



Meet Your Newest Staff

Christine Basurto began her first day of employment with the Town's Police Department on Monday, October 13, 2014 as a Communications Dispatcher. Christine has almost completed the training program which lasts approximately 8 to 10 weeks.

Christine went through a very competitive testing and background process for a dispatcher position with the department and did very well. Christine was previously employed by Santa Clara County Communications where they dispatch for law, fire and emergency medical services. She has also completed 60 units of college course work at San Jose State where she is studying Sociology.

Christine grew up in the San Jose area where she comes from a law enforcement family as her father is a CHP Officer.

Please join me in welcoming Christine to our Atherton family.



Sally Bentz began employment in the position of Town Arborist on Monday, November 24th. Sally has a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science with a Concentration in Environmental Policy from Humboldt State University. Sally is an ISA Certified Arborist and Tree Risk Assessment Qualified. Sally has held a variety of jobs that qualify her for the Town Arborist position. Previously she worked for the City and County of San Francisco as a Urban Forestry Inspector.

Sally began her first few weeks with the Town under fire, as the storms that swept through the County in December left Atherton with many public and private tree issues to deal with. These issues have included trees down across power lines, trees that have fallen that have left other trees in jeopardy of falling and property damage ranging from damage to homes, exotic sports cars, fences and gates. Talk about starting a new job with your feet moving at full sprint!

Sally's direct line is 650-752-0526 and her email address is sbentz@ci.atherton.ca.us.

The Town welcomes Sally Bentz to her new position!



Civic Center Project Making Progress

The Town's Civic Center project is proceeding with a number of background tasks, including environmental assessment, architect selection and site utilities location.

City Council awarded a contract on September 17 to Placeworks, an environmental consultant and planning firm, to evaluate the project pursuant to requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Placeworks held a public scoping meeting on November 6, in conjunction with the Civic Center Advisory Committee (CCAC). At the scoping meeting, the planning consultant described the factors to be analyzed and requested input from residents and others in attendance. Some of the factors to be analyzed include air and water quality, traffic, noise, aesthetics, cultural and historic significance. In addition to public input, the consultant and their sub-consultants will collect data, take measurements and visually assess all environmental factors in order to develop a draft Environmental Impact Report. This report will be available to Atherton residents and will be distributed to a number of public agencies including Caltrain and surrounding jurisdictions for review. Placeworks will be required to address concerns and comments in the EIR that they present to the Planning Commission and City Council for approval.

What currently appears to be a multi-colored abstract painting on the ground at the Civic Center is the result of a service required to mark underground utilities. They have used visual observations, radio and sound detection equipment, and even ground penetrating radar to locate and mark the site's underground infrastructure. The data has been surveyed and will be made available to the architects and engineers when design begins.

Speaking of design, the CCAC received 16 Statements of Qualification recently. CCAC members reviewed all of the SOQ's and selected 5 firms they ranked as most qualified to propose on the project. The 5 firms' proposals are posted on the Town Web site. Interviews will be conducted in a joint meeting of the City Council and CCAC in late January in order to select the project architect. A contract for design will be presented to City Council for approval in February or March, 2015. After the architect conducts their preliminary investigations, public meetings to solicit residents' input will be conducted.

A group named Atherton Now has been formed to raise funds for the new Civic Center, in parallel with the Town's efforts to advance the project.



Friends of Holbrook-Palmer Park

The Atherton Dames and the Holbrook-Palmer Park Foundation (HPPF) voted to change the name of the Atherton Dames to "Friends of Holbrook-Palmer Park" to better reflect our mission in the community and our role related to Holbrook-Palmer Park.

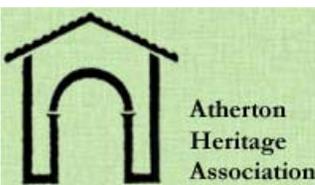
The Friends of Holbrook-Palmer Park Annual Holiday Tea was held in the park on Sunday, December 7th, 2014. The event was once again expertly coordinated by Chair Barbara zu Putnitz with the support of her dedicated and vibrant volunteers. Attendees celebrated the season of giving by bringing sweatshirts to benefit the children at Selby Lane School. As with all events sponsored by the Friends of Holbrook-Palmer Park all proceeds raised benefit Holbrook-Palmer Park directly.



