



WINTER 2021/22

ATHERTONIAN

AN ATHERTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
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Come Visit Us!

ALL TOWN SERVICES AND DEPARTMENTS
HAVE MOVED TO THE NEW TOWN CENTER
LOCATED AT 80 FAIR OAKS LANE

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80 FAIR OAKS LANE



PERMIT
CENTER



ADMINISTRATION
DEPARTMENT



POLICE
DEPARTMENT





SAFETY TIPS & REMINDERS

The Atherton Police Department would like to provide the following tips to help prevent you from becoming the victim of a property crime, and to help prevent criminal activity in Town:

- 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 keep

information on yourself and your residence on file in case of an emergency. Information 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 physical key of your house in case of an emergency, or if you accidentally lock yourself out. If you have already provided your information to the Atherton Police Department, please make sure to keep it updated.

Finally, get to know your neighbors. Exchange names, phone numbers, gate codes, etc. When you are going away, let your neighbors know. Your neighbors can be an extra set of eyes for your property while you are gone. Additionally, getting to know your neighbors will build relationships that can make everyone feel safe and secure within their neighborhoods.

As always, 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.

Alarm System Permits: Required and Needs Renewal Every Year

All alarm systems, whether monitored by a security service or monitored directly by the Atherton Police Department require an initial permit fee and an annual renewal fee.

As an important service for residents, the Police Dispatch Center will monitor residential alarm systems directly, for free, instead of utilizing an alarm monitoring service. The advantage of this free service is immediate alarm notification to officers for a fast, direct, non-delayed response to the alarm.

In 2018, the City Council adopted Ordinance 635 which requires residents with an alarm system to obtain an alarm permit and requires annual renewal of that permit. Resolution 18-23 set the fee for alarm permits and set fees associated with police response to false alarm calls. The main intent of Ordinance 635 is to reduce police response to false alarms and ensure that the Police Dispatch Center has up to date resident contact information for alarm systems.

All residential alarm systems require an initial, \$100 one-time permit. Once permitted, the alarm permit is required to be renewed each January for a fee of \$50 at which time alarm contact information must be updated. If you have recently installed a new alarm system or have an alarm system that has not yet been permitted, please contact our Police Dispatch Center. If you have already obtained a permit for your alarm system, thank you. An annual permit renewal invoice will be issued each January.

If you have any questions or need further information, please call the Atherton Police Dispatch Center at 650-688-6500.



Sgt. Jon Fong joined Atherton in June 2021. Jon began his career in Law Enforcement in 2005 with BART Police while attending the Oakland Police Academy. In 2008, Jon joined the Stanford Department of Public Safety and dedicated thirteen years as Deputy, Motors, and as a Sergeant. He is currently A.D.A.P.T.'s staff liaison.

Officer Jeff Taylor joined Atherton on October of 2020. Jeff has a degree in Business Management and Economics and worked for Stanford Public Safety for seven years, spending the last four years in the Investigations Division. He is currently our Department's Field Training Officer.



Officer Dimitri Andruha joined Atherton on November of 2020. Dimitri previously worked for The San Leandro Police Department. Not only is he Atherton's Defensive Tactics Instructor, Dimitri is now the School Resource Officer for the

Police Department working with all nine schools in Town.



Officer Kevan Patel (Top) joined Atherton in April 2021 and brings his experience from South San Francisco Police Department.



Officer Ed Rivera (Bottom) joined Atherton from Florida, bringing his military background with him. Ed recently graduated the Police Academy October 1, 2021 and is currently in the Field Training Program.





Senate Bill (SB) 9, signed into law on September 16, 2021, is intended to address the statewide housing crisis by making a significant share of single family lots eligible for lot splits or to add new residences not currently allowed by local zoning regulations. By State mandate, it allows for ministerial approval of up to two primary dwelling units on a single-family lot.

SB 9 also allows for splitting a single family lot into two parcels, and the construction of up to two units on each resulting parcel. The legislation went effect on January 1, 2022. Applicants may apply to add an additional unit or for a lot split based on the criteria provided by state law.

In Atherton, larger lots tend to provide more value for property owners. In some cases, homeowners wish to capitalize on the value of their properties to provide more income for retirement, or to add units for their families. A likely scenario in Town may be for a property owner to split their lot and construct one additional single-family residence. It is unlikely

that many Atherton residents will choose to complete a lot split and construct two units per parcel.

Pursuing the development of additional units under SB 9 may not be attractive to property owners because SB 9 requires owners to sign an affidavit that they intend to occupy one of the units as their primary residence for at least three years. SB 9 does provide an opportunity to realize new housing units and meet the Town's RHNA obligation.

Staff will be working on revisions to the Atherton Municipal Code to be consistent with State law and to ensure projects meet the spirit and intent of existing regulations, while maintaining the character of Atherton, to the extent possible. These will be presented at public hearings at both the Planning Commission and City Council starting in early 2022.

