

2018

ATHERTONIAN



Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season



**WINTER
EDITION**

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**ATHERTON
COMMUNITY
NEWSLETTER**

FROM CITY MANAGER, GEORGE RODERICKS

As the year draws to a close the Town has wrapped up a number of projects and taken some fairly significant steps on a few others. These projects and priorities are driven by one of the most vital parts of the Town's Operations - its Budget. In June 2018, the Town adopted its Budget for FY 2018/19. The Town's Budget represents the single most important policy document that sets out how to accomplish the goals and objectives of the City Council within the Town's fiscal means.

General Fund revenues are projected at \$15.8 million and expenditures are projected at \$14.1 million. That leaves roughly a \$1.7 revenue projection in FY 2018/19 that is largely shifted to address the Town's Capital Infrastructure Project needs for the year - park, streets, drainage, bicycle/pedestrian, and facilities. Priority infrastructure projects compete for these limited revenue projections each year. The Town spends, on average, about \$2-\$2.5 million in priority projects each year (not including significant facility projects, such as the new City Hall/Police Station). The Special Parcel Tax used to provide an additional \$1.8 million each year for priority projects; however, revenue from the Special Parcel Tax terminated in FY 2017/18. To address the ever rising cost of capital infrastructure maintenance, the Town must "save, then spend" to completely address its capital infrastructure needs. The Town's FY 2018/19 Budget can be found online via this link - www.ci.atherton.ca.us/2018-19Budget.

In mid-2018, the construction market climate returned bids for the City Hall/Police Station (Library is separately fully funded) that were 40% higher than anticipated. The Project Management Team and City Council reviewed and approved a number of value-engineering solutions for the project to reduce the City Hall/Police Station facility by \$4.4 million.



These solutions included, but are not limited to, window changes, changes to roofing materials, planting, deletion of the corporation yard improvements, reduction of fencing, and deferral of the Council Chambers. The goal of these value-engineering solutions was to repackage the bid documents and get the project back out to bid by January 2019. The Council is set to approve the bid package at its December Council Meeting. Through the Town's "save, then spend" philosophy, project donations to date, revenue projections over the project years, and estimated cost of the project re-design, it is anticipated that the Town will have sufficient funds to bring this project into reality. For more information on the Project, a link to the Project Webpage can be found here - www.ci.atherton.ca.us/civiccenter.

With 2018 closing out, 2019 looks to be just as exciting. This coming year we expect to see this project move forward toward serving the Town for the next 50+ years!



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FALL HIGHLIGHT: HALLOWEEN EVENT

The Town of Atherton celebrated the Fall Season with the Annual Halloween Event. This year, Town Staff invited the students of the Menlo-Atherton High School leadership class to collaborate with in creating a Haunted House main attraction using the old Atherton Library building. The students volunteered their time after school to build a spooky setup, gave heart-stopping performances, and created slime to interact with children. The Atherton Library staff had a pumpkin decorating station, face painting, and the imagination playground. For more pictures of the Halloween Event, please visit the Town's website at www.ci.atherton.ca.us under 'Photo Gallery'. Don't forget to check out our website at www.ci.atherton.ca.us/events for more exciting events coming up for the year!



FALL HIGHLIGHT: LIBRARY DEMOLITION

The stages of building the new Atherton library began Monday, November 20th with the demolition of the old building. Continue to visit the Town website at www.ci.atherton.ca.us for updates on the project. Don't forget to subscribe to receive weekly News flashes and the latest events happening in the Town.



Local resident, Fiona Lempres seized an opportunity for a face to face interview with Congresswoman Anna Eshoo .

“When I found out Congresswoman Eshoo was coming to Sacred Heart School in Atherton, I really wanted to interview her because she is a great role model for young girls. Congresswoman Eshoo represents us in the U.S. Congress. It was an honor to meet her.”



