



ATHERTONIAN

AN ATHERTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

2022 WINTER EDITION



Photo by Bruce Damonte

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ADU SURVEY

The Town submitted its Draft Housing Element for the 2023-2031 Housing Cycle to the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for its initial review. The Town is encouraging residents to complete the Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) survey that will assist the Town in its presentation to the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) as part of the 6th Cycle Housing Element process.



[Atherton Accessory Dwelling Unit \(ADU\) Survey I](#)

The Housing Element Plan relies heavily on the construction and rental of new ADUs on private property throughout the Town. The Town is seeking support and input to develop a plan that encourages new ADU production and rental.

The Town has received initial comments from HCD on the Draft Housing Element and will be seeking your input on strategies for response. The Town will be hosting community forums to continue to gather input and feedback over the next couple of months before the final Housing Element submission deadline in January 2023.

For more information or to review the latest version of the Town's Housing Element, visit the Town's Housing Webpage at ci.atherton.ca.us/Housing.



To stay engaged on Town topics and issues, [sign up for the Town's E-News](#)

CITY MANAGER'S MESSAGE: HOLIDAYS SEASON, STORMWATER & HOUSING

It's the holiday season! I was reminded recently of my 10-year-old self growing up just outside of Chicago during this time of year. I'd come home from school, bundle up and set out trudging through the snow to deliver newspapers – uphill – both ways. A solitary adventure where my only company was the visible cold air as I breathlessly sank deep into the snow drifts walking up un-shoveled walkways to toss plastic-wrapped newspapers onto porches of houses with smoke rising from their chimneys. Inside were families surrounded by the warmth of their homes on a cold wintery afternoon. In the northeast, the holiday season triggered snowplows, rock salt, and keeping the water moving in your pipes to prevent them from freezing.

Now that I no longer deliver newspapers and live on the West Coast, the holiday season usually triggers that it's time for drain clearing, sandbags and protection waddles. Best Management Practice (BMP) Stormwater Management are requirements for all construction activity in Town. Beginning in October, the Town's Planning, Building and Public Works Departments begin conducting Stormwater Inspections for all active construction sites in Town. Sites are required to comply with BMPs that include but are not limited to, the installation of cover materials, stabilization of access roads and entry areas, tire wash guards at entry points, check dams and drain waddles, and more. Each site is inspected by staff and protective measures must remain in place through March. Around Town, Public Works staff take similar precautions to clear public drainage courses of vegetation, trim back branches and other vegetation that might impact water flow, stockpile sandbags and sand (publicly accessible should the need arise), conduct visible inspections of inlets and outlets, and set out emergency signage at known flooding locations throughout Town. During the season you can collect sandbags at the Town's public sandbag station location.

This holiday season there is also another priority on the docket: the Town's Draft Housing Element. As you may learn, the Town's Draft was rejected by the State. Over the next few months, the City Council and staff will be working proactively to conduct additional community outreach as the Town seeks to refine the Housing Element into a final document that can be certified by the State. That's going to be a tall order. There is significant pushback from the State regarding the Town's intended approach to using Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) as one of the primary compliance efforts. While we believe that the Town's ADU Program can be successful, the State believes that even if the Town is able to produce the necessary ADUs, the key issue will be the efficacy of the program to provide the mandated affordable housing and they are not as optimistic about that.

There is still a lot of work to do as we move toward a housing element that the State will certify. A certified housing element is in the best interest of the Town and to reach that, we need the active engagement of the community working toward solutions.



BE PREPARED FOR WINTER WEATHER!

With winter on the horizon, now is the time to secure your home against the dangers of flash floods and the long-term effects they may cause.

Before the rainy season strikes, check the condition of your emergency backup power generators, sump pumps and other detention systems to ensure that they are in good condition to keep your family safe in an emergency situation. In case of minor power loss, ensure candles are accessible and that flashlights, lanterns, and batteries are all fully charged.

In the event of torrential rainfall, be sure to:

- 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 the power company.
- Exercise caution when driving and adhere to any detours, warnings or barricades.
- If you must drive during a storm, keep an eye out for the Town's vehicles with flashing amber lights as this could be a sign of a downed tree or flooding.

If your home suffers from minor flooding problems, you can limit flooding by stacking sandbags in strategic positions around your property and staggering them in an overlapping pattern. However, do not build a sandbag wall completely encircling your residence, this will exacerbate the damage caused by flooding due to the water retained within the wall.