For more information, please reach out to AICP Principal Planner, Stephanie B. Davis via email at SBertollo-Davis@ci.atherton.ca.us.





REACHING ATHERTON

Reach Codes could soon be coming to Atherton but what are Reach Codes? Reach Codes are codes, in addition to California State required building Codes that cities and counties may adopt more advanced, or enhanced, building codes.

On the October 20, 2021 City Council Meeting, the City Council discussed the options of Electrification Reach Codes to help reduce carbon emissions associated with new construction, reduce costs in new construction, improve indoor air quality and safety of our building stock, support affordable housing, and increase adoption of electric vehicles. This topic will be going back to City Council in January/February 2022. Reach Code options are listed below.

Natural Gas Ban: Natural gas bans eliminate the use of natural gas infrastructure with few exceptions, and result in significant decreases in greenhouse gas emissions. However, natural gas bans may be widely supported.

All-Electric Required: The All-Electric Required model is a building energy code amendment that requires specific end-uses to install electric appliances, such as space heating, water heating, clothes-drying, and cooking, with exceptions

All-Electric Preferred: The all-electric preferred approach encourages electrification by giving builders the choice of two options:

- Designing the building to achieve a higher energy efficiency level than the Energy Code using natural gas at any end use; or
- Designing an all-electric building meeting the minimum efficiency requirements of the Energy Code. The Statewide Program's study analyzed this approach and determined cost-effective pathways to design all-electric buildings.

For more information, please reach out to Building Official, Mike Greenlee via email at mgreenlee@ci.atherton.ca.us.



With the on-going construction of the Town's Civic Center and Library, the sandbag filling station has been temporarily relocated to the rear parking lot at Holbrook-Palmer Park.

- Reduce the amount of water entering property by placing sandbags in key locations and by staggering them in an overlapping pattern like brickwork. Do not want to place a sandbag wall around your whole house and consider how you would remove trapped floodwater. Avoid moving water of any level into storm-damaged areas or areas known to be susceptible to flooding.
- Avoid contact with floodwaters as they may be contaminated or electrically charged from downed or underground power lines. Stay away from downed power lines and report them to PG&E.
- Exercise caution when driving and adhere to any detours, warnings or barricades. Roadways where floodwaters have receded may be damaged. When driving in your neighborhood during a storm, keep an eye out for our vehicles with their trademark flashing amber lights. This could be a sign of



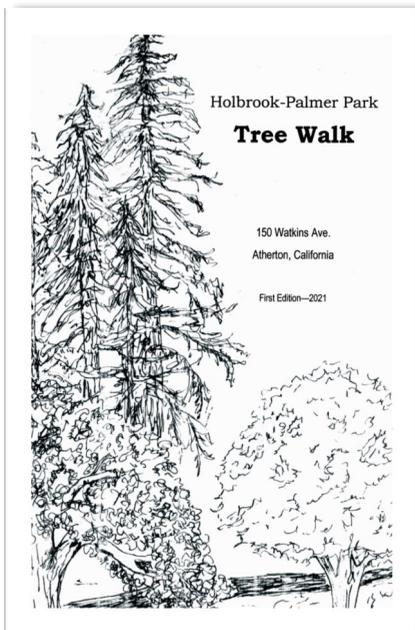
a downed tree or flooding, but it generally marks a worker in the streets away from their vehicle.

- During severe weather events, monitor local news and weather for flash flood warnings, evacuation orders, or other emergency notifications. Make sure your emergency back-up power generators, sump pumps and other detention systems are in good working order. Ensure that flashlights, lanterns, and candles are in an accessible location in case of a small-scale power outage.

If you have any questions, contact the Public Works Department at (650) 752-0570.



- Winter is a good time to prune because of trees dormancy. During dormancy trees slow their metabolism down and conserve energy. It is best to remove dead, dying, damaged, and diseased branches so that they are less likely to fall in a storm.
- Add mulch. Cover the soil with a 3- to 5-inch layer of mulch starting a few inches from the base of the trunk and extending 2 or more feet from the tree. This will help the tree maintain warmth.
- Continue to water when there is no rain during the winter months. Water young trees every week or every two weeks. Use about 10-15 gallons for each watering. Water mature trees once a month or every other month. Use 10-15 gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter, measured at "breast height" (4.5 feet off the ground). Water should be applied slowly so it has time to soak into the ground.



Check out the **Holbrook-Palmer Park First Edition Tree Walk Guide!** Curated by Betsy Colby of the Atherton Tree Committee, twenty-five trees were selected and labeled to coordinate with the pathways of the park. Hand-drawn artwork contributed by the Atherton Arts Foundation, this self-guided imagery booklet includes a map of the Holbrook-Palmer trees with information on each tree. You can download the brochure at www.ci.atherton.ca.us/treewalk or pick up a copy at the at the Town Center at 80 Fairs Oaks Lane, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. -11 a.m. and 1 p.m.- 4 p.m. If you would like to join the Atherton Tree Committee, please contact Sally Bentz-Dalton at sbentz@ci.atherton.ca.us. For information about the Atherton Arts Foundation, please email Francesca Reyes at freyes@ci.atherton.ca.us.



