domestic disturbances, traffic emergency/accident
- Fire - vehicle, structure or grass
- Medical Emergency - choking, allergic reaction, difficulty breathing, going unconscious

### What to Say

- Stay in control - this will assist the 911 dispatcher in getting you the help you need as quickly as possible.
- Let the dispatcher guide the conversation
- Dispatchers will probably ask what, where, and who questions such as:

Where is the emergency happening?

What specifically is going on?

Who needs the help?

Is this happening right now?

Are fire or medical personnel needed?

You may hear clicking, static or pauses as the call progresses. This is normal, please stay on the line.

### When 911 is not appropriate

Rules about 911 are necessary because whenever a dispatcher takes a non-emergency call on an emergency line, it could delay getting emergency services to someone who really needs them.

Do not call 911 for:

- Barking dogs (Police Non-Emergency 650-688-6500)
- Sewer back up (Police Non-Emergency 650-688-6500)
- Power outages (PG&E 1-800-PGE-5000)
- Construction complaints (Police Non-Emergency 650-688-6500)

### Cellular Calls

Yes, we are in the age of the smartphone, but a 911 call from a cell phone displays a mapping location, rather than the specific address you are calling from. This requires additional questions from the dispatcher so please be patient while they confirm your location.

### In Conclusion

If you're ever in doubt it's better to call 911 and let the dispatcher assess the situation. The motto "when in doubt, call us out" is something we stand by. Dispatchers are your lifeline. They are always available to assist you through times of crisis, confusion, and distress. Help us to help you



In June, the Town welcomed our newest Officer to the Atherton Police Department – Bryan Robbins

Bryan grew up in Ripon, California, where he attended Ripon High School. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from California State University, Stanislaus. During college Bryan competed in Track & Field and was placed on the school's "All-Time Top Ten Decathletes" list. In 2013, Bryan moved to the Bay Area to pursue a career in Law Enforcement. In August of 2014, he received his POST Certification through South Bay Regional Police Academy. He was awarded with both the Outstanding Overall Achievement Award and the Dr. Susan Oliveira Leadership Award. Bryan is married and has a son. Bryan was sworn in at the July 20 City Council meeting.

## More Water? Yes, But Not for Oaks!

There is a reason that oaks in Atherton have survived the drought better than lawns and other garden plants. The oaks are Atherton's dominant native tree. They are accustomed to droughts and they thrive every summer without a drop of rain. In fact, summer water damages oaks by encouraging the growth of oak root fungi. The fungi does not grow in dry soil, but proliferates under warm, moist conditions. Oak tree damage from summer water and fungi usually takes years to become evident. By the time the tree shows signs of decline it is too late to save it.

So if you are ramping up the irrigation on your lawn and shrubs, remember to keep the water away from the oaks. The area within the oak's dripline (the line below the outer edge of the branches) should stay dry all summer. This means, of course, that the lawn and any shrubbery that needs to be watered should not extend under the dripline.

One healthy alternative for the area under an oak is bare ground with natural oak leaf litter. Another is chipped wood and bark mulch. Organic mulch conserves water, provides nutrients as the mulch decays, improves soil structure, decreases soil pH, and reduces soil temperature extremes.

River rock is not a good option under oaks because it traps moisture and warms the soil – conditions favorable for fungus. Further, river rock impedes oxygen and gas exchange to the roots. Ivy and other vines near oak trees are also not good option because they exclude light and air and hold moisture, contributing to fungal diseases. Ivy also competes for

nutrients and winter water that the oak tree needs.

As they say in Silicon Valley, oak watering is "counterintuitive". If you want a large, lush, and healthy oak, the last thing you want to do is water it. Other landscaping practices that can harm oaks include:

- Compacting the soil under the oak by driving vehicles (even wheelbarrows) under the tree or storing firewood, construction materials or anything else under the tree canopy
- Changing the soil level under the tree
- Building paved areas under the tree canopy
- Trenching
- Tilling
- Removing leaf litter from under the tree

Oaks are highly resilient if well-treated. For example, oak tree moth caterpillars, that descend from oak branches on long silky threads, may be unsightly to humans but will have almost no impact on an otherwise healthy tree. If your oak tree looks like it is suffering, the best first step is to call in a local arborist for advice.



