



SPRING 2021

ATHERTONIAN

AN ATHERTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
650-752-0500 | www.ci.atherton.ca.us



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Congratulations to Commander Joe Wade (top, left) and Officer Don Dunphy (top, right) on their retirements. We are grateful for the many years of service and dedication to the Town of Atherton and its community members. Also, congratulations to Sergeant Daniel Larsen! (bottom, left) Effective March 17, Dan will serve as the new Commander. Dan was hired in 2013 as an officer and was promoted to sergeant in 2017. Dan was the School Resource Officer, Range Master, and Defensive Tactics Instructor. We would also like to welcome back Officer Joshua Gatto (bottom, right)! Josh was born in San Jose and has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice. Before Atherton, Josh was an Officer for Menlo Park, a bail bondsman, criminal investigator, and fugitive recovery agent for the State of California for three years.





RADIO COMMUNICATIONS ENCRYPTION: PRIVACY AND SAFETY IN ATHERTON

This is an update regarding our police radio communications system that we use to communicate sensitive and private information during official police duties.

Our department is authorized by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) through the California Department of Justice (CA DOJ) to access the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS). This computer network provides law enforcement and criminal justice agencies with access to a variety of databases which contain data such as a person's criminal history, criminal record, social security number, and driving record information. One way that officers access CLETS is using our local police radio system. Our police communications is a digital radio system that consists of dispatch console radios, in car radios, in car computers, and officer hand held portable radios.

When an officer makes a traffic stop on a car for a moving violation, they would need to verify that the driver has a valid license and does not have warrant out for their arrest. In order to accomplish this, the officer provides personally identifiable information (PII), most often from a driver's license, over the radio to the emergency communication dispatchers so they can verify this information in the system (CLETS). Currently our main radio channel is not encrypted and anyone with a commercial scanner or a smartphone scanning app can listen and take down this information.

Recently, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the California Department of Justice notified every police department in the State of a policy update that mandates the transmission of sensitive personally identifiable information (also known as PII) be encrypted. The purpose of the mandate is to protect the privacy, prevent potential identity theft, but especially to give privacy to victims of crime.

We have evaluated potential alternatives like using a separate encrypted channel, officer cell phones, or the car computers to check PII information, but this is operationally difficult and require additional staffing in the emergency communications center to monitor an additional radio channel. It is important that officers and supervisors have situational awareness of multiple incidents occurring simultaneously and are adept at doing this when everyone is on the same radio channel. For example, an officer stops someone and checks their information over the air to then be

told by the dispatcher that the person is a wanted felon who is considered armed and dangerous. This type of information is critical to know, not only for the officer dealing with the person, but also to others working in the city so they can instantly respond and assist.

Currently in the region, the San Jose, Morgan Hill, Sunnyvale and Palo Alto Police Departments have made the switch to encrypted radio channels. Soon, all law enforcement agencies within San Mateo County, including the Atherton Police, will also be switching over to encrypted radio transmissions.

As part of our plan to encrypt our police radio communications system, encryption capable equipment will be installed in the new Civic Center police dispatch center by July 2021. Over the next three fiscal years, we will do a phased in approach to replace our current in car radios and hand held radios with encryption capable equipment by December 2023. We will not be switching over to encrypted radio communications until the project is completed in 2023. The total cost is approximately \$250,000 which is why we are taking the phased in approach to meet the encryption mandate.

We understand the concerns expressed by residents and by local journalists covering our region in gathering information to share with our residents in a timely fashion. As always, we will continue to be transparent regarding all incidents that may garner public interest.

To assist in addressing the radio encryption concerns, we have developed a radio encryption plan which will be posted on the Police Department's website. We will continue to post on our social media channels all calls and cases of public interest. We will continue to provide to the media a daily media release bulletin of all police activity incidents for the previous 24 hours, which have been assigned a case number. We will also continue to have an interactive crime map on the Town website that allows for anyone who wants to view calls in our city to have access to that information as well. You can reach out to our Police Commander at any time to obtain a synopsis of an incident.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding police radio communications encryption, please feel free to email me at smcculley@ci.atherton.ca.us or call me at 650-688-6500.