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 County of San Mateo will also have sandbags available to residents at 752 Chestnut Street in Redwood City.

The Atherton Public Works Department and Police Department are prepared to assist residents in the event that severe weather impacts the community. Our first responders work hard to ensure that they are ready to respond to all types of emergencies, but you can assist them by heeding all severe weather warnings and preparing ahead of time.

For additional information on emergency preparedness, visit getreadyatherton.org

Winter Weather Safety Tips





THE TOWN OF ATHERTON'S WINTER ACTIVITIES

Visits with Santa

The Town of Atherton and Atherton Library invites you to kick off the holiday season with a visit from Santa on December 1 from 3:00 p.m. - 5 p.m.! In addition to opportunities to take photos with Santa, there will be a tree lighting event and time for holiday crafts, such as building Gingerbread houses and making tree decorations with 3-D printers. This will be a family-friendly event with activities for all. Grab your family and friends and head to the Center to meet Santa Claus and more!

PD Toy Drive

The Atherton Police Department (APD) is hosting its annual toy drive for families at Selby Lane School. They will be collecting gifts from early November through mid-December.

APD will accept new, unwrapped gifts for children ages 5-10. Suggested donations include art supplies, Hot Wheels, jump ropes, science projects, Barbies, dolls, action figures, blankets, warm clothes, basketballs, soccer balls, sports equipment, beads and jewelry-making kits.

A Red/White striped Gift Box marked with the APD logo will be located in the lobby of the Police Department. While dropping off your donations, please drop by and say hi to your local law enforcement personnel.

We look forward to seeing you!

If you have any questions, please contact:

- School Resource Officer Dimitri Andruha dandruha@ci.atherton.ca.us
- Jennifer Frew, Assistant to the Chief of Police 650-752-0503, jfrew@ci.atherton.ca.us

Atherton's Tree Lighting

CELEBRATE THE TOWN'S TREE LIGHTING WITH US

WHEN 1st Thursday December 2022, 3pm - 5pm

WHERE ATHERTON LIBRARY & Atherton town hall

We Invite you to celebrate the most beautiful time of the year with us! Come and enjoy building gingerbread houses, hot-coco & apple cider, arts & crafts, and ornament decorating

"Shop with a Cop"

In addition to the Toy Drive, the APD will be hosting another "Shop with a Cop" program. Last year's event was a great success and we are excited to bring it back.

"Shop With A Cop" is one way APD strives to strengthen our community relationships by mentoring students in need. The students are able to shop with an officer and purchase gifts for Christmas, including gifts for themselves and family members. The APD hopes this is a positive experience for the students and their families.

The "Shop With A Cop" event will occur on Dec.19th, from 9:00 am – 11:00 am, at the Target Store in Redwood City. Each school will coordinate with parent drivers/chaperones who will meet our officers and staff at Target.

100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The Town of Atherton is gearing up to celebrate its 100-year anniversary. The Town is planning to host a series of celebratory events throughout 2023 to commemorate the Town's centennial anniversary. All events will be open to members of the community.

Atherton was founded in 1923 with its name originally deriving from Faxon Dean Atherton, who was born in Massachusetts. In 1860, following the advice of a friend and business partner, Atherton purchased over 600 acres of land in the southern Bay Area. Valparaiso Park, his home, was built several years later, marking one of the first American property owners in the area.

Prior to the 1920s, the area Atherton is located in was known as Fair Oaks. In 1923, Menlo Park planned to incorporate the lands encompassing Fair Oaks. But, their plans were halted when the Fair Oaks property owners banded together to retain their community as a completely residential area by deciding to incorporate it independently. The two groups raced to Sacramento to be the first to submit the incorporation paperwork. The Fair Oaks committee arrived at Sacramento first; however, they learned they could not keep the name Fair Oaks because it was already the name of a City near Sacramento. It was at that point group decided to name the town after Faxon Dean Atherton, one of the earliest landowners in the southern Bay Area. On September 12, 1923, Atherton was officially incorporated.

For questions or additional information, please contact Officer KC MacDonald, our School Resource Officer, at 650-688-6500 or email kmacdonald@ci.atherton.ca.us.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the "Shop with a Cop" program, checks can be made out to the "Atherton Police Activities League" or the "Atherton Police Officers Association" and dropped off at the Police Department or mailed to the Police Department, attention Jennifer Frew, at 83 Ashfield Road, Atherton, CA, 94027. By donating, you will be able to assist APD to serve more kids this holiday season.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact Jennifer Frew at 650-688-6500 or email JFrew@ci.atherton.ca.us.

