



ATHERTONIAN

AN ATHERTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

2023 WINTER EDITION



Atherton
City Hall

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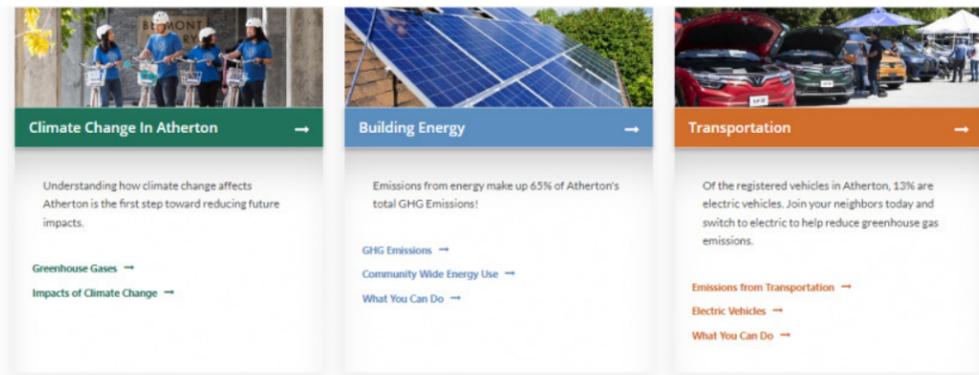
NEW SUSTAINABILITY DASHBOARD

What will Atherton look like in 2045? The newly adopted Climate Action Plan Update sets a vision for a carbon neutral community and includes steps that we all can take to achieve this bold climate goal. Reviewing the Town's climate goals has never been easier.



climateaction.ci.atherton.ca.us

The Town's interactive Climate Action dashboard gives you the opportunity to explore the Town's Climate Action Plan to better understand what activities generate greenhouse gas emissions in Town and what we can do to mitigate them.



ATHERTON'S CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

Atherton's Climate Solutions Dashboard includes five focus areas for the Town, residents, schools, and non-profits to consider for a carbon neutral future. Explore the data and take the challenge to find at least one climate solution that works for your home across our five focus areas:

- Building Energy:** Buildings account for 65% of all emissions in Atherton. Moving away from burning fossil fuels, such as methane (natural) gas, is the best way to reduce these emissions. The Town encourages residents to upgrade their appliances and assess their home energy usage through a free concierge service provided by HomeIntel.
- Transportation:** Burning gas in our transportation is the second largest contributor of the harmful greenhouse gas emissions responsible for climate change. As of 2021, 13% of vehicles in Atherton are electric. For Atherton to meet our emissions reduction targets, we need 50% of vehicles to be EVs by 2030 and as close to 100% electric by 2045.
- Solid Waste:** Between 2017 and 2019, our waste production increased almost 3,000 tons. This means there are enormous opportunities to increase composting and organic collection, recycling, reusing, and reducing how much we consume. Fortunately, the Town is now working with GreenWaste and has a new suite of programs to support a low waste community.
- Carbon Sequestration and Water Use:** We can remove some carbon from the atmosphere by planting trees, using building materials with less carbon, and applying compost in our gardens and landscaping. Cal Water offers a suite of programs to help create beautiful landscapes that are both water efficient and support carbon sequestration
- Understanding our Consumption:** Food, clothing, electronics and air travel are all examples of goods and services that are consumed and used by people that contribute to the release of greenhouse gas emissions. Find ways for more positive consumption like shopping small businesses and visiting local attractions.

We all have a part to play when it comes to building a sustainable community. Find out how you can take action and learn more about what the Town is doing: www.tinyurl.com/AthertonCAP.



POLICE UPDATES

President Biden Extends Gratitude to the Atherton Police for Ensuring his Safety and Security During Recent Visits to Atherton

In a heartfelt gesture of appreciation, the President of the United States extended his thanks to the local Atherton police force for their commitment to maintaining security during recent visits to Atherton in June and September this year.

President Biden's visit, which drew attention in the Atherton community, required additional local assistance to ensure the safety of both the President and area residents. Atherton Police, along with other local law enforcement agencies, working in tandem with the U.S. Secret Service and the FBI, provided a robust security presence during the visits.

The President personally thanked Atherton Chief Steven D McCulley and Commander Daniel E Larsen and all members of the Atherton Department of Police for their assistance.

