



Town of

# ATHERTON *California*

WINTER

## Home-Customized Energy Savings

Ever wonder what's making your energy bill so high? The new HomeIntel program can help.



Thanks to recent State laws that are driving major innovations in utility energy programs, HomeIntel is now available at zero cost to residential customers of Peninsula Clean Energy and PG&E. Previous programs from Home Energy Analytics, limited to only a few cities until now, have saved home owners and renters an average of 13% of energy per home. HomeIntel, in 3 easy steps, creates a custom plan to reduce wasted energy in your home.

1. Create: Start by enrolling in HomeIntel's Smart Audit, a web-based app. It remotely analyzes your electric and gas smart meter data to create your home's unique energy profile.
2. Learn: Step through your energy profile to identify areas of waste and potential savings. See if you are a good candidate for the complimentary Home Upgrade program.
3. Plan: Smart Audit creates a custom waste reduction plan and tips for your home that are usually simple, no- or low-cost fixes. Also, a local energy coach is available to help you find and eliminate any unwanted energy hogs.



Track your savings: HomeIntel sends monthly emails to show your progress. It also regularly updates your home's energy profile and waste reduction plan to help you find more savings.

**Eligibility:** Free to all customers of Peninsula Clean Energy and PG&E with 12 months of residency and no solar panels.

Sign up now at [www.hea.com/hea-web/p4pjt.jspage?prepareForm=true](http://www.hea.com/hea-web/p4pjt.jspage?prepareForm=true)

for the free HomeIntel service to start saving energy and money.

For any questions, contact James Tuleya at [JamesT@hea.com](mailto:JamesT@hea.com).



*"We are happy to write how much HomeIntel helped us sort out the very large utility bills we have been running. Their work completely altered our views on [our] energy consumption. By eliminating some items and putting others on electronic timers we have reduced our energy consumption significantly without any effects on our normal life. We urge every member of our community to take advantage of the services of this wonderful group."  
– Nearby Stanford Homeowner, 10/2017*

# 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 free of charge up to 20 free sandbags 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, to 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.



By now you have received a second volume of the Atherton Arts Foundation Newsletter featuring artists who are members on our website. We also had a festive and well attended Art Exhibition in September. Now we are planning for 2018. If you might be interested in joining the Foundation or helping on the Foundation Board, we'd love to have you join us. Please visit our website at [athertonarts.org](http://athertonarts.org) We meet once a month. If you want a bit of exercise and an art experience in Holbrook Palmer Park, take some friends or family and travel the walking path and see if you can find the three sculptures in our Park. Happy New Year!

Donate to *Atherton Arts Foundation* while you shop!

Just use Giving Assistant. Giving Assistant shoppers not only get great deals like [exclusive Best Buy coupons](#), they also save money at over 2,500+ popular retailers like [Macy's \(7%\)](#), [Old Navy \(4%\)](#), and [Michaels \(3%\)](#), all while earning cash back and raising funds for organizations they value. Try it today!

<https://givingassistant.org/np#atherton-arts-foundation>

## Atherton 's Police Department Welcomes its Newest Members

Police Officer Chris Greene began his field training with the Atherton Police Department on December 5th. Officer Greene graduated from Amador Valley High School in Pleasanton and later attended Humboldt State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Speech Communication and minor in Public Relations. Officer Greene comes to the department with 18 years of law enforcement experience. He began his career in 1999 with the Escalon Police Department, later with the San Benito County Sheriff's Office, and for the last 10 years has served with the Watsonville Police Department. Officer Greene has served as a Patrol Officer, Field Training Officer, General Crimes Detective, Coroner Investigator, Detective Sergeant, Patrol Sergeant, Crimes Against Children/Sexual Assault Detective, and Training Manager.

Officer Greene is recently married to his wife Stacy and together they have four children, Abigail, Nathaniel, Carson, and Kambelle. Officer Greene is excited to join the Atherton Police Department and to serve the Atherton community.



*Welcome* to the Team!



Police Dispatcher/Records Assistant Kristy Cisco began her employment with the Department on November 19th. Ms. Cisco comes to us with a plethora of experience. She worked for the Menlo Park Police Department from 1990-2003 as Explorer Cadet, became a Community Services Officer, Records Clerk, Level 1 Reserve Police Officer and Dispatcher. In the mid 1990's Kristy was a Per Diem Dispatcher with Atherton. From 2003 – 2012, she worked for the Santa Cruz Regional 911 Center and was cross trained as a law/fire/EMS dispatcher. Recently from 2015 – 2017, she worked for San Mateo County Communications.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies and has a teenage daughter. In her spare time she enjoys cycling, running and reading. She is delighted to be in Atherton and we welcome her back to the Department!