REMINDER: HOLIDAY HOURS

**TOWN HALL AND PERMIT CENTER
WILL BE CLOSED**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24–TUESDAY, JANUARY 1

**REGULAR OFFICE HOURS
WILL RESUME**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2



USPS will continue to pick up mail and packages at this location at the regular scheduled time

Please see the nearest Post Office locations for postal services:

Menlo Park Main Post Office
3875 Bohannon Drive
Menlo Park, CA 94025
650-323-2701

Oak Grove Post Office
655 Oak Grove Avenue
Menlo Park, CA 94025
650-321-7682

*Hours may vary, please contact the locations



WINTER EDITION

650-752-0500
www.ci.atherton.ca.us



The Atherton Police Department is committed to providing exceptional public safety services and believes in taking a leadership role in fostering community partnerships. By cooperating to identify and solve issues we can make this great Town even better!



“To Serve With Honor, Integrity and Professionalism”

83 Ashfield Road

Non-Emergency Line: 650-688-6500

NEW RECRUIT: K-9 ART BLUE PENNY

The Atherton Police Department welcomes its newest member, Canine Art Blue Penny. Police Officer Chris Greene and K9 Art are the newest duo to the team. Art is a 4 year old Belgian Malinois (malin-wa) with a documented name of Art Blue Penny. He was bred in Czechoslovakia by police breeders and trained with Czech commands. At the age of 3, he was imported by Witmer-Tyson. At Witmer -Tyson Imports out of Menlo Park, they have been breeding, training, and selling Police Dogs for over 45 years. During this time they have put hundreds of dogs out on the street to help protect the public. They have been providing German Shepherd Dogs for patrol work and cross training needs (occasionally, or on special request, other dog breeds have also been used). The four-week basic handler course is the beginning of an exciting career as a canine handler. This basic course teaches the dog and handler how to handle the street as a team. The on-going maintenance training keeps the dog in compliance with exercises designed for more experienced handlers.



Art is the first Malinois to join the Atherton Police Department. The Malinois is a breed that has been used for police search purposes for many years in Europe, being known for their intelligence, dedication, and agility. Because of these attributes, they have become the canine of choice for many law enforcement agencies nationwide, including the US Secret Service and US Navy SEALs.

The Police Department received the new K9 through a generous donation from a resident which included funds for the kennel, fencing, and concrete pad. K9 Art and Officer Greene completed the 1 month Basic Handler course and will be set to attend tracking courses in early 2019.

For more information about our K9 program and Officers, please visit

<http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/406/K-9>

REMINDERS

Protecting your quality of life in Atherton is something we take seriously. The Town wants to help if there's an issue in your neighborhood, particularly if it's affecting you and your family. However, we need your help to do so. Please call us immediately, the moment you witness improper construction practices, suspicious activity, experience excessive/disruptive noise, witness a large tree being cut down or any other public nuisances:

Emergencies, dangerous/suspicious activity or crimes? **9-1-1**

Heritage tree concerns? Call Public Works (650)752-0570

Construction activities causing an issue?

Call Code Enforcement (650)752-0553 or (650)688-6500

Building concerns/questions? Call Building Department at (650)752-0560

Public disturbance, but not an emergency? Call the Atherton Police Department
Non- Emergency line (650)688-6500

Prompt reporting of any such activities allows Staff the opportunity to assess the situation for a more accurate and speedy solution.

Together we can ensure Atherton remains the peaceful, safe community we all love.

A.P.D. TIPS: SAFETY AT HOME AND WHILE SHOPPING



With the holidays upon us, people will be looking to steal your holiday spirit by stealing your holiday items. Below are some suggestions to help protect you from becoming the victim of theft during this holiday season.

At Home:

- Do not place gifts near the front window of your residence. People should not be able to see gifts if they look in through your front windows.
- Do not have items delivered to your home while you will be away. Schedule deliveries for times you are home, or have deliveries made to your place of work.
- Leave interior and exterior lights on when not at home at night, and exterior lights on during the night when you are home.
- Make sure your alarm system is functioning properly, and make sure to use your alarm system while away from your home.
- Consider installing security cameras. They are a great deterrent to residential thievery.
- Make sure to lock all doors and secure all windows in your vehicle prior to leaving it parked on your driveway or in the street. Do not leave valuable items inside the passenger compartment.

