

# ATHERTONIAN



SPRING 2019

2-3 | **CIVIC CENTER PROJECT NEWS**

2-3 | **EXPECTED DELAYS: MIDDLEFIELD ROAD**

4-5 | **RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES  
UPDATE**

6 | **RISE IN NUMBER OF  
FALSE ALARMS**

6 | **WELCOME OFFICER ROMERO**

7 | **HERITAGE TREES AT-RISK**

11 | ***CONGRATULATIONS! OFFICER DAN ROJAS***

**CHECK OUT WHAT'S NEW IN ATHERTON!**

# CIVIC CENTER PROJECT UPDATE

On February 27, 2019 the Town received four (4) competitive bids for the Civic Center Projects. Bids were received from SJ Amoroso Construction, BHM, Sausal, and Stronghold Engineering. The Engineer's Estimate for the project was \$48,500,000.

This amount is broken down to the various components of the project with Admin/CDD/PD at approximately \$28.5 million and the Library at approximately \$20 million. The cost of the site work is divided amongst the two buildings and included in the estimates for both. A bid alternate was included for construction of the new City Council Chambers/Emergency Operations Center. The Engineer's Estimate for the bid alternate was \$1,655,000. The total estimated cost for Admin/CDD/PD, Library, all site work and new Council Chambers was \$50,155,000.

## The bids received were:

- S.J. Amoroso (lowest responsive bidder) - \$44,177,000
- Stronghold Engineering - \$44,400,000
- BHM Construction - \$44,963,800
- Sausal Corporation - \$55,440,000

After review of the four bids received, S.J. Amoroso Const. Inc. base bid of \$44,177,000 was deemed the lowest responsive bid. The S.J. Amoroso Const. Inc. bid is approximately ten percent (10%) **below** the Engineers Estimate of \$48,500,000. The bid is comprised of 4 elements: construction of the new Administration, CDD, and Police Building; construction of the new Library and renovation of the Historic Town Hall; Site Improvements (66% Admin & 34% Library); and the construction of a new Council Chambers/EOC as a Bid Alternate.



## MIDDLEFIELD ROAD CONSTRUCTION

There are two major projects along Middlefield Road that will begin this Spring – PG&E Gas Distribution Pipeline Replacement and the Middlefield Class II Bike Lanes Improvements project.

### ***PG&E Gas Distribution Pipeline Replacement***

PG&E crews will replace the current distribution main along Middlefield Road from Eighth Avenue in Unincorporated San Mateo County, through Atherton to Ringwood Avenue in Menlo Park with new materials. The project will begin in early March and is scheduled to be completed by the end of September. In order to perform the work safely and as quickly as possible, there will be lane shifts and lane closures during construction.

PG&E will share information about the project with customers living in proximity to the work area. Gas service to customers is not expected to be affected, but we'll let customers know if that

Item Description	Amount
New Administration/CDD/Police Facility	\$24,277,000
New Library and Renovation of Historic Town Hall	\$12,700,000
Site Improvement	\$7,200,000
<b>Total Base Bid</b>	<b>\$44,177,000</b>
Bid Alternate	\$2,900,000
<b>Total with Bid Alternate</b>	<b>\$47,077,000</b>

Staff recommended award to S.J. Amoroso on March 6 for the construction of the Civic Center project. Based on the current schedule construction will begin in mid to late April 2019 with completion in May 2021.

For more information, please contact Marty Hanneman, Project Engineer at [mhanneman@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:mhanneman@ci.atherton.ca.us)



changes. Company representatives will also canvas nearby neighborhoods to answer questions. Anyone with questions regarding the project may contact the local PG&E representative Crystal Jewel at 408-725-2240.

### **Middlefield Class II Bike Lanes Improvements**

The Town has been incrementally implementing the recommendations outlined in the Town of Atherton Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan adopted in 2014. This project focuses on improving access for students, families, residents and visitors biking on Middlefield Road between San Mateo County and the City of Menlo Park. Specific improvements include widened bicycle lanes by improving shoulder conditions, restriping with-visibility green markings at conflict zones and increased signage/way findings.

To shorten the duration of construction activities along Middlefield Road, construction of the projects will be concurrent. Please be cautious while traveling along Middlefield Road.