# Get Ready Atherton

By Norma Fogelberg, ADAPT Board Member



Disasters are rarely expected and typically we think it can't or won't happen to us.

The Oakland firestorm of 1991 was a large suburban wildland-urban interface conflagration that occurred on the hillsides of northern Oakland, California, and southeastern Berkeley over the weekend of October 19–20, 1991. The fire ultimately killed 25 people and injured 150 others. The 1,520 acres destroyed included 2,843 single-family dwellings and 437 apartment and condominium units. The economic loss has been estimated at \$1.5 billion.

The October 2017 Northern California wildfires burned at least 245,000 acres, and forced 90,000 people to evacuate their homes in Napa, Lake, Sonoma, Mendocino, Butte, and Solano counties. At last count 44 people died and 185 hospitalized.

Then we have earthquakes.

My Point: expect a disaster and prepare for it. Make sure your family knows what to do, where to go and have your emergency bags packed and ready. If you are staying in place because that is safer for you and your family, get the supplies you will need today. And, of course, don't forget your pets' needs!

Join us at an ADAPT Community Meeting and learn how to:

- ◆ Make a plan
- ◆ Get Prepared
- ◆ Stay Informed

Start the New Year and attend your first ADAPT community meeting on Saturday, January 13th at 9 a.m. We typically gather the first Saturday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. (the January date is an exception) at Atherton Town Council Chambers, 91 Ashfield Road. Check the home page of our ADAPT website, [www.getreadyatherton.org](http://www.getreadyatherton.org), for meeting dates and location and LOTS of valuable information.

See you there!



## Oak Tree Maintenance

### Mulch is your friend

Mulching heritage Oak trees is one of the easiest ways to care for your tree. It is recommended to only have mulch under the dripline of your Oak. Lawn, plants, irrigation, rocks and or hardscape should not be under the dripline of heritage Oak trees. It is best to let the "litterfall" (the leaves that normally drop) to be used as mulch or a thicker mulch could be used at a layer of 3-6" placed **away** from the trunk out to the dripline. The mulch combined with soil and water provides microbial activity in which more roots are able to grow. Mulch also prevents annual weeds from germinating, provides moisture and adds nutrients as the mulch breaks down. Mulch also may help with Sudden Oak Death. So love your Oaks and add some mulch today.

### How to prune Oak trees

Oak trees in general especially mature one's should be pruned only as needed because excessive thinning/topping can diminish the health, safety, longevity, and aesthetic of the tree. When done improperly, pruning can be destructive and weaken trees by removing too much foliage. This can cause stress, which may result in energy depletion, dieback, increased susceptibility to pests, or decline. Over pruning may stimulate the tree to produce succulent new growth that is subject to mildew, and, in some cases, may cause a decline in vigor or may kill a tree.

(Oak Tree Maintenance Continued on page 5)

# Oak Tree Maintenance Continued...

Pruning should only be performed by a certified arborist according to the pruning standards of the Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture and ANSI A300 Standards.

### Factors to consider when pruning Oaks:

- § Remove as little foliage as possible particularly on older or declining oaks.
- § Prune with the health of the tree in mind.
- § Remove dead branches if they pose a safety hazard to people, property or structures and can be removed at any time of the year.
- § Keep cuts small and few in number. Don't stub unwanted tree branches; remove them at the trunk or branch where they originate.
- § Don't cut branches flush to the trunk or branch; leave the collar or swollen area at the branch base intact. Removal of the collar will encourage decay

- § Recent research has shown that tree paint, wound dressings, and sealing compounds do more harm than good.
- § Avoid pruning when the leaves are forming and in the fall when leaves are shedding. Pruning should be done during the winter dormant period for deciduous species and during July and August for evergreen species.
- § Correct extensive structural problems gradually.
- § Avoid thinning interior foliage.
- § Don't alter natural shape.
- § Avoid excessive crown raising (removal of lower branches, sometimes called lion-tailing).

Per the Town's Municipal code excessive thinning and topping is considered damage to a heritage tree and should not be performed.

X DON'Ts

- Do not prune excessively or unnecessarily.

