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ATHERTONIAN

A Quarterly Newsletter for Atherton Residents

Winter
2012

Meet your new City Manager

When I first stepped into Atherton I felt a connection to the community. I felt that this was a place that I could make a difference. A place where the residents appreciate the delivery of high quality services, by well-trained, respected, and experienced staff. I look forward to leading this organization in that direction. I look forward to creating and maintaining good government that fosters the highest ideals of accountability and professionalism. Serving as a resource that provides and supports an environment to engage the community in open decision-making and clear communication. I believe in working through teamwork, unity, and collaboration and I believe that fiscal responsibility and accountability are important components of success for the community. As your City Manager my door is open and I look forward to hearing from you.



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

The Town of Atherton approved a contract with George Rodericks at their October 19th City Council meeting. Mr. Rodericks, an experienced City Manager, has 20-plus years' experience working in municipal government, including over 11 years' experience as a City Manager. Most recently, Mr. Rodericks served as the City Manager for the City of Belvedere in Marin County for the past seven years. Prior to that post, he was the City Manager for the City of Villa Park. He also served as an Assistant to the City Manager, a management analyst, a code enforcement officer, and city planner.

George holds a Bachelor's Degree in Municipal Management from Central State University in Oklahoma, a Masters of Public Administration from Cal State-Long Beach, and a Jurist Doctorate from the Concord University School of Law.



*A Very Happy Holiday Season
to Everyone*

Time to Prepare for Winter



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 up to 20 sandbags to its residents. They need only come down to the Public Works Corporation Yard at 99 Station Lane and load them up.

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, to observe our vehicles with their trademark flashing amber lights. This could be a sign of a down tree or flooding, but it surely marks a worker out of their vehicle. So please remember to look out for us while we're looking out for you!

Atherton Tree Committee

The Atherton Tree Committee and the town arborist, Kevin Kielty, will present tree awards to residents who have trees which meet one or more of the following criteria: outstanding specimen, unique in size, age, or species; or historical significance. Awards may also be given for the best preserved tree and the best newly planted tree. Kevin will present an award to the builder/contractor who has maintained exceptional tree protection during construction. This will take place at the December 19 meeting of the City Council.

Meetings of the Atherton Tree Committee are held on the third Thursday of the month at 4:00 p.m., in the Town administrative offices. Activities include; planting new trees, helping to preserve our unique urban forest, teaching appropriate care of trees and monitoring the spread of SOD (Sudden Oak Death.)

New members are welcome to join.

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The Atherton Right of Way

Did you know that the 8-10 feet of property between the edge of the pavement and your front yard fence is what is commonly referred to as the “Public Right of Way?”

This area, along with the street, is reserved for the needs of the vital network of utilities such as electricity, gas, water, sewer and communications. In addition to serving as the right-of-way for utilities and parking for residential visitors, the area also serves as an off street refuge for the many walkers and joggers and other pedestrians traveling along the roadway. This is particularly important in a community such as Atherton where there are little to no improved sidewalks.

In order to be able to meet all of these needs, the Town has a law that specifically deals with the requirements for any building, planting, drainage or driveway work in the right of way.

Here are some commonly asked questions about this area:

- Q. What are the rules for planting or landscaping in this area?**
- A.** All improvements performed in this section of RW must be done in accordance with Atherton Municipal Code Section 12.06 titled “encroachments.” Although Atherton residents can perform certain maintenance and improvements in this area (landscape, drainage, driveways, utility tie ins), any long-term improvements must be permitted through a Public Works encroachment permit.
- Q. Can I place logs or boulders in front of my house to discourage parking?**
- A.** The State Highway Code says it is within anyone’s right to park their vehicle along a street for any reason as long as long as it is legal to do so. Placement of logs or rocks in front of your residence are not permitted by Atherton Municipal Code Section 12.06.100(D), are subject to removal at the homeowners expense, and the homeowner can be found personally liable for any damages or injuries that might occur from a vehicle driving into these obstructions.

For more information about the Atherton Right of Way, please review the Atherton Municipal Code online (Title 12.04) at www.codepublishing.com/CA/atherton.html or contact the Atherton Public Works Department at (650) 752-0560.