"The Town of Atherton's history is rich and lively," said Mayor Rick DeGolia. "In 2023, we invite the entire Atherton community to join the celebration of our history and the bright future ahead of us."

The Town hopes to publish a series of articles leading up to the anniversary, highlighting different aspects of the Town's history and we invite you to contribute your own stories.

"The 100-year anniversary of the Town is a momentous occasion as it provides the opportunity to reflect on the Town's history and to celebrate the community that has been built over the last century," said City Manager George Rodericks.

Town staff is working on promotional materials and will be creating a dedicated webpage titled, "Atherton 100-Year Anniversary" on the Town's website to allow residents to get more information and plan for upcoming events.

The Town wants to gather input into what types of activities or events residents would like to see as part of the 100-year celebrations.



[Please submit your suggestions via this Online Survey](#)

SELBY LANE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL GRANT APPLICATION

The Town of Atherton is moving forward with proposed improvements to the intersection of Selby Lane and El Camino Real (ECR), west of Adelante Selby Spanish Immersion School. These improvements will enhance the level of safety for students who attend Adelante Selby Spanish Immersion School, as well as other non-motorized users who cross ECR at Selby Lane.

There are three facets to the Town's proposed improvement plan:

The installation of a hybrid High Intensity Activated crosswalk (HAWK) system. This system uses a particular kind of traffic signal display that is activated by pedestrians or bicyclists and will control traffic to allow them to pass, while also limiting delays for motorists when pedestrians and bicyclists are not around.

Enhancements to the current medians by reconfiguring the layout to eliminate left-turn traffic from Selby Lane onto ECR. This will help reduce vehicle and pedestrian conflicts, as well as provide a safe and easy crossing for pedestrians.

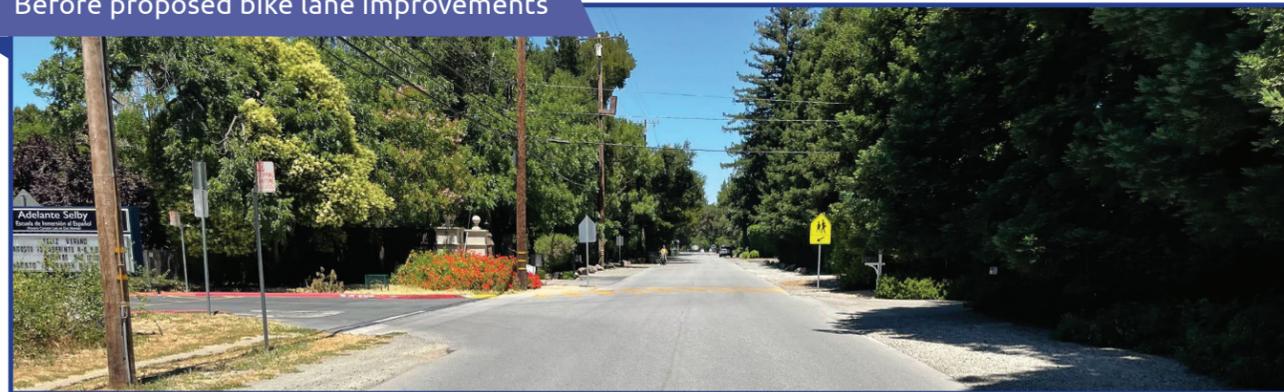
The installation of a dedicated Class II bike lane that runs along both sides of Selby Lane to the Town limits, west of Adelante Selby Spanish Immersion School. Adding this lane will provide a dedicated route along Selby Lane for students and other non-motorized users.

This project is focused on providing safer routes for the students traveling to and from Adelante Selby Spanish Immersion School. These improvements will also increase safety for others using the road and will promote active transportation opportunities that help reduce carbon emissions – another key component of the Town's long-term goals.