REDUCE RISKS, INCREASE SAFETY

- Lock your home, including all doors and windows. This not only applies to your main house, but also any garages, pool houses, auxiliary structures, etc.
- Set your alarm system. Make sure your alarm system is functioning properly.
- Notify the Atherton Police Department when you are going away for vacation.
- Lock your vehicles, and remove any valuables from within, even if they are in your driveway or behind your gate. This includes making sure all of the windows are rolled up.
- Use exterior lights at your house during hours of darkness.
- If you are going away, keep some lights on inside of your home and/or use timers to turn lights on and off at certain times of the day and night.

- Use "unfriendly" plants and shrubbery around the exterior of your home to make it more difficult for burglars to gain access to your home. A nursery can assist you in choosing "unfriendly" plants.
- Install an outdoor camera system for your home, especially one which records activity.

The Atherton Police Department can securely file information of your residence such as gate codes, responsible parties, alarm codes, contact phone numbers and animal information can all be supplied to the Atherton Police Department for use in an emergency. The Atherton Police Department will also keep a key on file for your house in case of an emergency, or if you accidentally lock yourself out. Please make sure your information is up to date.

We encourage you to connect with your neighbors. Your neighbors can be an extra set of eyes for your property, especially while you are gone. Additionally, getting to know your neighbors will build relationships that can make everyone feel safe and secure within their neighborhoods.

If you see something that does not seem right, contact the Atherton Police Department at 650-688-6500, or dial 9-1-1 if there is an emergency.



KEEPING AN EYE ON ATHERTON

The Atherton Police Department currently has twenty one agency-sponsored Flock Falcon Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) cameras and five resident sponsored Flock Falcon ALPR cameras.

Throughout the Town you will see signs that identify the cameras at each location.

The Flock ALPR cameras located throughout Town have proven to be an effective high-quality resource that has led to arrests of wanted, armed violent fugitives. The ALPR system securely captures images while the proprietary machine learning algorithm uses Vehicle Fingerprint technology to identify the license plate, vehicle make, type, and color. These cameras have assisted in the identification of multiple vehicles of interest in recent crimes committed in our town.

Residents who are interested in sponsoring their own camera must be able to meet the requirements of a suitable location, solar output and critical need. Each camera costs \$2500 per year with a \$250 installation cost and a \$28 fee for a sign to be placed on the pole. The resident pays the Town upfront for 2 years

of cost which is then paid on to the Flock vendors. An agreement between the resident and Town must be completed.

For more information and to determine if you qualify, please contact Sgt. Bryan Robbins via email at brobbins@ci.atherton.ca.us To learn more about this product, please visit the Flock Safety website at <https://www.flocksafety.com/product-overview/>



TRASH CANS SHOULD NOT LINGER

Trash receptacles not removed and properly stored in a timely manner, can cause traffic issues, obstruct pedestrian/bicyclist paths, including additional nuisances (odoriferous, health and safety, etc.)

- Every resident/occupant must acquire and utilize approved receptacles, with sufficient service.
- Town's waste collection franchisee must be utilized.
- Receptacles may only be kept in the right-of-way up to twenty-four (24) hours before/after the scheduled service day.
- Cans cannot impede traffic or cause a hazard.
- No trash is allowed on the right-of-way.
- Trash cans must have lids and be kept from overflowing while in view of the public.
- Cans cannot be stored in the front or side yards that are visible from the street, unless enclosed or screened.

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT SETBACKS?

Almost all buildings and structures are required to obtain zoning clearance and a building permit and are subject to Town staff review.



