

ATHERTONIAN

Summer 2019 Edition

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FAREWELL, THERESA !

WELCOME TO ATHERTON, ANTHONY !

THE NEW GUY IN TOWN!

On May 30, Anthony Suber joins the Town as the Deputy City Manager/City Clerk after serving as the Assistant City Clerk with the City of Manteca. At Manteca, Anthony served as the Project Manager for the Laserfiche system implementation and oversaw various technical enhancements and build-outs on three other citywide applications. Before joining Manteca, Anthony worked in the San Mateo County Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder-Elections Department. While at the County, Anthony, serving as a supervisor, coordinated several units to implement the AB2028 pilot All-Mailed Ballot election in 2015, the 2016 Presidential Election, and San Mateo County SB450 conversion to County-Wide Vote Centers. Anthony also supervised the design and production of the Official Ballot and precinct evaluation and analysis.



Anthony Suber

Anthony graduated from Los Altos High School before attending Hofstra University in New York. Anthony returned to California in 2015 after spending over ten years in New York, where he worked in Government Services Administration and Consulting with MAXIMUS and America Works. While working in New York, Anthony worked on various State and Federally funded programs performing strategic and operational design and delivery services. Anthony is passionate about public service and committed to helping residents connect with services efficiently. Anthony and his family live in San Mateo.

Beginning on May 30, Anthony's contact information will be:

Anthony Suber
Deputy City Manager/City Clerk
asuber@ci.atherton.ca.us
650-752-0529



Farewell, Theresa



Theresa DellaSanta joined the Town of Atherton in March 2009. Theresa began her career as the City Clerk but quickly grew into wearing many hats as she took on the roles of Human Resources, Risk Management, and IT Services Director. Theresa even served as the Interim City Manager while the Town recruited for its new City Manager. Theresa has provided dedicated support to the City Council for many years as their City Clerk. We wish her well on her future endeavors and new adventures in life!

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

A Groundbreaking for the Town Center Project was held on Tuesday, April 23 at 3 pm. There were many residents and government representatives that came to celebrate the beginning of this historic project. The Town Center Project represents the largest capital project undertaken by the Town. Its success is due to the many years of hard work and effort of numerous resident volunteers lending vision to the Project and leading the effort for fundraising, ultimately forming Atherton Now. Atherton Now led the campaign to leverage the many generous donations from the community into a community-led design for a new



Town Center, a new Library, and a new Police Station. Donations from the community provided the foundation funding for the initial architectural services, design, and the kick-off funding for the first phase of construction.

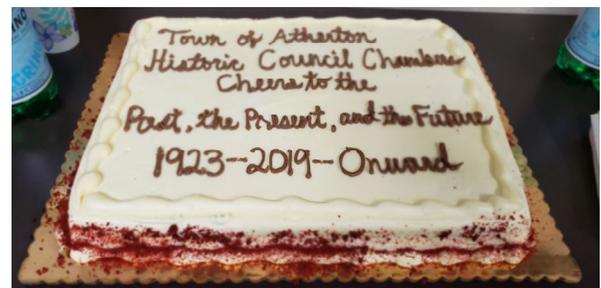


THE ROAD SO FAR...

- Week of May 13th: Pre-construction video and photo's of entire site and adjacent properties and implementing tree protection plan.
- Week of May 20th: install decomposed granite pathway behind council chambers along fence line, survey the entire site, and locate utilities.
- Week of June 3rd: Mobilize equipment, install perimeter screened fencing, and bring in construction trailers (two).
- Week of June 17th: Begin demolition of permit center, Administration and Police garage buildings.

For more information on the Atherton Town Center Project, visit our website at

<http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/290/Civic-Center-Project>



WE MOVED TO THE PARK!

The Town Hall services, including the Post Office and Permit Center, has relocated to Holbrook-Palmer Park's parking lot near North Meadow at 150 Watkins Avenue. The Atherton Police Department services will be available 24/7 and will not be impacted by the relocation. If you have any questions, please contact Francesca Reyes, Office Specialist at 650-752-0500 or via freyes@ci.atherton.ca.us. For the latest and greatest on the progress of this exciting project, check out www.ci.atherton.ca.us/503/Project-Activity-Blog



NEWS FROM THE HERITAGE ROOM

We have moved from the old Town Hall ! Along with most of the staff, the Heritage Association and the Atherton Heritage Room has moved over to the Main House at Holbrook Palmer Park. We will still be open from 10 until noon on Tuesdays and will be able to help with most of your questions about Atherton History, your home or people who have lived in Atherton. We also have copies of Under the Oaks, 200 years of Atherton History for sale. Come see us!!