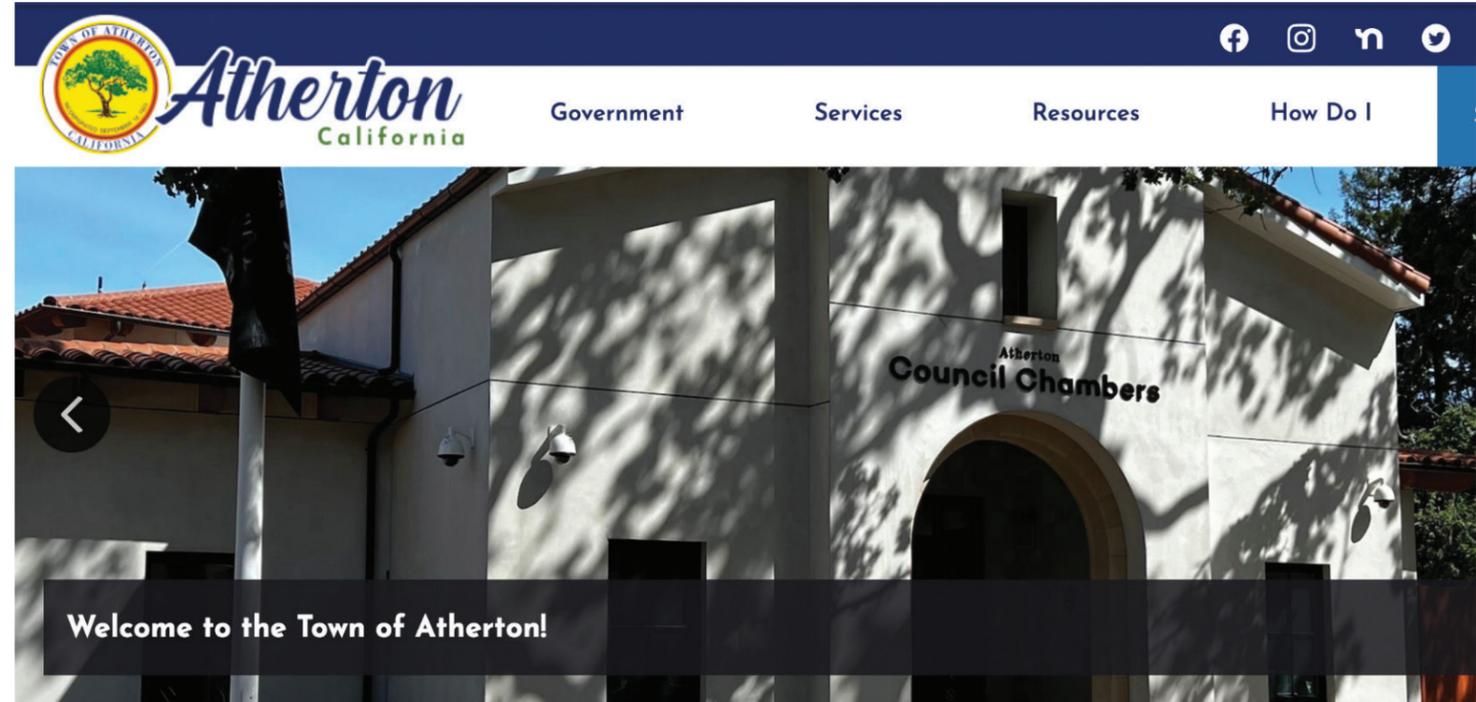


[Learn more regarding the Town's street improvements](#)

Before proposed bike lane improvements



After proposed bike lane improvements



THE TOWN'S WEBSITE REVAMP

The Town of Atherton website has a new look! The Town updated its website in order to provide a more user-friendly and cohesive experience.

The website contains many new features to help modernize the look and increase user accessibility. These new features include:

- A revised calendar on the homepage that isolates what the user wants to view
- Updated ADA features including a new color scheme for visually impaired visitors and enhanced screen reading access
- A new agenda management tool to increase ADA accessibility
- Improved site navigation and layout
- Customized department headers
- A revised and modern Atherton Municipal Code layout that includes easy sharing features, historical review capabilities and personalized customization options.
- New splash pages with updated graphics

The Town has also embedded multiple new external applications into the website to make information easily accessible, such as Simplicity – a social network for public agencies, communities and residents. Simplicity will allow the different organizations in Atherton to reach residents in one place and build a stronger community. Users will be able to find information and updates from the Town, the police department, school districts, community groups and more. All the Town accounts are verified so residents can trust they are getting accurate and timely information.