For more information on the Middlefield Class II Bike Lanes Improvements project, including the project plans, please visit the project website at: <http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/MiddlefieldBikeLanes>



# RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES UPDATE

of these burglaries were committed at occupied residences during the early morning hours. Two of the burglaries resulted in the immediate arrest of the suspects. These two arrests are not considered to be a part of the late year burglaries as the method of entry and/or suspects do not match those in the majority of other cases.

The community has experienced several residential burglaries over the past few months. While the number of burglaries that have occurred in Town is not statistically large, any burglary in Town is an invasion of one's personal privacy and safety and the Police Department takes each one very seriously.

Evaluating the homes burglarized, about 36% of the homeowners had their alarm systems on. Approximately 40% of homes burglarized either did not have their alarm systems on at all or their alarm system was not working.

In 2018, there were a total of 22 residential burglaries. Most of those incidents occurred during the latter part of the year. Since January 1, 2019, we have had 6 residential burglaries. Many of these burglaries were committed by the suspect(s) breaking a glass door or glass window in the rear of the house, including several upper level doors and windows. These upper level areas are most often left open or not alarmed. Others were committed by simply opening an unlocked door or window located in the rear of the house. Recently, a few of the burglaries were committed by simply opening an unlocked door to the garage.

In the end, only five (5) alarms were set off during the burglaries. The Police Department responded immediately to all of these alarm calls. Besides these five (5) alarm calls, the Police Department received no other alarm activations and no calls from neighbors or witnesses of suspicious persons, vehicles or the sound of glass breaking at or near the burglarized properties. With large properties in Atherton, burglars often are able to operate behind walls, fences, and other screening without being noticed by neighbors or passersby. It is important to evaluate these areas for possible security systems.

We believe that most of these burglaries occurred during the hours of dusk to darkness, between 5:00pm and 9:00pm. However, four (4)

In total, based on the reports of missing items, homeowners estimate that their total loss sustained since January 1, 2018 was at least



**CITIZENS' POLICE ACADEMY**  
SATURDAY, MAY 18 7:00AM-7:00PM  
APPLICATION DEADLINE APRIL 12

## What is a "Citizens' Police Academy?"

The Citizens' Police Academy is a one-day citizen engagement program that is designed to provide Atherton residents with first-hand information about how their Police Department works. Training will be in an "academy setting" with a few hands-on exercises designed to give the participant a more realistic sense of what it's like to work as a peace officer. Participation in the Academy requires a commitment of one full day and early evening (7:00 am – 7:00 pm). The Academy will occur on May 18, 2019, at the Holbrook Palmer Park Pavilion (150 Watkins Avenue). Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be provided for participants.

\$2 million. The majority of items taken include jewelry, watches, handbags and clothing.

When the Atherton Police Department receives burglary reports, we actively pursue all avenues of investigation. This includes writing and reviewing reports, work with regional Stolen Property System databases, reviewing and running online pawn shop reports, completing a “wants and warrants” check on any mentioned persons, using online databases to try and locate further information on possible suspects, working with other local police agencies for similar crimes and suspects, sending and reviewing information flyers and bulletins, submitting items of evidence to the San Mateo Crime Lab for fingerprint and DNA analysis, completing and requesting search warrants when deemed necessary and appropriate, and conducting burglary suppression patrols to try and stop burglaries from occurring. Often, these burglary suppression patrols involve additional officers on the street beyond our normal deployment; collaboration with neighboring agencies for additional deployment; and the use of technology tools.

Beyond our efforts, you can also help us prevent residential burglaries and increase the chances of arresting burglary suspects. When leaving, ensure that doors and windows are locked. If you have an alarm system installed – activate it. If you have a camera system, ensure that it is functional and activated. When you leave for vacation or extended periods of time, notify the Police Department and we will conduct regular

vacation checks in your area. While on vacation or extended times away, use light timers or other security features to alert others that there might be someone at home. At night, keep exterior lights on. Install motion lights around the exterior of your home and become familiar with your neighbors by exchanging contact information and notifying them while you are away. Participate in the Police Department’s Camera Registry Program so that they can be used forensically if something occurs in the neighborhood. Consider installing a camera system that faces a key intersection or area on the street.

One of the most important things to improved personal safety is education and awareness. Sign up for the Town’s electronic notifications; visit the Town’s website CitizenRIMS to become aware of activity in Town; and connect with the Police Department to host a local neighborhood meeting on security and neighborhood watch.

By working together, we can try to reduce or eliminate residential burglaries within the Town.