MIDDLEFIELD ROAD CONSTRUCTION



Please be advised that there are two major construction projects along Middlefield Road – PG&E Gas Distribution Pipeline Replacement and the Middlefield Class II Bike Lanes Improvements project.

PG&E Gas Distribution Pipeline Replacement

PG&E crews have begun replacement of the gas 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 began in early March and is scheduled to be completed by the end of September. In order to

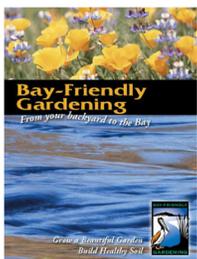
CHANGES IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

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 PG&E will let customers know if that 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. The 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/>



BAY-FRIENDLY GARDENING:

From your backyard to the Bay

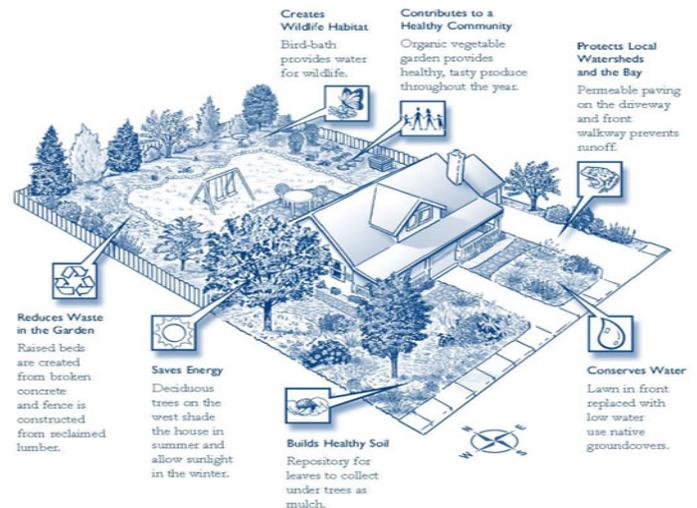
Protect local creeks, the Bay, and the Ocean by following these practices in your yard:

Protect local creeks, the Bay, and the Ocean by following these practices in your yard:

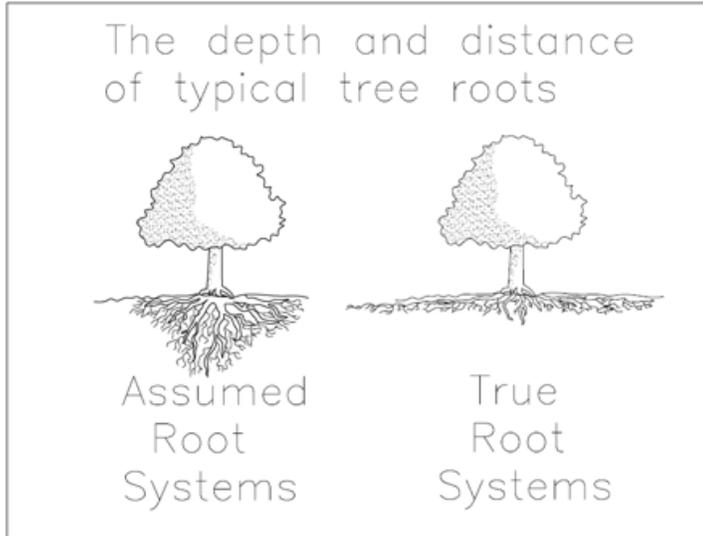
- For patios, driveways, or other hard services, choose permeable materials that allow water to soak in rather than run off.
- Terrace steep slopes to reduce rainwater run-off and prevent erosion.
- Cover nearly all soil with mulch or plants.
- Avoid the use of synthetic fertilizers.
- Avoid the use of plants considered invasive in local wildlands.

The Bay-Friendly Gardening guide, available on the San Mateo Countywide Water Pollution Prevention Program website (www.flowstobay.org/bayfriendly), provides more in-depth ideas for your yard, garden and landscape. The Bay-Friendly Gardening program was developed to encourage residents to make environmentally friendly gardening choices. Bay-Friendly Gardeners work with nature to reduce waste and protect the local creeks, waterways, and watersheds of the San Francisco Bay.