- If you will be away, notify your neighbors so they can look over your home, and stop your mail and newspaper delivery.
- Notify the Atherton Police Department so that Vacation House Checks can be conducted during your time away.
- Do not let your whereabouts or vacation plans be known on social media. This is an invitation to thieves to visit your home.

While Shopping:

- Park in well-lit areas and be aware of your surroundings.
- Place items in your vehicle's trunk, not in the passenger compartment.
- Consider leaving the shopping area once you load your vehicle's trunk. Someone could be watching vehicles in the parking lot to determine which ones have items to steal.
- The only thing people should see in the passenger compartment of your vehicle are seats and floor mats. No purses, wallets, phones, other electronics, or charging cables. These items are invitations to thieves.
- Make sure to lock all doors and secure all windows prior to leaving your vehicle in a parking lot.

The Atherton Police Department wishes everyone a safe, happy and healthy holiday season!

A.P.D. TIPS: HOME SECURITY

Keeping your home and family safe is important, whether you're at home or away. Installing a security camera system can help. There are different kinds of security cameras to choose from, including wired and wireless security cameras. Wired security cameras are hardwired to a power source, so you never have to worry about the batteries running low.

Home security cameras may be used for monitoring a baby, catching a burglar, deterring criminals, and, most importantly,

giving you peace of mind. The activity you want to observe will help dictate the type of security cameras you may want to purchase.

As an agency we cannot identify or endorse the best camera system to buy, but can give you vendors to help you start the process of cameras in and around your home.

- Amazon
- Best Buy
- Home Depot
- Lowes

Any questions regarding security cameras, please feel free to contact Sgt. Kockler at 650-752-0502.

PARADISE LOST – IT COULD HAPPEN HERE

By ADAPT Board President , Tom Prussing

The recent fire tragedy in Paradise, CA reminds us all that we have a similar potential of a community wild fire that would impact many families here. Depending upon time of year, wind speed and direction, tree and foliage density, temperatures, humidity, congested limited egress and PG&E gas line vulnerability, a wild fire like that of Paradise, Santa Rosa, or the San Bruno fire in 2010 could have devastating effects on Atherton residents.

Please join us at our ADAPT (Atherton Disaster and Preparedness Team) Community Meetings on the first Saturday of every month from 9 AM to 10:30 AM at the Atherton Council Chambers (94 Ashfield Road). Due to the holidays our January 2019 meeting has been moved to Saturday the 12th.

We educate our community residents and

conduct practical emergency training to mitigate, response to and recovery from fire disasters such as Paradise and San Bruno, the 1989 earthquake or other community-wide emergencies in conjunction with our Atherton Police Department.

Don't think these fires or disasters can't happen in Atherton, because they can!

Go to our ADAPT website www.athertongetready.org and fill out the Keep Me Informed pdf. We will send you the Atherton Emergency Preparedness Handbook and get you started on being informed, prepared and ready!





PEDESTRIAN HYBRID BEACONS IN AND AROUND ATHERTON

Since the installation of the first Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon at the intersection of El Camino Real and Almondal Avenue in 2016, several additional beacons have been installed by Caltrans along El Camino Real in Atherton, at Isabella Avenue and at Alejandra Avenue, and elsewhere in the Peninsula. Locally, Caltrans installed a beacon on Woodside Road at Orchard Avenue and is planning several more on El Camino Real in Palo Alto. We get questions from our residents about how they operate and what is required of motorists. Here is a short reminder:

- The lights are dark until activated by a pedestrian that is ready to cross by pressing the push button.
- A YELLOW light will flash and become solid as a signal to drivers to slow down and prepare to STOP.
- Drivers must STOP when the RED Lights are steady, as with any other traffic signal. The walk signal will activate for the pedestrians to begin crossing the street.
- The RED lights will begin to flash in an alternating pattern, wherein the signal acts as a stop sign. Pedestrians will continue to cross the street and Drivers must wait until the crosswalk is clear before proceeding. Drivers approaching the signal while the red lights are flashing, must make a complete stop and may proceed through the intersection when safe to do so.
- The lights will go dark again until activated by a pedestrian. The Don't Walk signal will activate advising the pedestrian to wait.