There has been a recent increase in setback violations that was identified by the Town's Code Enforcement Officer. A setback is **the minimum distance that a building or structure needs to be located from a property line.** The following information is intended to provide **general setback standards** in the Town. **Please note that setbacks vary from property to property.**

Properties Located in the R-1A Zoning District:
Main Building Setbacks:

Table 17.40.040-1

General Minimum Setback Standards for Accessory Buildings and Structures

Location	Setback
Front	120 ft., or 30 ft. behind front line of main structure, whichever is less ^{1,2}
Side, interior	10 ft.
Side, street side	See Table 17.38.010
Rear	10 ft.
Rear, abutting street	30 ft. ^{3,4}
Between structures and buildings	8 ft. ^{5,6}

Front and Rear Yards: 60 foot minimum, unless lot was recorded prior to Ordinance No. 146 (April 16, 1946) with a depth of less than 200 feet, the front and rear yards are 30% of the lot depth with a minimum of 30 feet.

Side Yards: The side yard measurement shall be based off of the "lot width", which means the width measured at

right angles to its depth at the front line of the building area. Lots greater than 200 feet in width have side yard setbacks of 50 feet.

Properties Located in the R-1B Zoning District:
Main Building Setbacks:

Front and Rear Yards: 30 Feet minimum, unless your lot was recorded prior to Ordinance No. 146 (April 16, 1946), with a depth is less than 160 feet, then front and rear yard are 18% of lot depth, with a minimum of 20 feet.

Side Yards: The side yard measurement shall be based off of the "lot width", which means the width measured at right angles to its depth at the front line of the building area.

Accessory Building and Structure Setbacks in both R-1A and R-1B Zoning Districts:

Some accessory buildings/structure, (such as athletic courts, arbors & trellises, roof and ground mounted antennae, pools, spas and pool equipment, inflatable covers, artwork & fountains, and solar facilities) may have additional development standards.

Please consult with the Planning Department to review the setback requirements for your property by calling their office at 650-752-0544 or via email at planningdept@ci.atherton.ca.us.



CLEAN LAWN VS. GREEN LAWN

From gas-emission to noise nuisances, leaf blowers have been a topic of discussion in determining if this method of lawn maintenance is worth the environmental and health risks. The Town's Environmental Programs Committee (EPC) has gathered some information to share with residents regarding including gas-powered leaf blowers.

- The California Environmental Protection Agency estimated that operating a gas-powered leaf blower for one hour emits more pollution than driving a 2016 Toyota Camry for 1,100 miles.
- By 2020, gas powered leaf blowers, lawn mowers and similar equipment could produce more pollution than the millions of cars in California combined.
- The EPA has shown that leaf blowers and other gas-powered garden equipment exposes the operator as well the public to known carcinogens: benzene, butiene, acetaldehyde and formaldehyde. It also has shown to create fine particulate matter.
- Inhalation of these small airborne particles can provoke asthma and other respiratory diseases in children and can increase the severity of chronic lung disease in our elderly. Children are the most susceptible members of our population to these hazards because they breathe more air per pound of body weight per day than adults and thus inhale more of any pollutants that are thrown into the air by this equipment.
- Gas-powered leaf blowers can generate noise up to 112 decibels (as loud as a car horn at 3 feet) and spread dust and particulate matter at hurricane-level speeds (over 200 mph).
- In "The State of the Air" issued by The American Lung Association ranks the Bay Area as one of the top 7 worst places for particulate matter in the air. This is increased with hot weather. The worst is California's Central Valley. The longer hotter period will require changes to decrease particulate matter.

Learn more information regarding leaf blowers at:

California Air Resources Board:
<https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/health-and-environmental-impacts-leaf-blowers>

American Lung Association, State of the Air:
<https://www.stateoftheair.org/>

Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Spare the Air:
<https://www.sparetheair.org/>

Be prepared for outages

Power on Peninsula

A program by Peninsula Clean Energy providing backup power for San Mateo County

2019 COMMUNITY BENEFITS SUMMARY ATHERTON

With Peninsula Clean Energy, Atherton residents and businesses are helping the environment while saving money.

In 2016, all the cities in San Mateo County plus the County itself collaborated to launch Peninsula Clean Energy. Our focus is to provide cleaner electricity at lower rates, reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and invest in our community.

Peninsula Clean Energy is a local public agency that supplies electricity principally from wind, solar and hydro resources. We also help communities switch from fossil fuels to clean electricity in buildings and transportation.