Examples of rocks in the right of way causing obstructions





Robert Barron, Atherton's Finance Director

Atherton's Finance Director

On October 9, 2012 the Town's newest Finance Director took helm of the Finance Department.

Robert Barron came to us from the City of Millbrae where he was working as the Financial Services Manager. He has a B.B.A in Finance and Economics, and experience in other Cities as an Assistant City Manager and Finance Director. Before his start in government, Mr. Barron worked in the private sector as a Sr. Assistant Controller and Sr. Accountant. Mr. Barron brings the organizational, interpersonal, management and financial skills the Town desires. Mr. Barron says, "I look forward to working with the Town of Atherton and its citizens on the continued financial stability of the Town. I welcome citizens to drop by Town Hall to discuss any financial questions they may have."

News from The Town of Atherton Finance Department



The County of San Mateo distributes secured and unsecured property tax revenues to municipalities twice a year.

The first installment occurs in December when the Town will receive approximately \$2.9 million in secured/unsecured property tax revenues or roughly 55 percent of

its property tax revenue projections for fiscal year 2012-2013. The remainder is received in April. Once the Finance Department completes receipt of the installment, work will begin on a Mid-Year Budget Review. Revenues and expenditures will be evaluated to determine whether the Town is on target with respect to its budgeted projections. Staff plans to make a presentation to the City Council in February 2013. If you have an interest, please plan to attend!

Judi Herren Atherton's New Administration Department Office Specialist

After the retirement of the Town's Administration Department Office Specialist, the Town began recruitment for the position.

The Town received over 300 applications. We are pleased to announce that the position was offered to Judi Herren who began work for the Town on Monday, December 10th. Ms. Herren came to us from the City of Redwood City where she worked in the City Attorney's Office, City Clerk's Office, and Code Enforcement Office. Judi will come to be a familiar face to all Atherton residents as she assists users at the front desk and runs the contracted Post Office. We are pleased to have Judi on board.

MESSAGE FROM ATHERTON'S NEW POLICE CHIEF

I am honored to have been selected by the City Council to lead the Atherton Police Department. I have more than 30 years of multi-agency law enforcement experience with municipal, county and state law enforcement organizations. It is indeed good to be back in San Mateo County and working for the citizens of Atherton.

As you know, the Police Department provides services to a population of more than 7100 residents. The Town's population increases sharply during weekdays due to the 9 private and public schools within the Town limits and the many on-going construction projects. Atherton is also home to the Menlo Circus Club, which hosts the annual Menlo Charity Horse Show, one of the finest professional/amateur equestrian events in the United States.

In addition, the Department offers a wide variety of police services which include: a free monitoring service of residential alarms, on site vacation checks, maintenance of a residential key file, home security inspections and programs, rapid notify communication alerts, 24/7 front counter assistance, fingerprinting of children, crime prevention through environmental design, pet registration program, and defibrillators in all patrol cars and in Town schools for medical emergencies (for more information see page 6).

The men and women of the Atherton Police Department serve with unmistakable pride and integrity. Subscribing to a philosophy of community policing, they provide a unique and personalized brand of customer service seldom seen in other police agencies. Through strong police/community partnerships, the Town of Atherton enjoys an extremely low crime rate which contributes to a very desirable quality of life for our residents.



These are very difficult and challenging times for law enforcement as the fiscal crisis in California impacts nearly every aspect of our profession. No matter what future challenges face our community, the staff of Atherton Police Department is committed to providing the highest level of professional police services to our residents.