The holiday season presents a wonderful opportunity to give loved ones thoughtful and unique gifts. Since “preparedness” is our middle name, shoppers at the Atherton Disaster and Preparedness Team recommend giving emergency-related items to help your friends and family members stay safe. Here are a few of our favorites!

- LifeStraw water filter/bottle
- Survival box (food, water & blanket)
- LED headlamp or collapsible lanterns

- First aid/medical kit
- Solar-powered radio + phone charger
- Walkie talkies

Any of these items would make great gifts and give your loved ones the start they need to build their own bug-out bag!

Don't have a bug-out bag? You can email us at info@getreadyatherton.org or visit our website at www.getreadyatherton.org for information.



Emergency Preparedness Gift Ideas



Sample Bug-Out Bag



Want more gift suggestions, or tips for staying safe this season?

www.getreadyatherton.org/holiday



RESIDENT VOLUNTEER PATROL PROGRAM

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

INTERESTED IN JOINING US ?

If you are interested in becoming a member of Resident Volunteer Patrol, please contact Commander Larsen, Resident Volunteer Patrol Coordinator at (650) 752-0506 or via email at dlarsen@ci.atherton.ca.us

WWW.CI.ATHERTON.CA.US/POLICE

MISSION STATEMENT:

The RVP members will strive to enhance community safety and security through programs of crime prevention and education with active involvement in these efforts.

The RVP program is a community-based crime prevention program exercising proactive law enforcement principles. The program is designed to provide supplemental detection and reporting of suspicious persons and activities to the Atherton Police Department. The RVP program is composed of civilian volunteers who are residents of Atherton, who desire to interact with, and serve their community alongside the Atherton Police Department. The program is committed to providing qualified and trained volunteers to augment field operations in serving the needs of Atherton residents.

- Provide a higher level of crime prevention programs to better serve the residents of Atherton in a cost-effective manner
- Promote community awareness and acceptance of the RVP program as a viable and important crime prevention tool
- The RVP will be monitored monthly as to its effectiveness in the area of crime prevention and service to the Town of Atherton
- Provide high visibility "eyes & ears" for the Police Department
- RVP will provide a number of services to their communities and support to the Police Department.
- Walking patrols of the streets to serve as high visibility "eyes and ears" for the Police Department
- The "You Are Not Alone" (YANA) program providing welfare contacts for citizens who are elderly, ill, or shut-in

Qualifications

Although volunteers WILL NOT be sworn peace officers and have no authority to act in an enforcement status, there are still qualifications, which will have to be met.

- Must be 21 years of age or older

- Must possess a valid California Driver's License
- Must have a good driving record
- Must not have been convicted of a felony or serious misdemeanor involving moral turpitude
- Must successfully pass a background investigation administered by the Atherton Police Department
- Must be of unquestionable character
- Must be able to volunteer at least eight (8) hours per month to the program
- Must be willing to abide by the rules and regulations set forth in the Resident Volunteer Patrol Mission Statement

Training

- Must successfully complete the RVP Training Academy prior to being assigned volunteer duties
- Must complete a ride-a-long with an Officer

Uniforms

Volunteers will be equipped with a "Resident Volunteer Patrol" safety vest.

Restrictions

Citizen volunteers **will not carry firearms** while on duty.



THE FUTURE OF LEAFBLOWERS

The City Council has been evaluating a phase out of the use of gas-powered leaf blowers in Town. The City Council and the Environmental Programs Committee have evaluated the topic learning from neighboring jurisdictions and understanding the concerns of the community.

The Town currently regulates allowable hours of operation for leaf blowers with no current restrictions on the type of leaf blower (i.e. gas, electric, or otherwise). This is addressed in the Atherton Municipal Code Chapter 8.16.050 (B).

Staff has conducted surveys of surrounding jurisdictions and performed testing of equipment to evaluate the effectiveness and noise levels of electric versus gas-powered equipment.

The Council will further evaluate the use of gas-powered equipment and potentially introduce an ordinance limiting or phasing out the use within the first few months of 2022. The Council convened an Ad Hoc Subcommittee focused on evaluating leaf blowers who reported several recommendations to Council in November 2021. Recommendations included a ban on the loudest and most polluting garden equipment tools for residential properties and limited use on commercial, educational and Town properties.

For more information, contact Deputy City Manager/City Clerk, Anthony Suber at asuber@ci.atherton.ca.us



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STANDARD U.S.
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PERMIT NO. 26**

**ATHERTON RESIDENTS
ATHERTON, CA 94027**