The guide includes information on how to plan a garden, Bay-Friendly gardening practices and suggestions on how to build healthy soil, reduce waste in the garden, conserving water, and creating wildlife habitat. Also provided are a selected list of representative species for the most common plant communities in the Bay Area.



THE LIFE OF TREES



Drawing by Daniel Johnston

Understanding the roots of trees can help in understanding how to take care of your tree. Roots serve many functions. Roots take in moisture and transport it through the tree, absorb nutrients, provide support and anchorage.

There are many misconceptions about tree roots.

Myth #1

That trees have one long tap root.

False. Root depth is mostly in the top 3 feet of the soil and rarely go to 4 feet depth. Non-woody roots that absorb water and nutrients are found in the top few inches of the soil.

Roots will grow where the environment is favorable. They require water, oxygen, minerals, support, and warmth. These requirements are usually found in the upper few feet of soil. This makes it easier to understand why trees can be easily uprooted during storms, are affected by drought, trenching, compaction and other soil disturbances.

Myth #2

That tree roots only extend to the dripline of the tree.

False. Tree roots of most trees extend at least 3-4 times the dripline of the canopy. The larger woody roots are lateral and form at the base of the trunk, these support and anchor the tree. They can also provide water, minerals and carbohydrate storage. Studies have even shown root spread to be 4 to 7 times the dripline of the tree.

Tree roots are extensive. It is a good rule to remember that roots are in the top 3 feet of soil and extend 3-4 times the dripline. By understanding more about the tree root system, damage to trees can be avoided

HERITAGE TREES AT - RISK



You can save a tree!

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.

KEEP ATHERTON GREEN !

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.

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 Town Arborist/Parks Manager
Sally Bentz-Dalton at 650-752-0526 or
via email sbentz@ci.atherton.ca.us



Earth Day in Atherton

Atherton celebrated Earth Day 2019 with a climate change symposium this past May 4th. The program for the event included: a presentation by Franklin Lynn Orr on the current state of climate change, a presentation by Peter Drekmeier on climate change and our water supply, and a panel titled: “Knowledge is Power: Together We Can Save Our Planet”. The presentations and panel discussions were very well received by the community and the Q&A session saw a lot of participation. Exhibition tables were available with resources regarding climate change and sustainability.

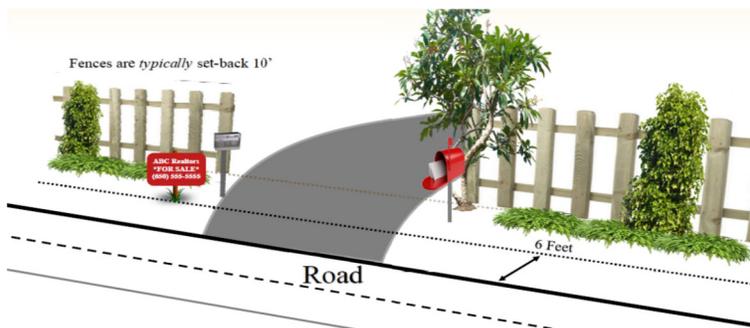


JUST A REMINDER

REAL ESTATE SIGN RULES



- ◇ Maximum allowed sign height, including posts or fixtures is 6'.
- ◇ Signs are prohibited within 6' of the improved right-of-way.
- ◇ Sign may not exceed 16 sq. feet. in size (incl. both sides). Max. dimension of any side is 4'.
- ◇ Signs located within 10' of a driveway may not exceed 2 1/2' in height.
- ◇ Signs higher than 4' must be at least 20' from any intersection (driveways/streets).
- ◇ Only 1 sign allowed per listed property. Sign must be on or immediately adjacent to listed property.
- ◇ Up to 2 "open house" signs are allowed at nearest intersections only on the day of the event. (Saturdays and Sundays only)
- ◇ Signs found in violation will be removed by Town staff, stored for up to 30 days. If unclaimed, they will be disposed of.



RIGHT - OF - WAY RULES

- ◇ No logs, curbs, rocks or similar obstructions allowed within 6' of improved right-of-way
- ◇ Existing trees and shrubs may remain, as long as not presenting a public hazard
- ◇ Key pads and intercoms must be a minimum of 6' from the improved right-of-way
- ◇ Mailboxes are permitted closer to the pavement edge than 6' if required to meet postal regulations
- ◇ No objects or improvements may impede drainage



For more information, please contact Code Enforcement Officer Monica Diaz at 650-752-0553 or via email mdiaz@ci.atherton.ca.us

KEEPING ATHERTON SAFE !