All costs related to enhanced police presence during visits by dignitaries are paid for by the local residents hosting the event(s).

How a Classic Car Helps our Police Connect with the Community

The Atherton Department of Police 1966 Mustang GT Fastback Classic Official Police squad car was recently awarded the "Police Chief's Choice" award at the annual Ripon Police and Menlo Park Police Emergency Vehicle Show.



In 1998, the Mustang was donated to the APD but needed full restoration and repair. Long time police volunteer Skip Mills (Chief Mustang Mechanic) and his sidekick Kenneth Bowers (Chief Body and Fender Man) meticulously rebuilt and restored the Mustang. The project was completed in 2004 and the Mustang was placed into service.

Classic police cars can be used as an effective community outreach tool for police departments to foster positive relationships with the community. Here are some reasons why:

Nostalgia and Connection: Classic police cars evoke feelings of nostalgia, reminding community members of the history and heritage of the police force, bridging the gap between law enforcement and the public.

Approachability: Classic police cars often have a more inviting and approachable appearance than modern patrol vehicles. People may be more inclined to approach officers and engage in conversations when they see a classic car.

Community Events: Classic police cars can be showcased at community events, parades and schools to foster positive relationships with law enforcement.

Watch for the Atherton Police Mustang at local events throughout the year.



Christmas Tree Safety

Water daily

Cut 2" from the base

Keep away from heat sources

Tree lights off when unattended



WINTER WEATHER PREPAREDNESS TIPS

As the rainy season begins, check the condition of your emergency backup power generators, sump pumps and other retention systems to ensure they are in good condition to keep your family safe in an emergency situation. In the event of torrential rainfall, be sure to:

-  Avoid moving water in storm damaged areas or areas known to be susceptible to flooding.
-  Avoid contact with floodwaters as they may be electrically charged from downed or underground power lines.
-  Stay away from downed power lines and report them to the power company.
-  If you must drive during a storm, keep an eye out for the Town's vehicles showing flashing amber lights as this could be a sign of a downed tree or flooding.

If your home experiences minor flooding problems, limit flooding by stacking sandbags in strategic positions around your property and stagger them in an overlapping pattern.

Throughout the rainy season, Atherton will make sand and sandbags available for residents at the self-service sandbag station at Holbrook Palmer Park, 150 Watkins Avenue, in the rear parking lot.

The Atherton Public Works Department and Police Department are prepared to assist residents in the event that severe weather impacts the community. Stay informed by signing up for the County's Alert System and the Town's New Flash. Access them here:



<https://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/653/Winter-Storm-Preparedness>

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM THEFT THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

The holiday season is a time of celebration, however, it is also a time of opportunity for criminals. To ensure the holiday season remains a season of celebration, the Atherton Police Department (APD) has provided resources and tips to residents to help reduce the likelihood of theft.

Workshops and Meetings

The Atherton Police Department (APD) hosts Neighborhood Prevention Workshops and Community Safety Meetings year-round to inform residents about best practices to keep themselves and their families safe. An engaged community is the best deterrent against theft and burglary.

APD officers are trained in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) and will assist in conducting a CPTED review of your home. Please call 650-688-6500 or email Jennifer Frew at jfrew@ci.atherton.ca.us to make an appointment for a CPTED review of your home.

Home Prevention Tips

APD's CPTED experts recommend following these tips to make your home a harder target for criminals:

- Lock your doors and windows.
- Do not leave gifts in plain view.
- Never leave valuables in your car.

APD has added additional patrols between dusk and dawn to protect against potential criminals. If you see something suspicious, please report it by calling 650-688-6500 or 911 for emergencies.



- Install sufficient lighting around the perimeter of your home.
- Install a residential security alarm and consider having your alarm system monitored directly by our Dispatch Center at no cost to allow for the fastest police response possible.
- Keep a written record of your valuables with serial numbers.
- Keep valuables in a secured safe inside your home.
- Do not have packages delivered at times you will not be home to accept them.
- Work with your neighbors and get to know them so that together, you can help each other out by looking for things that are suspicious.
- When leaving home for an extended time, have someone watch your house and pick up your newspapers and mail.



MESSAGE FROM CITY MANAGER GEORGE RODERICKS

This edition of the Athertonian provides several key articles to keep you informed and engaged this season.