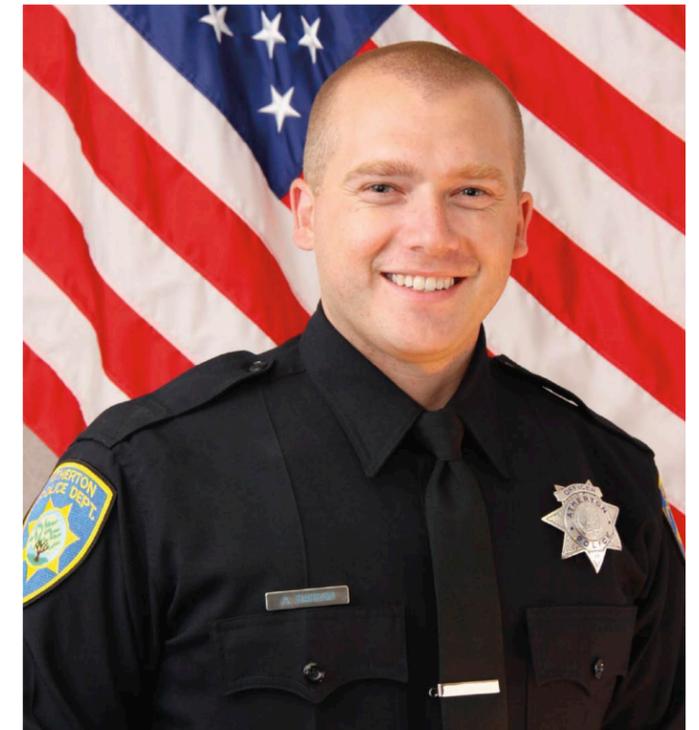
Edwin F. Flint
Chief of Police

Atherton Pd Welcomes Newest Officer Out of the Field Training Program

Anthony Barron was born and raised in San Mateo. After graduating from Aragon high school he went on to play baseball for Cañada College. He took a few years off from college and worked for his father in the furniture industry. In 2007, Anthony decided to continue his education at the College of San Mateo where he enrolled in several Administration of Justice courses.

It is through these courses that he discovered his passion for law enforcement and his desire to serve as a peace officer. In March 2011, he enrolled in the South Bay Regional police academy class SB 109, where he was elected by his peers to serve as the class treasurer. Six months later, Anthony was one of 16 to graduate from the police academy.

Some of Officer Barron's goals for the future include: joining the Gang Task Force, becoming a member of the San Mateo County Regional S.W.A.T. Team and a K-9 handler. Officer Barron plans to return to school to finish his education and obtain his Bachelor's degree.



From the Atherton History Book: *Under the Oaks Two Hundred Years in Atherton*
By Pam Gullard and Nancy Lund

"People have found the rural sophisticated tranquility of Atherton so precious that they have been willing to pay dearly to live here"... The story begins with fog. The Gold Rush of 1849 brought floods of fortune hunters to San Francisco and the gold fields. The most successful of these adventurers built grand homes in the city and cultivated a new, western gentry. The balmy climate of the peninsula

beckoned and in the early 1860 chilly San Franciscans began looking for places to build summer homes.

In these early years, the unoccupied woodland at the far edge of Menlo Park was called "Fair Oaks" for the giant trees that predominated there. In early 1864 the railroad also encouraged building down the peninsula.

To read more of the fascinating history of our Town, books are available from the Heritage Association for \$65.00 or by calling 650-688-6540.

The Atherton Police Department Provides A Variety Of Services



The Atherton Police Department provides a variety of services to its residents beyond typical patrol and traffic enforcement. The following services are examples of what the Police Department provides, free of charge:

Residential Burglary/Fire Alarm Services – Your alarm can be connected directly to the Police Department and is monitored 24/7. If your alarm is activated, officers will be dispatched within minutes. If your alarm is inadvertently set off, you can call into our Dispatch Center, provide a unique code assigned by the Police Department to your residence, and officers will be cancelled. The Police Department will also issue signs for your residence notifying the public that your residence is alarmed and connected directly to the Police Department.

Vacation Checks – Are you going to leave Town for a while? Upon your request, the Police Department will provide a check of your property during times when your residence is vacant due to business or vacation trips.

Security Checks - The Police Department can periodically do a “drive by” check of your property if you feel it is required for your security and safety.

Resident Key File – A spare key can be stored in the Police Department’s Dispatch Center if you choose. This would allow you, the resident, with proper I.D., to obtain your key should you lock yourself out of your residence. This would also allow officers responding to your residence for an emergency to gain access to the residence without force or possible damage. To date, we have approximately 90% of the residents’ keys on file.