Atherton has chosen 100% renewable wind and solar to power all its municipal facilities.

ATHERTON RESULTS



\$352K

estimated annual savings for Atherton



69%

reduction in GHG emissions from electricity compared to 2016



98%

of electricity customers use Peninsula Clean Energy



14,911

estimated metric tons GHG emissions avoided since launch, equivalent to removing 3,221 gas cars for one year

A MEMBER OF YOUR COMMUNITY

Peninsula Clean Energy partners with community organizations and participates at events to advance clean energy awareness, education and programs. Here is how we have been involved in your community:

- Booth at Atherton Earth Day
- Presentation to Atherton Environmental Council

LOOKING AHEAD: INVESTING IN THE COMMUNITY

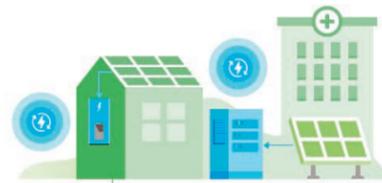
We work for you. As a local, not-for-profit public agency, Peninsula Clean Energy is able to re-invest in more programs to serve San Mateo County.



Reducing greenhouse gases by electrifying transportation and buildings



Installing more electric vehicle charging stations



Increasing energy resiliency through solar+battery storage systems on critical facilities, homes, and businesses

PROGRAMS SUMMARY

Reinvesting in the community

Peninsula Clean Energy provides clean electricity at lower rates for the San Mateo County community. As a not-for-profit agency, we invest earnings into programs that further reduce carbon emissions, support local jobs, and deliver further savings and benefits to the community.

Electric vehicle (EV) Incentives

Peninsula Clean Energy offers incentives on electric vehicles. Programs for 2021 include rebates of up to \$4,000 for used EVs and up to \$800 for new electric bicycles for income-qualifying San Mateo County residents.

EV Ready charging Incentives & technical assistance

Our EV Ready program provides \$28 million in incentives, technical assistance, and workforce development for the installation of EV charging in San Mateo County. The program is designed for workplaces, multi-family dwellings, colleges, public parking garages/lots, and other public locations.

All-electric building technical design assistance and training

The Electrification Technical Assistance program offers project design assistance and training from leading technical experts to architects, builders, developers, design engineers, contractors, and energy consultants to meet existing and emerging all-electric building and electric vehicle requirements.

Home upgrades

San Mateo County homeowners can get a rebate of \$1,500 or more for new heat pump water heaters from Peninsula Clean Energy in addition to the support available from BayREN's Home+ program. Our low-income home upgrade and electrification program offers up to \$8,000 for home repairs, energy efficiency, and electrification measures.

Local government support

We support local government initiatives to advance decarbonization in our community, such as: building "reach" code assistance and technical training for all-electric buildings; support for municipal climate action plans and energy management; preliminary assessments for potential solar + battery storage projects on community shelters; and (soon) fleet electrification assistance.

Power On Peninsula resiliency initiatives

These programs help residents maintain power during outages, and help us move to 100% renewable energy. Residents who use electric medical devices may qualify for free portable back-up batteries, and we have partnered with Sunrun to provide up to a \$1,250 rebate for homeowners on a solar + battery backup system.



PILOT PROJECTS

Supporting Innovation

Peninsula Clean Energy is fostering new technologies and developing new partnerships to increase access to affordable and sustainable clean energy solutions.

● Low-power EV charging

We are assessing solutions to help condo and apartment buildings more easily offer EV charging for residents. Our low power pilot focuses on increasing access to charging at multi-family buildings which meet driver needs while avoiding expensive service upgrades.



● Managed charging

By aligning clean energy supply and demand, we can reduce carbon emissions and lower energy costs. We are evaluating technology that allows EV drivers to conveniently shift EV charging to off-peak hours and put less strain on the grid during the evening.

● Curbside charging

Curbside charging can help improve access to charging and reduce carbon emissions. Peninsula Clean Energy's pilot program concentrates on overcoming barriers to implementing curbside charging so that it can be scalable and effective in the future.