Mail and package theft is on the rise in the Bay Area, especially due to the ease and time needed to commit the crime. Criminals are looking to steal and sell products you purchased from Internet vendors for profit. Criminals are also looking to steal your bank and financial documents to set-up fraudulent accounts, make purchases under your name, and remove money from your bank accounts. Additionally, mail and packages left out in the open are invitations for criminals to break into your home and steal goods from within, as they may consider the home vacant and unoccupied.

Here are some crime prevention suggestions regarding mail, newspapers and packages to try and help you from becoming the victim of criminal activity.

Mail:

- Use a locking mailbox at your home
- Retrieve your mail as soon as it is delivered
- Use a Post Office location to send your outgoing mail

When away on vacation, place your mail on hold with the United States Postal Service, or have a neighbor pick it up and hold it for you

If you will be gone for long periods of time,

consider purchasing a PO Box at a Post Office location or a mailbox at a third-party mailbox delivery center

Newspapers:

- Pick your newspapers up as soon as possible
- Have a neighbor pick up your newspapers when you are not home
- Stop your newspapers when you will be gone for extended periods of time

Packages:

- Only schedule package deliveries for dates and times when someone will be home
- Retrieve packages as soon as they are delivered
- Consider using a package delivery pick-up location if you will not be home when the package is delivered
- Do not schedule package deliveries for times when you will be away on vacation or away from your home for several days

As always, if you see any suspicious activity in your neighborhood, immediately call the Atherton Police Department at 650-688-6500, or dial 9-1-1 if it is an emergency.



The Town of Atherton will keep you informed of daily activities via our website – www.ci.atherton.ca.us. As you log on, please navigate an important site that provides a good history of crime in Atherton via charts and tables. From the home page, the blue badge (top left icon) can be opened that is titled – “Police Services.” Next, the top right icon that reads “Citizen RIMS” which offers a detailed view and allows users to filter incidents by date ranges and incident types. In addition to routine incidents, CitizenRIMS shows recent criminal activity and information about arrested persons, missing persons, and stolen vehicles. The site will also provide a list of people for whom the Department holds arrest warrants. CitizenRIMS includes a feature that allows users to receive a daily email summarizing all of the incidents and listing all of the recently approved crime reports in Atherton.

The Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Program collects statistics on the number of offenses known to law enforcement. In the traditional Summary Reporting System (SRS), there are eight crimes, or **Part I offenses**, (murder and non-negligent homicide, rape (legacy & revised), robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft, larceny-theft, and arson) to be report-

ed to the UCR Program. These offenses are categorized as part of the UCR because they are considered serious crimes; they occur with regularity in all areas of the country; and they are likely to be reported to police. The Part I offenses are:

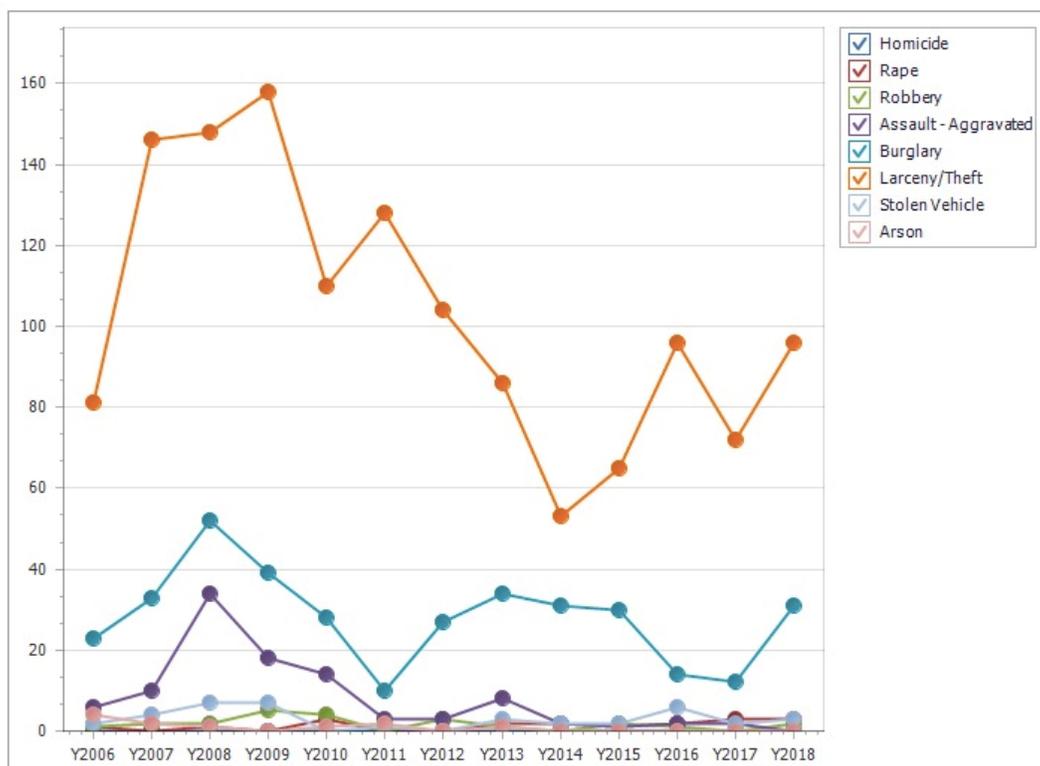
- Criminal homicide
- Forcible Rape/Legacy Rape/Revised Rape (UCR definition changed in 2011)
- Robbery (taking by force/threat of force)
- Aggravated assault
- Burglary (breaking or entering of a structure)
- Larceny-theft (except motor vehicle theft)
- Motor Vehicle Theft
- Arson

More detailed definitions of Part I Crimes can be found at the [U.S. Department of Justice website](http://www.fbi.gov).

As you stay informed via on line or need to contact us at any time, please feel free to call us @ 688-6500 for any non-emergency questions you may have.

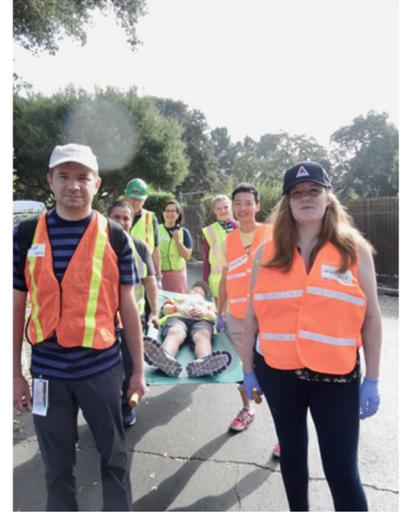
Chief Steven McCulley

“To Serve With Honor, Integrity and Professionalism”





ATHERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT MENLO PARK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT (MPFPD) ATHERTON DISASTER AND PREPAREDNESS TEAM (ADAPT)



Join your neighbors and the Atherton community for our **3rd Annual Atherton Community Emergency Drill** on September 8, 2019 at Holbrook Palmer Park Pavilion. The drill and check-in begins at 8:00 AM and concludes at 1:00 PM.

Be a part of a live, responsive, town wide disaster simulation so that our resident responders, trained or not, will be able endure and thrive should such a disaster occur here.

Remember, in a real disaster situation, we may be without police, fire and other emergency services between three to seven days, so come and learn how to prepare and respond!

From your ADAPT Team

Empowering Atherton residents to prepare for major emergencies.

www.getreadyatherton.com

Also, upcoming ADAPT Community Meetings which help us prepare for emergencies are being held Saturday, June 8th and Saturday July, 6th from 9 AM to 10:30 AM at Holbrook Palmer Park Pavilion, 150 Watkins Avenue, Atherton.

Join us and Chief McCulley for an informative session on getting prepared. Coffee and donuts are served.

**MUSIC IN THE PARK:
THURSDAYS 6PM-8PM**



**JUNE 27
FOG CITY
SWAMPERS**



**JULY 11
ROCK THE
HEAT**

**MOVIE IN THE PARK:
BEGINS 8PM**



**JULY 26
INCREDIBLES 2**

**JOIN US AT
5:30 PM FOR
SOME
BOUNCY
HOUSE FUN
AND COTTON
CANDY**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION:
WWW.CI.ATHERTON.CA.US/EVENTS**

650-752-0500

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE !

**PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID MENLO
PARK, CA
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**Atherton Resident
Atherton, CA**