The Newsletter highlights the Town's sustainability efforts woven into the Climate Action Plan as we progress toward climate resiliency. Also included is public safety guidance from Police and Fire on how to protect yourself and your home this holiday season. With the winter months comes rain, the Newsletter includes various tips in preparation of an El Nino rain season – to include where to find sandbags!



Lastly, the Newsletter highlights the Town's progress on the Housing Element and the State. Your engagement here is particularly valuable.

As always, there are articles and spotlights on upcoming community events and activities. So, stay informed and engaged! Your participation and feedback are invaluable as we work together to make this an even stronger and more resilient community!



HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE

Housing Element Updates

Approved by Atherton City Council, the Town's Housing Element was submitted to the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) in January 2023 for review. Since then, Town staff and officials have been working in close collaboration with HCD officials to produce a compliant Housing Element by the State-mandated deadline of January 31, 2024.

To address HCD's identified concerns with the Town's Housing Element, Town staff and officials have focused on making adjustments to the following key sections in 2023:

- Extremely Low-Income Households & Special Needs Populations
- Site Inventory and Analysis
- Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH)
- Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA)
- Multifamily and Affordable Housing
- General Constraints

As we approach the end of 2023, the Town of Atherton continues its proactive efforts with HCD in the Housing Element adoption process, reflecting our community's unique needs while ensuring compliance with state law. The Atherton City Council must submit a compliant Housing Element to HCD by January 31, 2024.

One critical aspect of this process involves the proposed multi-family housing component of the Town's Housing Element. HCD has emphasized the need for compliant multi-family housing plans, including a requirement to allow at least some multi-family housing on private lots in Atherton.

Next Steps

The Town is committed to including residents in this vital decision-making process. Over the past few months, the Town has hosted numerous community events to educate residents and solicit their input on the Housing Element.

The Atherton City Council hopes to take final action on the Sixth Cycle Housing Element at its first regular meeting in January 2024. The Town invites residents to share their voices and perspectives throughout this process.

The Town's Housing Element encompasses programs that support the development of various housing projects, including Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and SB 9 units to help the Town meet its state-mandated Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) targets. The Town will be hosting an in-person community workshop in January 2024 specifically focused on Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and how Atherton residents can benefit from their adoption.

As Town staff and officials navigate this critical phase of its Sixth Cycle Housing Element, we extend our gratitude for your engagement and collaboration. We are dedicated to creating a Housing Element that fits Atherton's unique community while meeting the requirements set by the State.



100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY RECAP

Thank you to all who made the Centennial Celebration a day to remember! Over 700 residents gathered at Town Center on September 24th to honor 100 years of Atherton. There were 11 history exhibits staffed by resident volunteers, two short documentary screenings, catered food, family activities, a live jazz performance, and a giveaway of 100 historic oak trees.

If you missed the celebration, take a step back into history with two short videos produced in honor of 100 years of Atherton.

Explore the rich history of the train station. Watch the video using the QR code.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=L6xu4ZHA6bc>

Learn more about the land, the Town's history and hear from local leaders. Watch the video using the QR code.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=xEXkDdNuXEE&t=1s>

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Get ready to embrace the holiday spirit in Atherton! Atherton is gearing up to sprinkle a little extra magic this winter, making sure your holidays are nothing short of merry and bright. Join us as we unwrap the excitement and dive into a winter wonderland of celebrations!



Meet Santa at the Library

The Town of Atherton, in collaboration with the Atherton Library and Friends of the Atherton Library, are thrilled to welcome Santa to the Town Center on December 7 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Join your neighbors for a delightful family-friendly evening filled with photo opportunities with Santa Claus, warm beverages, refreshments and fun holiday activities.



Atherton Police Department's Toy Drive

The Atherton Police Department (APD) is spreading joy through their annual toy drive for Selby Lane School families. APD is accepting unwrapped gifts for children aged 5-10. Recommended donations include art supplies, toys, warm clothes and sports equipment. Drop off your donations in the specially marked APD Gift Box located in the lobby of the Police Department and take the chance to say hello to our local law enforcement personnel.

APD will be distributing donations on December 22 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you have any questions about the program, please reach out to Jennifer Frew at jfrew@ci.atherton.ca.us.