Participants will learn how community oriented policing works; the basics of criminal investigations; how different types of crimes are processed from Dispatch to Doorstep to the DA. Partakers will also learn about CitizenRIMs and how to use it in their neighborhood, securing one’s home, and the use of security cameras in the community.

**How to Apply:** The application is available online at [www.ci.atherton.ca.us/cpa](http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/cpa). For more information, please contact Jennifer Frew at [jfrew@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:jfrew@ci.atherton.ca.us) or at 650-752-0503





# RISE IN NUMBER OF FALSE ALARMS

Residential alarm systems are an excellent proactive tool to increase the safety and security for your family and your home. False alarms can occur when alarm systems are used improperly and/or by not properly maintaining the system. Unless the false alarm is canceled by the home owner or alarm monitoring company, a rapid police response is triggered. That police response involves the dispatch of at least two officers for officer safety reasons. A large number of false alarms impact police operations and the efficient use of police resources.

From February 11, 2017 to February 11, 2018, the Police Dispatch Center received 2,585 residential alarms. Of that total, 2,007 required a police response that was ultimately canceled by the home owner or alarm monitoring company. The remaining 578 alarms required a police response to the residence and were later determined to be false. Alarm responses to the residence will often involve a search of the residence and property in order to ensure the safety of the owner and occupants. From February 11, 2018 to February 2019, the Dispatch Center received 3,349 residential alarms. Of that total, 2,709 required a police response that was ultimately canceled by the home owner or the alarm monitoring company. The remaining 640 alarms required a police response to the residence and were to be

determined to be false.

From February 2017 to February 2019, all residential alarms received and responded to by the Police department were determined to be false.

In October 2018, after reviewing data on false alarm responses, the City Council passed amendments to the Town's alarm ordinance. The amendments allow for education, enforcement and fines after a set number of false alarms in a 12-month period. The ordinance requires a permit for all residential alarm systems whether they are monitored by the police department, an alarm company or are not monitored at all. The initial alarm permit fee is \$100 and then \$50 annually to renew the permit.

If you need a new permit and/or you would like to sign up to have your alarm system monitored for free by the Police Dispatch Center, residents will need to contact the Police Department in person. If you have a current alarm account with the Police Department, you will soon be receiving an invoice for \$50 to renew your current alarm account/permit. The hope is that the modifications to the alarm ordinance will assist in mitigating and reducing false alarms.

If you have any questions regarding the new alarm ordinance, alarm system permitting, or alarm system monitoring, call the Atherton Police Dispatch Center at 650-688-6500.

*Chief of Police Steven D. McCulley*

## WELCOME TO ATHERTON!



Officer Romero just completed the 888 hour Police Academy in San Jose and has started his field training program that will last approximately 4 months.

Officer Romero obtained his Bachelor's Degree from San Jose State University in 2014. His field of study was Justice Studies, with a goal of obtaining a career in law enforcement. He gained experience in community supervision, as a student intern with U.S. Probation in San Francisco. He was subsequently hired by U.S. Pretrial Services Agency, with the U.S. District Court, as a Pretrial Services Officer. As a Pretrial Services Officer, Diego supervised more than 40 defendants who were pending federal charges throughout sections of the South Bay and Central California.

In his spare time, he enjoys mountain biking and spending time outdoors with his wife and son.

# ATHERTON HERITAGE TREE ENDANGERMENT

Atherton has been experiencing an increase in unpermitted heritage tree removals, as well as damage to heritage trees by topping and trenching.

A heritage tree is a tree, located in the tree preservation area, or a native oak tree (*Quercus lobata*, *Quercus agrifolia* or *Quercus douglasii*) located anywhere on a property, which has a trunk circumference of forty-eight inches (48") or more, when measured forty-eight inches (48") above the natural grade.

A heritage tree is protected in Atherton. It is unlawful for any person to damage or harm a heritage tree by any means including, without limitation, any action, in the judgment of the building official or town arborist, which will cause damage to its health including, but not limited to, excess pruning, topping, cutting, girdling, poisoning, over-watering, unauthorized relocation or transportation of a tree, trenching for irrigation, utilities, footings, etc., excavating, altering the grade, compaction or paving. It is best to hire a certified arborist before you do any work near a heritage tree.