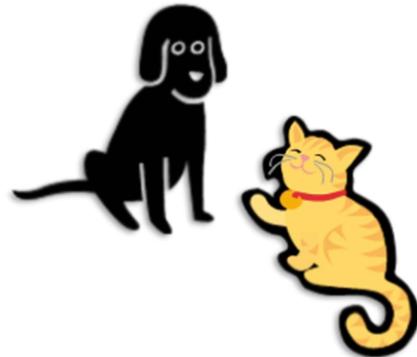


Fingerprints – The Police Department still provides ink fingerprinting to its residents if a resident needs to be fingerprinted for a job or if parents wish to have a kit made for their children in case of an emergency. At this time the Police Department does not have LiveScan (electronic fingerprinting) and cannot provide that service.

Home Security Program – The Atherton Police Department is aiming to bring back its Home Security Program. Upon request, an officer or CSO will visit your home and conduct a security inspection and make suggestions to maximize your home’s safety.

Rapid Notify – The Police Department can pre-record any urgent or emergency message and use Rapid Notify to inform residents. An automated phone call is made Town wide or to specific neighborhoods, depending upon the type of emergency.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design – (CPTED) is based on the premise that “The proper design and effective use of the built environment can lead to a reduction in the fear of crime and incidence of crime, and to an improvement in quality of life.” We have trained officers that will meet with you in your home and determine lighting, lock safety and even the placement of shrubs and other bushes to lower the incident of a crime occurring at your residence. You can make an appointment for this service which takes approximately 1.5 hours to complete.



RIMS Pet information – The Police Department can put your pets’ information into our computer database in case they ever go missing. Should Officers find your pet away from home, this information can help officers identify your pet. Is your pet micro chipped? The Police Department has a microchip reader to help ensure every pet returns home safely.

Defibrillators – Atherton Police Department still prides itself in being the first police department on the West Coast to carry defibrillators in its fleet. The Police Department has also expanded this to include defibrillators at the schools within the Town’s limits.

And finally, do not forget that the Atherton Police Department has a front counter which is staffed with a friendly dispatcher who is available 24/7. The front door is locked at night for safety reasons, but ring the buzzer and the Dispatcher will help you.

Menlo School and Menlo College Propose Cartan Field Upgrades

Menlo School and Menlo College are two separate educational institutions located in Atherton. Although the institutions own separate campuses, they jointly own Cartan Field, a 16.95 acre parcel located at the northwest corner of El Camino Real and Alejandra Avenue. The two institutions share several athletic fields and facilities that exist on the parcel. These existing fields and facilities include:

- Two baseball fields; one used by Menlo School and one used by Menlo College
- One multi-purpose field used for football, soccer, lacrosse with a surrounding track with bleachers on both sides
- Six tennis courts
- Several off-street parking spaces
- Miscellaneous storage buildings and facilities

The Cartan Field Upgrade Project as it is currently conceptualized, consists of completely reconstructing the two baseball fields and related facilities, construction of a new aquatics center for use by Menlo School, ten tennis courts, a multi-use field for football, lacrosse and soccer, related spectator stands and facilities for each venue, and new parking for 168 cars.

The Town determined that an Environmental Impact Report will be required before the Planning Commission can consider the Conditional Use Permit for the project. Town Staff recommended that the City Council approve of a professional services agreement with the environmental consulting firm of Lamphier-Gregory of Oakland to prepare the EIR. It is anticipated that a public Scoping Meeting will be held in early January 2013 to solicit public input on the EIR topics to be addressed. A draft EIR will be circulated for public review in spring 2013. Notice of all public hearings associated with this project will be mailed to all residents within 500 feet of Cartan Field. The draft EIR will also be posted on the Town website, www.ci.atherton.ca.us

Get Timely Information In An Emergency

SMC Alert, a free* alert-notification system, is used to contact you during urgent or emergency situations. The alert provides useful information and updates by sending text messages to you:

- Email accounts (home, work, school, etc.)
- Cell phones
- Pagers
- Smartphones or other handheld devices

Sacred Heart Schools Plan Practice Basketball Pavilion

Athletic programs continue to be very popular at Sacred Heart Schools. “Sports like basketball and volleyball compete for court space for their practices which means students are on campus often as late as 9:30 or 10:00 p.m. during these seasons” says Sandy Dubinsky, Director of Operations at Sacred Heart.