● Ride-hailing EVs

Peninsula Clean Energy has partnered with Lyft to increase the use of all-electric vehicles for ride-hailing. This pilot provides a weekly incentive to drivers so that renting an EV is less costly or the same price as a gas-powered vehicle.

● Advanced residential heating

Harvest Thermal's innovative technology combines space and water heating into a unified system. This may help align energy supply and demand, thereby reducing utility costs and carbon emissions. The project supports further development of this technology and assessment of its costs and benefits.

● Long-duration storage

Peninsula Clean Energy has partnered with Form Energy on a full-scale, proof-of-concept, battery system that will provide 100 hours of energy storage at dramatically lower-than-current costs. The system will be assessed in a lab setting to validate the technology and facilitate market readiness.



PLAN YOUR VISIT TO THE PARK

The par course, playground and bathrooms are now open at the Holbrook-Palmer Park. COVID related safety rules and sanitation stations are located at each par course and playground areas. Per State and County Health Guidance, Social gatherings are currently limited to three (3) households and are subject to social distancing and mask protocols.

A Day Use permit for social gatherings are required for groups that are 13-25 people (only from 3 households). Day Use permits are required for sports related groups that are 13-25 people. No more than 25 people can gather in the park. Consistent with State and County Health Orders, the following Holbrook-Palmer Park Day Use Permit Rules apply:

- Small outdoor activities (less than 12 people) do not need a Day Use Permit but are still subject to the social distancing requirements and protocols.
- Approved use areas only: North Lawn, grass area by Pavilion, Pavilion Patio, Main House Patio, etc.
- Renter or event organizer shall sign a COVID Waiver and acknowledgement of mask wearing, social distancing, and other protocols. Waiver shall require compliance with all local, county, and state requirements.

- Area shall be cordoned off with signage that states that the event is private and social distancing rules are being followed. Signs to be placed at boundary of event.
- Masks are required to be worn while in public.
- Six feet distance from other people is required when in public from people not in your household.
- Any setup of activities must meet social distancing guidelines for mats, chairs, etc.
- No sharing of equipment.



To purchase a Day Use Permit and for more information on reservations at the park, please contact the Park Events Manager, Karunia (Nia) Harianto via email at kharianto@ci.atherton.ca.us or call 650-752-0534.

ATHERTON RESIDENTS - \$100 (INCLUDES CLAY COURT KEYS)

NON-RESIDENTS - \$275

Current Court Access hours are 9:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The keys can be purchased Monday through Friday 8:00 am

– 12:00 pm, and by appointment only 1:00 pm – 5 pm, at Town Hall located inside the park at 150 Watkins Ave. Access to the online reservation service is through Player Capital at admin@playercapital.com. Player Capital Tennis is the exclusive provider of tennis lessons and clinics.



- Player Capital will have a coach/site monitor on site during court hours. Court access will only be available during the hours monitored.
- Key holders must make reservations to play. Those without booked reservations will not be allowed on the courts. Singles play may reserve a court, but doubles must be cleared by Player Capital.
- Players are required to use a different ball set for each server to differentiate between brands/colors when players are not from the same household for singles play.
- Player Capital will wipe down all door handles and points of access to the facility at regular intervals.
- Tennis students will not be allowed to handle tennis balls or any equipment.
- Social distancing must be always maintained between Player Capital coaches and players, and singles players

If you have any general questions about the Park you can contact Sally Bentz-Dalton, Park Manager 650-752-0526 or email sbentz@ci.atherton.ca.us



THE LIBRARY SO FAR (BOOKS SOON TO COME!)

The Friends of the Atherton Community Library will welcome a new library this year. Construction at the main building is making excellent progress and a new library community space will arise from the adjoining historic town hall renovation. Library staff begins move in and set-up this summer. The grand opening is planned for November 2021.

This new space will see an enlarged makerspace and children's area, more meeting rooms and event space, and a dedicated quiet reading area. Besides a physical space increase, the new library will extend hours, add more staff, and increase programming for Atherton and local community members of all ages. We hope it becomes not only a knowledge resource, but also a center for community activity and engagement.