A permit is not required to prune a heritage tree; however, a penalty can be assessed if you top or "lion-tail" your heritage tree. Both methods remove too much foliage and cause stress on the tree. It is always recommended to hire a certified arborist to prune your heritage tree(s). When a non-certified arborist company is hired, it is common for trees to end up over pruned and lack permits. There are many companies that work in town that are not using certified arborists. **Please be vigilant.**



*Large Sequia sempervirens,  
Coast Redwood*

An approved removal permit from the Town Arborist is required to remove such tree(s). The heritage tree removal can be approved if the tree is dead or dangerous. In most cases, a report from an arborist is required. The application can be found on the Town's website under Building, Arborist Services.

If it is found that a heritage tree has been damaged or removed without going through the proper permit process, the Town Arborist and Code Enforcement Officer will assess the situation and can issue a penalty.

Town Staff are here to help if you have any questions. Please help us keep Atherton green and beautiful.

For more information, contact Sally Bentz-Dalton at 650-752-0526  
or email at [sbentz@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:sbentz@ci.atherton.ca.us)

# ARBOR DAY 2019

## TREE PLANTING MEMORIAL

Atherton has been a Tree City USA for 29 years. Atherton's Tree Committee and town will be honoring Arbor Day by planting trees in Holbrook-Palmer Park from 9:30am until 12 p.m. on Friday April 18th. This year's Arbor Day planting will include Kathy Hughes Anderson's memorial planting which will begin around 9:30 am followed by additional planting of trees.

Please contact Sally Bentz Dalton the Town Arborist at [sbentz@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:sbentz@ci.atherton.ca.us) or (650)752-0526 if you would like to volunteer or receive more information on this year's Arbor Day event. If you are interested in the preservation of trees please consider joining the Tree Committee. Meetings are typically held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 4 pm.

*IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
KATHY HUGHES ANDERSON*



## INTERESTED IN APPLYING FOR A TOWN COMMITTEE?

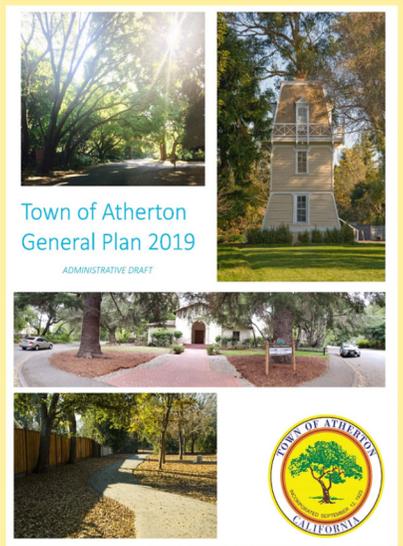
The Town is recruiting for its committee and commission seats which are set to expire this June 30. Deadline to apply is April 26, 2019.

Visit [www.ci.atherton.ca.us/committee](http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/committee) or contact City Clerk Theresa DellaSanta at [tdellasanta@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:tdellasanta@ci.atherton.ca.us)



## TOWN OF ATHERTON GENERAL PLAN 2019

The General Plan is a comprehensive planning document that covers many aspects of the Town including development, preservation of the community and safety. The General Plan is a long-range document that is intended to guide the growth of the Town for the future. Town Staff has been working on updating the General Plan for 2019 in order to comply with State Law.



The Town held a Town wide workshop on February 13 to present an administrative draft of the General Plan update, answer questions, and receive further comments and feedback from the community. Continued opportunities for public input will be available in the coming months.

For more information on the General Plan update:

<https://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/208/2019-GENERAL-PLAN-UPDATE>



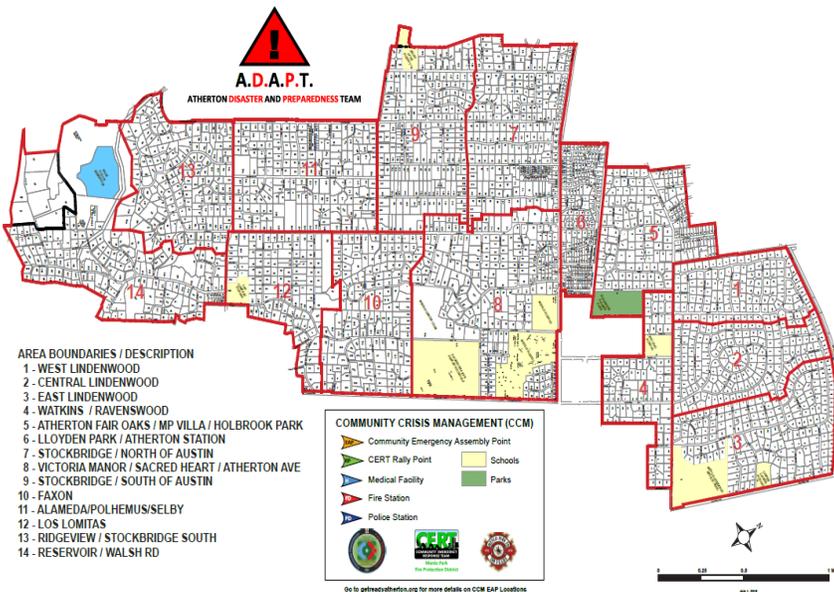
# HAVE YOU NOTICED NEW SIGNS THROUGHOUT ATHERTON?