Menlo College Tree Award Recipient for Best Maintenance for Oaks



# Traffic Tips

## From Sergeant Kockler

The Atherton Police Department encourages everyone to drive safely and always follow all traffic laws. With this in mind, the following are the laws regarding the use of cell phones and other electronic devices while driving a motor vehicle.

Under California Vehicle Code section 23123(a): You may not drive a motor vehicle while using a wireless telephone unless the telephone is specifically designed and configured to allow hands-free listening and talking, and the telephone is used in that manner while driving.

This means that the telephone cannot be in your hand while driving, and the telephone must be used with either the speaker, a wired headset (only one ear covered at a time), or with Bluetooth technology.

Under California Vehicle Code section 23123.5(a): You may not drive a motor vehicle while using an electronic wireless communications device to write, send, or read text-based communications, unless the device is specifically designed and configured to allow voice-operated and hands-free operation to dictate, send, or listen to a text based communication, and the wireless communications device is used in that manner while driving. This means the electronic wireless communications device cannot be in your hand while driving.

And finally, under California Vehicle Code section 23124(a): A person under the age of 18 years old shall not drive a motor vehicle while using a wireless telephone or an electronic wireless communications device, even if the wireless telephone or electronic wireless communications device is used hands-free. This means that no one under the age of 18 years old can use any type of wireless telephone or electronic wireless communications device while driving a motor vehicle.

Send any traffic questions to Sgt. Anthony Kockler at [akockler@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:akockler@ci.atherton.ca.us). He will try to answer as many questions as possible. Also, look for more traffic questions and answers in upcoming issues of The Athertonian.



### FIRST ART & WINE TOUR At the Town on Atherton

Sponsored by the Town and the AAF

On June 9<sup>th</sup>, residents and local visitors came to view Larry Calof's remarkable wild life photographs and his huge telephoto lens. Visitors had the opportunity to meet the artist, Town employees, Council Members, and AAF Board. The event was a great success. Future tours are planned.

Art is a community's most precious heritage



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**

<b><u>Town Office's</u></b>		
Administration	650-752-0500	jherren@ci.atherton.ca.us
Building Department	650-752-0560	mmazur@ci.atherton.ca.us
City Attorney	831-601-1100	wconners@ci.atherton.ca.us
City Clerk/Human Resources/ Assistant City Manager	650-752-0529	tdellasanta@ci.atherton.ca.us
City Manager	650-752-0504	grodericks@ci.atherton.ca.us
Finance Department	650-752-0552	rbarron@ci.atherton.ca.us
Heritage Room	650-688-6540	meo@rjoster.com
Holbrook-Palmer Park Events	650-752-0534	jsimonin@ci.atherton.ca.us
Planning Department	650-752-0544	lcostasanders@ci.atherton.ca.us
Police Administration	650-752-0503	jfrew@ci.atherton.ca.us
Police Non-Emergency	650-323-8471	
Police Emergency	911	
Police Investigation	650-752-0565	aguarducci@ci.atherton.ca.us
Police Support Services	650-752-0506	jwade@ci.atherton.ca.us
Police Records	650-688-6500	
Public Works Department	650-752-0570	hluo@ci.atherton.ca.us
<b><u>City Council</u></b>		
Mayor Elizabeth Lewis	650-533-8830	elewis@ci.atherton.ca.us
Vice Mayor Michael Lempres	650-690-6661	mlempres@ci.atherton.ca.us
Councilmember Bill Widmer	650-530-0078	bwidmer@ci.atherton.ca.us
Councilmember Cary Wiest	650-357-7122	cwiest@ci.atherton.ca.us
Councilmember Rick DeGolia	650-793-2800	rdegolia@ci.atherton.ca.us