The lights will go dark again until activated by a pedestrian. The Don't Walk signal will activate advising the pedestrian to wait.

Running the beacon's steady red light is comparable to running a red traffic light and may result in a traffic citation with a \$490 fine.



DRIVERS...		PEDESTRIANS...	
...will see this	...will do this	...will see this	...will do this
	Proceed with Caution		Push the Button to Cross
	Slow Down (Pedestrians have activated the push button)		Wait
	Prepare to Stop		Continue to Wait
	STOP! (Pedestrians in Crosswalk)		Start Crossing
	STOP! Proceed with Caution if Clear		Continue Crossing
	Proceed if Clear		Push the Button to Cross



ATHERTON WINTER PREPARATION

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. The Town reminds everyone that NOW is the time to make sure your emergency back-up power generators, sump pumps and other detention systems are in good working order.

This is the best time to assure your flashlights are 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 up to 20 sandbags free of charge to its residents. Residents can visit the Public Works Corporation Yard at 99 Station Lane and load the bags using the shovel and bags provided. The facility is located behind the permit center and is available 24/7/365.



During the worst weather episodes, you can count on your Public Works and Police Departments to be there. Please remember that if you must travel during a storm, do observe our vehicles with their trademark flashing amber lights. This could be a sign of a downed tree or flooding, but it generally marks a worker in the streets away from their vehicle. So please remember to look out for them while they're looking out for you!

ATHERTON TENNIS CENTER KEY

**The Tennis Court access locks will change
New keys will go on sale starting**

**February 13, 2019
January 14, 2019**

**\$50/ATHERTON RESIDENTS- REGULAR
COURTS**

**\$50/ATHERTON RESIDENTS-CLAY
COURT**

\$200/NON-RESIDENTS

**\$30 PER HOUR—NON-RESIDENTS CLAY
COURT USAGE
(Valid ID Required)**

**NEW KEYS MAY BE PURCHASED AT
ATHERTON TOWN HALL**

**91 ASHFIELD ROAD
8:00-12:00 pm and 1:00-5:00 pm
(Monday – Friday)**

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT
SALLY BENTZ-DALTON, Town Arborist/Park Manager
650-752-0526 OR EMAIL sbentz@ci.atherton.ca.us**

Please note the tennis courts will be resurfaced in the Spring.

All key holders will be notified prior to closures.



AAF has a NEW LOOK,
NEW OUTREACH, &
NEW OFFERINGS!



Come by Holbrook Palmer Park and take a look at AAF revitalized home and classroom! Our locations has recently been named the *Evans Center for the Arts* in honor of Rita Corbett Evans, our 'founder'.

The mission of AAF, is to 'promote the appreciation and enjoyment of the arts through events, classes, performances and acquisition of artworks for public spaces within our community. We are pleased to announce the Foundation has returned to offering a variety of classes to our community. New classes will start in January, including stitchery, botanical art, acrylics, pastels, flower arranging and calligraphy! All levels are welcome to any/all classes. Make a NEW YEAR'S Resolution to try something new or revisit an enjoyment from your past! Visit our website for details, or pick up a schedule at the town center or library.



We will continue to bring a variety of artists together for spring and fall art shows. This spring we are joining hands with the Portola Art Gallery in celebrating their special anniversary by co-hosting a weekend art show, open to the public! Our fall show will concentrate on local Atherton 'grown' artists.

Visit our website at athertonarts.org



COMMUNITY EVENT CALENDAR

Thursday, April 10, 2019

4:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

Happy Hour and Egg Stuffing with the Kids

At Holbrook Palmer Park Main House

Saturday, April 20, 2019

9 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Alice in Wonderland Easter Egg Hunt
at Holbrook Palmer Park

\$15 per person

****cash only at entrance gate**

Thursday, May 2, 2019

6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.

New Residents Welcoming Cocktail Party

A community mixer and Spring General Meeting, Private Atherton Residence,
142 Glenwood Ave

\$20 per person

For more information:

www.friendsofholbrookpalmerpark.org/events/



Town of Atherton
91 Ashfield Road
Atherton, CA 94027

Atherton Resident
Atherton, CA 94027

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