## What is an Emergency Assembly Point (EAP)?

An Emergency Assembly Point (EAP) is a well-known Federal Emergency Response Agency (FEMA) disaster management tool for communities and neighborhoods. Much like a designated assembly area at a school where children gather outside of a classroom or building during a fire drill or an emergency so that teachers can take stock of their students, EAP's do essentially the same for our residents. EAP's provide a convenient way to facilitate neighbors helping neighbors in a major emergency. These locations, designated by a special sign, are currently going up all over Atherton and this effort is spearheaded by the Area Coordinators of ADAPT.

## What do I do when I get to an EAP?

Our Emergency Assembly Points should be the first place that residents go, after making sure your family and households are safe and secure. The instruction card on the back of the EAP sign can be used to formulate a plan to assess damage and assist neighbors, once enough residents have gathered at the point.



This EAP article is brought to you by **ADAPT, Atherton Disaster and Preparedness Team**. ADAPT's sole mission, in partnership with the Atherton Police Department, is to train and organize Atherton residents to be resilient, responsive and recovery able in the event of a Town-wide emergency or disaster event.

Learn more by joining us each month at our Community Meetings held Saturdays on April 6, May 4, and June 9 from 9AM to 10:30 AM at Atherton Town Council Chambers - 94 Ashfield Road. Check our website for updates. <http://www.getreadyatherton.org/>

*Tom Prussing, Norma Fogelberg, Colleen Haight, Jeanne Jensen  
ADAPT Board Members and Atherton Residents*

**Where are the EAP signs located in Atherton?**

**Atherton is divided into 14 areas. ADAPT is working to place 2 signs in each area. Locate the EAP's nearest you.**

Area 1	227 Catalpa Drive	Area 8	Corner of Isabella and Spencer
Area 1	3 Irving Avenue	Area 8	61 Atherton Avenue
Area 2	1 Larch Drive	Area 9	134 Selby Lane (cul-de-sac corner of Selby and Selby)
Area 2	117 Heather Drive	Area 9	202 Austin Avenue (corner of Austin and Almendral)
Area 3	72 Manzanita Road	Area 10	To be determined
Area 3	11 Maple Leaf Way	Area 11	98 Parker Avenue
Area 4	To be determined	Area 12	250 Camino al Lago
Area 5	To be determined	Area 13	To be determined
Area 6	32 Belleau Avenue	Area 14	Walsh and Reservoir (down from 400 Walsh)
Area 7	32 Almendral Avenue (Fire Station 3)		
Area 7	98 Adam Way		
Area 8	Across from 55 Victoria Drive		

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE TOWN OF ATHERTON?

The Town is a member of NextDoor and posts regularly. However, NextDoor requires that residents in each particular neighborhood select particular neighborhoods from which to see posts. Neighborhoods are created by NextDoor and are address dependent. The Town posts under the profile: <https://nextdoor.com/profile/4034476/>. Please add the Town's profile/neighborhood to your selected neighborhoods. You can also sign-up for the Town's various email subscriptions via NotifyMe! on the Town's website: <http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/> and sign up for Atherton Online - a regular Friday publication, the emergency alert center, bid postings, and News Flashes from the various different Town departments. The Town's main webpage also has a link to CitizenRIMS. CitizenRIMS is an online crime reporting webpage - <https://apd.crimegraphics.com/2013>. Here you can drill down on all the various crime activity in Town from alarm responses to hazard calls. You can also view the press bulletin, sign up for a vacation home check, and for security camera registration. You can even look various different Arrest Warrants with mug shots.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Jennifer Frew at 650-752-0503 or via email at [jfrew@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:jfrew@ci.atherton.ca.us)