Along with the Holiday Tea the Friends also celebrated the season with a centerpiece decorating class with San Francisco floral expert and event planner Kathleen Deery. Attendees were provided all necessary material to creatively arrange a centerpiece for their holiday table.

These two recent sold out events raised well over \$6000 for Holbrook-Palmer Park.

Overall 2014 was a busy year for the Friends with the annual Holiday Tea and Egg Hunt in the park along with visits to local estates, engaging speakers and one of a kind tours. The Friends encourage everyone interested in preserving our beloved Holbrook-Palmer Park to join our organization in serving the community. Upcoming events in 2015 include: Cooking class with cocktails at Sur la Table on January 29th and the New Residents Party on February 12th. For more information about the events and becoming a member please visit www.athertondames.org.



From the Heritage Room...

Atherton Staff recently uncovered a wonderful account of the life that Olive Holbrook Palmer lived at Elmwood (Holbrook Palmer Park). The Atherton Heritage Association has worked to read her writing and here is a sampling of how she remembered life in the early 1900s.

"One of the most fascinating projects on the place was the gas machine of the early days. It stood in a house near the residence and tiny as a doll house, was of the same architecture. It held a great drum of volatile gasoline with a heavy weight. By winding up this weight each afternoon it compressed the gasoline into a lightening gas, which flowed through the pipes into the house but if the gardeners forgot the winding or if gas was burned in several rooms after ten o'clock, we were left in darkness.

We had coal oil lamps for this emergency in the kitchen, coal oil lamps always for reading in the living room and candles for the bedrooms which were more ornamental than useful, or indeed necessary, but they gave us a sense of security for emergencies."



Traffic Tips

From Sergeant Kockler

- ◆ Turn on your headlights when driving in the rain.
- ◆ Slow down and drive at or below the posted speed limit.
- ◆ Keep your distance. You should keep 1 second of following distance for every 10 miles per hour between the front of your vehicle and the back of the vehicle in front of you.
- ◆ Check the operation of your vehicle's lights.
- ◆ Replace old and brittle windshield wiper blades.
- ◆ Don't drive through areas of moving water or streets which are flooded.
- ◆ Turn on the windshield and rear window defrosters if the interior windows begin to fog over.
- ◆ Don't use cruise control while driving during rainy conditions.
- ◆ If your vehicle begins to hydroplane (loses contact with the roadway), take your foot off of the accelerator pedal and avoid slamming on the brakes. Remain calm, look where you want the vehicle to go and don't make any sudden jerky movements with the steering wheel.

If you have a traffic question you would like answered, send your question to Sgt. Anthony Kockler at akockler@ci.atherton.ca.us. He will try to answer as many questions as possible. Also, look for more traffic questions and answers in upcoming issues of The Athertonian



The Atherton Arts Foundation (AAF) is sponsoring a number of exciting events for the Town. Photographs by Larry Calof will be on display January through March at the Atherton Administration building; paintings by Palo Alto artist, Florence de Bretagne, will be in the Atherton Library in February and March; and there will be an exhibit of botanical art at Jennings Pavilion in Holbrook Palmer Park on April 17 and 18.

Larry Calof rediscovered his passion for photography following a career as an attorney. His work offers beautiful, mystical perspectives of wildlife and landscapes that has appeared in many shows and galleries in the Bay Area. Larry is currently on the board of the Atherton Arts Foundation.

These events represent a stepped up effort by the AAF to promote fine art in Atherton. In addition to art shows it is currently seeking sculptures to add to the two by well known artists, Tedrick and Castañeda, that it previously installed in Holbrook Palmer Park. To this end it is hoping that residents of Atherton and surrounding communities will consider donating art work or provide funding for its acquisition. It is also seeking additional members of the AAF board who are interested in enriching our community with art. Inquiries may be made at arts@athertonartsfoundation.org. Tax deductible contributions may be sent to the Atherton Art Foundation at 135 Selby Lane, Atherton, CA 94027.



“Three Gray Wolves” by Larry Calof

DISASTER PLAN – DO YOU HAVE ONE?

Disaster can strike quickly and without warning. It can force you to evacuate your neighborhood or confine you to your home. What would you do if basic services--water, gas, electricity or telephones--were cut off? Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster, but they cannot reach everyone right away. It is recommended that you are able to care for yourself and your family for a minimum of 72 hours.