If you'd like to get involved or just stay informed in library community activities, send the Friends an email, AthertonFriends@gmail.com. Let us know whether you want to subscribe to our e-newsletter and/or volunteer.



Keep your 2021 on the right track by making sure your household is prepared for emergencies.

Join A.D.A.P.T. on the first Saturday of every month at 9am to learn about crucial (and simple!) aspects of disaster preparedness. These community meetings include local updates from the Atherton Police Department, a discussion of current events, an overview of a specific preparedness topic, and a Q&A session with experts. The 2021 calendar of topics is attached for your reference.

All of our events are completely free and open to the public, and community meetings are currently held via Zoom. To receive an invitation, just visit www.getreadyatherton.org/meeting and enter your email address.

We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, April 3rd at 9am!

More about emergency preparedness in Atherton:

In the first 7 days after most disasters, the Atherton Police Department (and other first responders) will not be able to check in and take care of you. You have the full ability to prepare your household and family to be safe and resilient, and to know what community resources are available for additional support.

The Atherton Disaster and Preparedness Team (A.D.A.P.T.) is a volunteer-based group that works in partnership with the Town Police to educate and empower residents to be prepared for a major emergency. To get connected with your neighborhood's volunteer leader and learn more about the local resources available to you, visit www.getreadyatherton.org and enter your street address on the home page.



2021 Calendar at a Glance

ATHERTON DISASTER AND PREPAREDNESS TEAM COMMUNITY MEETING TOPICS



**January 2nd:
Home Safety**



**February 6th:
Communications Basics**



**March 6th:
Atherton-Specific Risks**



**April 3rd:
When Disaster Strikes**



**May 1st:
Community Preparedness**



**June 5th:
Summer Hazards**



**July 10th:
Advanced First Aid**



**August 7th:
Drill Rehearsal**



**September 11th:
Atherton Emergency Drill**



**October 2nd:
Household Preparedness**



**November 6th:
Specialized Care**



**December 4th:
Celebrating YOU!**

**Join us for our monthly community meeting on the 1st Saturday at 9am
www.getreadyatherton.org/events**



PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MENLO PARK, CA
PERMIT NO. 26

ATHERTON RESIDENTS
ATHERTON, CA 94027

Atherton Neighborhood Traffic Management Action Plan Update

The Town of Atherton initiated the Neighborhood Traffic Management Action Plan to address resident concerns about traffic-related issues throughout the Town. The intent of the plan is to identify potential traffic management and calming measures and strategies to enhance safety, accessibility, and mobility, and ultimately, the quality of life of Atherton residents. The Town will be hosting two identical virtual workshops, on April 14 and 22, 2021, at 6:00 pm to share some proposed measures and strategies as well as priorities. Register on the project website: <https://www.athertontrafficmanagement.com/> to RSVP to one of the workshops and to subscribe and receive notifications regarding the project and website updates. These workshops initiate our next phase of public outreach on the project intended to solicit feedback on site specific measures and priorities.

We would like to thank our residents that participated in the initial phase of the project by relaying their traffic, mobility and safety concerns through attendance of one of the Listening Session held on August 6 and August 13, 2020, completion of the online survey, use of the interactive map on the project website to relay site specific concerns, or by directly reaching out to staff to communicate any issues.

We have compiled the data gathered through the initial phase of the project. Detailed information regarding the project including the complete list of comments and concerns raised is available on the project website. We have been working with our consultant, TJKM, to analyze the data gathered and develop potential measures and strategies that can be used. The project website has been updated with a new survey and interactive mapping tool to receive your feedback on site specific mitigation measures. The project website also includes general information regarding prevailing speeds on some of our roadways as well as the potential benefits and drawbacks of some common traffic calming measures.

We look forward to meeting with you at one of the virtual workshops, on April 14 and April 22, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., and in hearing from you regarding proposed measures and strategies. Your participation and feedback on the proposed mitigation measures and input on priorities is critical to the development of the Neighborhood Traffic Management Action Plan.

For questions or more information, please contact Public Works Director, Robert Ovadia via email at rovadia@ci.atherton.ca.us