● Lion Tailing



● Topping



● Over Lifting



● Stub remaining



● Flush Cut



● Large Pruning Cut

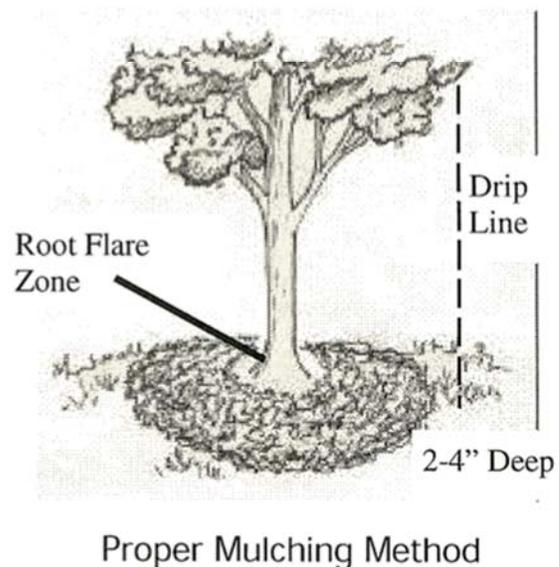
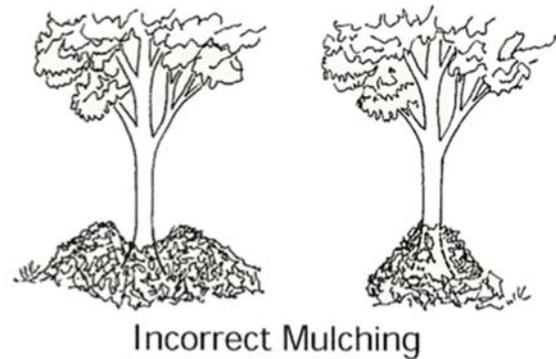


● Jagged Wounds



● Bark Tearing





# Join the *Flows to Bay* CHALLENGE

The San Mateo County Water and Prevention Pollution Program recently launched the **Flows to Bay Challenge**, a program aimed at challenging San Mateo County residents to live a more sustainable lifestyle. The **Flows to Bay Challenge** presents a different theme for each season: “Rainwater as a Resource” for Fall, “In Your Home for Winter”, and “In the Garden and Community” for Spring. Each theme contains a series of events and workshops, promotional activities, and incentives to more easily aid residents in transitioning to a sustainable way of life.

Currently, the program is challenging county residents to use rainwater as a resource, by capturing it and repurposing it, which can lead to reducing stormwater pollution caused by urban runoff getting into storm drains, while also providing a sustainable source of water. It will teach residents how to install rain barrels and rain gardens to conserve tap water and utilize rainwater. Offerings from the Flows to Bay Challenge include: a \$100 rebate program for rainwater barrel installation, weekly events and workshops, and online resources such as TEDTalks, (an environmental footprint calculator), and videos on how to install rain barrels at home, as well as other rain conservation tips.

For more information on **Flows to Bay Challenge** , please visit:  
[www.flowstobay.org/blog/flowstobaychallenge](http://www.flowstobay.org/blog/flowstobaychallenge)

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## Atherton Fall Tree Awards Winners

The Atherton Tree Committee is pleased to announce the winners of the 27th annual 2017 Tree Awards. Nominated trees were judged based on outstanding fall color. The Award program was initiated to celebrate the beauty of the town and recognize residents for their stewardship of the beautiful trees in Atherton. This years' winners are Rob & Cat Westover with a beautiful Japanese Maple on Heather Drive in Lindenwood. The tree is drought tolerant as it has not been watered since the beginning of the drought. The 2nd award for outstanding fall color is for Phil & Margaret Winters Red Maple October Glory at 47 Robleda Drive. It is located in the Right-of-Way and was planted around 1994. Both trees are show stoppers or at least people stop to take photos because both are beautiful specimens with reddish-orange color. The Tree Committee would like to thank the residents for nominating their special trees and for the care they have taken to preserve Atherton's most valuable asset.





### From [Sergeant Kockler](#)

The Atherton Police Department encourages everyone to drive safely, especially during times of rain. With the rainy season upon us, here are some tips which will lead to safer driving for all:

1. Turn on your headlights when driving in the rain. Under California law, your headlights must be turned on when your windshield wipers are in continuous operation, and/or you are unable to clearly see a person or other vehicle from a distance of 1,000 feet (California Vehicle Code section 24400(b)).
2. Slow down and drive at or below the posted speed limit. Remember, just because there is a posted speed limit does not mean that is the safe speed. Many times, the safe speed will be less than the posted speed limit, depending on weather and road conditions (California Vehicle Code section 22350).
3. 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. For example, if the speed limit is 30 miles per hour, you should maintain 3 seconds of following distance.
4. Check the operation of your vehicle's lights to make sure they are working properly.
5. Replace old and brittle windshield wiper blades.
6. Don't drive through areas of moving water or streets which are flooded. Find another route to get to your destination.
7. Turn on the windshield and rear window defrosters if the interior windows begin to fog over. Proper visibility is a must for driving during the rain.
8. Don't use cruise control while driving during rainy conditions. Cruise control can lead to loss of vehicle control and an increased chance of a collision during rainy driving conditions.
9. 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 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](mailto: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.





Town of Atherton  
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Atherton, CA 94027

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