### STAY CONNECTED STAY INFORMED



Follow us @townofatherton

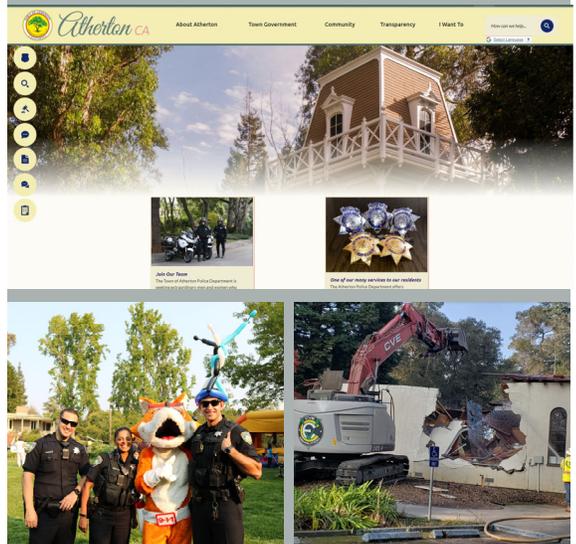


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## ATHERTON LIBRARY MAKES SMALL MOVE FOR A BIG CHANGE!

It's true! Your beloved Atherton Library has moved just a few yards away as we gear up for an exciting new library. Come visit us in our new, temporary space inside a modular building that sits right near the previous library site!

Our staff are ready to assist and are offering many of the same great services, including providing public access to: computers, printer, public copier, self-checkout station, and 3D printing services. Patrons can still browse through our collection of non-fiction and fiction books, DVDs, music CDs, a small children's collection, as well as pick up patron holds and LINK+ items.

Library programming and events are happening daily. Stop by and attend one of our weekly storytimes, monthly Genealogy Classes on the first Monday of the month at 1:30 p.m. or drop in for Crafty Wednesdays every week at 3:30 p.m. You will also see us out in the community at local

schools, and town events. The library is appreciative of the support of The Friends of the Atherton Library in bringing outstanding programming for all, like early literacy events, music concerts, arts and crafts, and more.

### Atherton Library Hours:

Monday:	10:00AM – 8:00PM
Tuesday:	10:00AM – 8:00PM
Wednesday:	10:00AM – 8:00PM
Thursday:	10:00AM – 6:00PM
Friday:	10:00AM – 6:00PM
Saturday:	10:00AM – 5:00PM
Sunday:	1:00PM – 5:00PM

### *The New Atherton Library Project*

Exciting progress continues for a much-anticipated new Atherton Library Project! The Town of Atherton is currently reviewing bids and the project will be awarded in the Spring of 2019.

The Project is a collaborative effort between San Mateo County Libraries and the Town of Atherton. The new Library grand opening projected date is estimated for 2021.

We will continue to bring you updates to this exciting project as they develop. Stay connected by visiting [SMCL.org](http://SMCL.org), liking Atherton Library on Facebook, and sign up for the Atherton Library newsletter by emailing [Atherton@smcl.org](mailto:Atherton@smcl.org).



## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR 2018

# Officer Dan Rojas

*Officer Rojas has been with the Department since March, 2017*

*“The way you have performed throughout the year shows your hard work, your sincerity, perseverance and diligence. We have taken note of and appreciate your high level proficiency in handling the tasks assigned to you, your craving for perfection, your communication skills and your humble behavior with all the staff members.”*

*- Nominations Committee*

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OFFICER ROJAS! IT IS WELL DESERVED!**





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**



## UPCOMING 2019 SUMMER FUN!



### Music in the Park Series: Thursdays

-  **June 13**, 6pm-8pm  
Explorer
-  **June 27** from 6pm—8pm  
Fog City Swampers
-  **July 11** from 6pm—8pm  
Rock the Heat

### Movie in the Park Series: Fridays

-  **June 7**, begins 8pm  
Ralph Breaks the Internet
-  **July 12**, begins 8pm  
Incredibles 2
-  **August 6, Tuesday** from 6pm—8pm,  
National Night Out with the Town



### **INTERESTED IN BEING A SPONSOR?**

Promotional packages available with sponsorship levels!

For more information, contact Francesca Reyes at 650-752-0500  
 or via email [freyes@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:freyes@ci.atherton.ca.us)

Visit our events page at [www.ci.atherton.ca.us/events](http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/events)