Sacred Heart is planning to relieve the situation by constructing a practice gym in the area of the existing exterior basketball courts between the Homer Science building and the Morey practice field. The existing courts will be removed to allow for the new one story practice gym to be built in the same general area. The design will be compatible with the Homer Science Building and will house one full basketball court and provisions for volleyball will also be included. The facility will not have spectator seating. There will be a small athletic office, some storage and the necessary mechanical room and janitorial space. The practice gym will be designed to permit other school community functions such as receptions or large meetings to take place. It will also be used for summer camp.

The facility will be approximately 11,000 square feet and sit at the SW corner of the Homer Science building. There will also be a patio/courtyard space designed between the two buildings which will serve as the fire staging area as well as a gathering space for students.

The Town will be preparing a subsequent environmental document to supplement the Master Plan EIR that was completed in 2010. The Practice Gym was not included in the Master Plan EIR. Public review of the environmental document will be noticed to all residents within 500 feet of the School property. Planning Commission review of the Conditional Use Permit for the project is currently scheduled for February 27, 2013.

Here’s How It Works

When an incident or emergency occurs, authorized senders can instantly notify you. SMC Alert is your personal connection to real-time updates, instructions on where to go, what to do or what not to do, who to contact, and other important information. LOG ON TO www.smcready.org/Community/Alert.html

*Registration is free; but text message charges may apply depending on your carrier and plan and will not be reimbursed by cities, towns, or the county. When registering your cellular device, make sure it is capable of receiving email-generated text messages. Email accounts that have spam filters or blast email protection should be modified to allow alerts from SMC Alert.

Wonderful Fun Year Planned For the Atherton Dames

The Atherton Dames Co-Presidents Inna Beardsley and Frauke Janseen along with their Steering Committee have organized a wonderful fun year for the Atherton Dames.

The Dames Annual Holiday Tea chaired by Susan Masetti was a smashing, yet again, sold out event. Fun was had by all for this early December event.

Many more interesting and engaging events will follow in 2013 which include a docent tour of the Nuryev Exhibit at the De Young Museum on Thursday, January 17, 2013, and a Wine Tasting hosted by Marylue Timpson on Thursday February 14, 2013. This event will be a Valentine Day celebration and welcome party for new residents.

The Annual Egg Hunt chaired by Veronica Kogler will be held on Saturday, March 30, 2013 and more volunteers are welcome to join and share in this delightful event. Please contact Veronica at: VKogler@yahoo.com if you are interested in helping.

The Dames new programs have welcomed many new members and have successfully built up a group that is now planning the 2013 and 2014 fund-raising events. New members and volunteers are always welcome. The Atherton Dames work to provide community events and fund-raisers to benefit Holbrook-Palmer Park. Recent projects include the Walking Bridge and Water Tower Garden. The Dames are currently working towards refurbishing our special Carriage House in Holbrook-Palmer Park.

If you are interested in joining any of our events please check the Dames' website at: www.AthertonDames.org

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Community Contest



We Need Your Input

The Athertonian newsletter has been around for over a decade. The City Manager has proposed a name change for the newsletter. Do you have a suggestion for renaming our community newsletter? Submit your thoughts to me by email.

The names will be submitted to City Council for final decision. The winner will be recognized at a future Council meeting.

Have an idea or suggestion for the next issue of the newsletter? What do you want to see in the next issue? Submit your ideas to me. We look forward to hearing from you.

All input and suggestions for the information above should be sent to Theresa DellaSanta at tdellasanta@ci.atherton.ca.us

Thank you!



A Message From Your City Clerk

Over the last three years the Town has collected email addresses from its residents and developed an electronic distribution list for keeping the community informed of City Council meetings, Town Commission and Committee meetings, study sessions, Town community meetings and workshops, and press releases.

If you would like to be added to the electronic mailing list, please send an email to Theresa DellaSanta at tdellasanta@ci.atherton.ca.us



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