Three Steps to Safety

1. Find Out What Could Happen to You

Contact your local Red Cross chapter or emergency management office before a disaster occurs--be prepared to take notes. Be prepared to ask how you can help post disaster



2. Create a Disaster Plan

Meet with your family and discuss why you need to prepare for disaster. Explain the dangers of fire, severe weather, and earthquakes to children. Plan to share responsibilities and work together as a team. Don't forget to establish two places to meet in the event of a disaster:

1. Right outside your home in case of a sudden emergency, like a fire.
2. Outside your neighborhood in case you can't return home. Everyone must know the address and phone number.

3. Create this Checklist

- Post emergency telephone numbers by phones (fire, police, ambulance, etc.).
- Teach children how and when to call 9-1-1 or your local Emergency Medical Services number for emergency help.
- Show each family member how and when to turn off the utilities (water, gas, and electricity) at the main switches.
- Check if you have adequate insurance coverage.
- Get training from the fire department for each family member on how to use the fire extinguisher (ABC type), and show them where it's kept.
- Install smoke detectors on each level of your home, especially near bedrooms.
- Conduct a home hazard hunt.
- Stock emergency supplies and assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit.
- Take a Red Cross first aid and CPR class.
- Determine the best escape routes from your home. Find two ways out of each room.
- Find the safe places in your home for each type of disaster.

Please Save the Date!

The Town, in conjunction with ADAPT (Atherton Disaster and Preparedness Team), is planning for community-wide meeting that will focus on earthquake and general emergency preparedness.

Given the state's promotion and advertising of California's "Earthquake Preparedness Month" each April, we have selected Thursday, March 26, 2015 from 6-9pm at the Pavilion in Holbrook-Palmer Park. Representatives from Menlo Park Fire, Atherton Police Department, County OES staff, USGS, CHP, PG&E and others will be on hand to give brief presentations on preparedness. The goal of the meeting is to educate our residents about the need for personal preparedness and how they can prepare themselves, their families and their neighborhoods for a possible major emergency like an earthquake.

A variety of vendors such as earthshakes.com, the Red Cross and others will be on hand in booths to provide information and answer questions.

GET INVOLVED! JOIN "A.D.A.P.T." Atherton's Disaster and Preparedness Team. For more information, visit their website at www.getreadyatherton.org

Inside This Issue

Welcome	1
Civic Center Project Making Progress	2
HPP Foundation/Dames	3
From the Heritage Room	3
Traffic Question	4
Atherton Arts Foundation	4
Disaster Plan	5



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

Town Office's

Administration	650-752-0500	jherren@ci.atherton.ca.us
Building Department	650-752-0560	bhale@ci.atherton.ca.us
City Attorney	831-601-1100	wconners@ci.atherton.ca.us
City Clerk/Human Resources	650-752-0529	tdellasanta@ci.atherton.ca.us
City Manager	650-752-0504	grodericks@ci.atherton.ca.us
Finance Department	650-752-0552	rbarron@ci.atherton.ca.us
Heritage Room	650-688-6540	meo@rjoster.com
Holbrook-Palmer Park Events	650-752-0534	jsimonin@ci.atherton.ca.us
Planning Department	650-752-0544	amardesich@ci.atherton.ca.us
Police Administration	650-752-0503	jfrew@ci.atherton.ca.us
Police Non-Emergency	650-323-8471	
Police Emergency	911	
Police Investigation	650-752-0565	aguarducci@ci.atherton.ca.us
Police Support Services	650-752-0506	jwade@ci.atherton.ca.us
Police Records	650-688-6500	
Public Works Department	650-752-0570	krobertson@ci.atherton.ca.us

City Council

Mayor Rick DeGolia	650-793-2800	rdegolia@ci.atherton.ca.us
Vice Mayor Elizabeth Lewis	650-533-8830	elewis@ci.atherton.ca.us
Councilmember Bill Widmer	650-530-0078	bwidmer@ci.atherton.ca.us
Councilmember Cary Wiest	650-357-7122	cwiest@ci.atherton.ca.us
Councilmember Michael Lempres	650-690-6661	mlempres@ci.atherton.ca.us