ATHERTON ARTS FOUNDATION

A HIDDEN GEM IN THE PARK!

Almost fifty years ago, Atherton resident, Rita Corbett Evans bequeathed her home to the town of Atherton to promote the arts and provide a base for art programs in the community. Since then, there have been several 'evolutions' of Atherton Arts Foundation (AAF) through the decades: Building an Art Center (now housing a Preschool), sponsoring concerts, obtaining sculptures, hosting community Art Exhibits and offering a variety of art classes.

Currently, AAF is focusing on Ms. Evans' desire for a place for artists to share their creativity, curiosity and passion through a wide variety of art classes, community projects and art exhibits.

The AAF classroom is tucked away in the basement of the Main House at Holbrook Palmer Park. There are classes every Saturday and many weekdays.



Classes include:

- Book Binding
- Botanical Art
- Chinese Water Brush Painting
- Nature Printing
- Needle arts
- Modern lettering
- Pastels
- Digital art
- Wool felting
- Acrylics
- Sketching
- Sewing
- Floral Arranging
- Organic Nature Dyeing on Silk

There is truly something for everyone of any level of art background!

Visit their website, athertonartsfoundation.org to discover their current class offerings.



UPDATES FROM YOUR LIBRARY

Make a difference with the Atherton Library's adult literacy program! This newly launched program is designed to support adults in getting better at reading and writing in English. The library accepts volunteers of many backgrounds and education levels.

Commitment to the Adult Literacy Tutoring Program is for two hours per week for at least six months. Tutors teach in a safe and caring online learning environment. No prior experience is required. To learn more about how to apply for this volunteer opportunity, click on the QR code.



The Atherton Library is a treasured resource in our community that offers opportunities for exploration to all. As a part of San Mateo County Libraries, they are celebrating increased community engagement and connection. In 2022, there were 56% more library visitors and a 126% increase in attendance at programs and events.

Check out more highlights and accomplishments in the Library's Annual Report: https://smcl.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2023/09/2022-2023-Annual_Report.pdf

WELCOMING NEW TOWN STAFF!



INTRODUCING NEW TEAM MEMBER - TIM AU, P.E. ASSOCIATE CIVIL ENGINEER OF PUBLIC WORKS

I am excited to join the Town of Atherton as the new Associate Civil Engineer of Public Works and look forward to contributing to our community by helping to strengthen our roadways, traffic and transportation measures, storm water control, improve infrastructure and ensure safety and compliance within our Town. I graduated with a degree in Civil Engineering from San Jose State and pursued structural design and consulting, which aides in the administrative process prior to start of construction. In my earlier career, I worked to construct both new development and remodels of single-family houses. I am looking forward to leading the Town of Atherton to better the community and resident's lives.



INTRODUCING NEW TEAM MEMBER - JEANETTE TAPIRU JUNIOR ACCOUNTANT

I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Junior Accountant for the Town of Atherton in the Finance Department. I bring several years of experience as a commercial loan underwriter in a financial institution, where I managed a portfolio of 140 clients. My experience has given me a solid understanding of economic analysis, credit analysis, risk management and regulatory compliance. I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Finance from San Jose State University and am committed to providing the department with reliable financial information to support informed business decisions. I am thrilled to collaborate with the team and play a pivotal role in the organization's growth and success.

WELCOME MADEMOISELLE COLETTE TO ATHERTON!

Atherton's newest culinary delight is now open to the public! Opened on September 24, 2023, Mademoiselle Colette is located on the Atherton Library's deck. Offering the finest in baked goods, coffee and sandwiches, make Mademoiselle Colette your favorite place to grab a snack, read a book or hang out with friends!

Hours:

Monday - Saturday: 8 AM - 4 PM
Sunday: 8 AM - 2 PM

Location:

Atherton Library Deck
94 Ashfield Road

Learn More:

Visit the website for the menu:
<https://MademoiselleColette.com/Bakery/>





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UPCOMING EVENTS



MEET SANTA AT THE LIBRARY

December 7, 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Atherton Library, Town Center



ATHERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT'S TOY DRIVE

December 22, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Police Department Lobby



Town Center Services Closed
from Monday, December 25
through Monday, January 1.
Normal business hours resume
on Tuesday, January 2.

STAY IN TOUCH



@TownofAtherton

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