Along with Simplicity, the Town added the enhanced community engagement tool, SeeClickFix. SeeClickFix empowers residents to report issues, identify repair needs, share feedback and ask questions of their local government leaders. This will help the Town create efficient and transparent workflows that foster accountability, as well as create a space for citizens to play a part in keeping the community clean, safe and fun.

Check out the new and improved website today at www.ci.atherton.ca.us



DISPOSABLE FOODWARE ORDINANCE

Did you know that one of the biggest contributors to plastic pollution is the food containers that hold your next to-go meal? To address the problem of plastic pollution and protect public health, Atherton adopted the Disposable Foodware Ordinance that will start being enforced on October 1, 2022.

The Ordinance requires food facilities (e.g., schools, food trucks, cafeterias and groceries) to eliminate disposable plastic food containers and replace them with compostable alternatives made from natural fiber such as paper, sugarcane, or bamboo. Reusable food container items are also highly encouraged. Cups, bowls, take-out containers, utensils, and straws are just some of the common disposable food container items that are impacted by the new Ordinance.

If you need utensils, condiment packets, napkins, or other small side items (a.k.a. accessories) when ordering food, especially takeout, please remember to ask for them. Restaurants and other food facilities can now only give out these accessories when the customer directly asks for them and/or at dispensers that dispense one item at a time. Additionally, accessories can only be given out as separate, individual items.

Make sure your favorite restaurants and other food facilities are aware of the new requirements. Let the County of San Mateo's Foodware Aware Team know if they need assistance at smcsustainability.org/food-ware/complaint-form

WATER CONSERVATION RESOURCES

FREE Water-Efficient & Sustainable Landscaping Classes



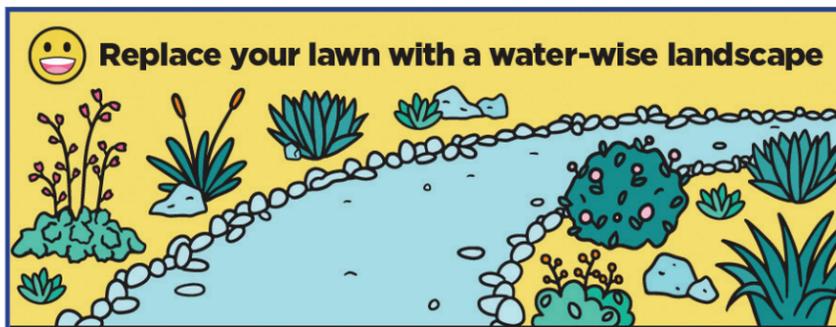
Classes begin September 28

Webinar Lectures & In-Person Workshops

Fall & Winter Edibles • Rain Barrels • Native Plants & more



For the class schedule & registration, please visit: www.bayareaconservation.org



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THE TOWN OF ATHERTON'S PLAN TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

The Town of Atherton remains dedicated to taking action against climate change and working to reduce the Town's emissions. Atherton's current action plan was presented in November 2016 and was created to be a blueprint for the community's response to the challenges posed by climate change.

On September 29, the Environmental Programs Committee met to discuss changes to the climate action plan. The Town's Sustainability Coordinator is working on updates to present back to the Committee in late 2022 / early 2023 for input and feedback.

Project Background

The climate action plan was created due to the passing of Assembly Bill 32, California's Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. This bill committed the state to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. In 2016, California legislature approved Senate Bill 32 which extends the state's targets for reducing greenhouse gas from 2020 to 2030. Under SB 32, the state will reduce greenhouse gas emissions 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. Due to these bills, Atherton joined the Local Governments for Sustainability.

To meet the goals outlined in Senate Bill 32, Atherton set out a number of objectives, including:

- Demonstrate environmental leadership
- Promote energy and water efficiency
- Promote creativity and innovation in pursuit of state environmental initiatives
- Promote sustainable development and activities
- Create programs and incentives
- Build resiliency that will be needed with continuous extreme weather events.

Since the release of the 2016 climate action plan, Atherton has been succeeding in its 2020 goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 15 percent below the 2005 levels and has now turned its attention to reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 49 percent below 2005 levels by 2030 (or 40 percent below 1990 levels).

Town Progress

In order to make tangible steps toward reducing emissions and striving for a clean energy future, Atherton joined Peninsula Clean Energy in 2015 to provide the community

with electricity from renewable, clean energy sources. With this partnership, Atherton's greenhouse gas emissions have lowered by 98% and have saved Atherton residents 1.6M dollars, as compared to 2016.

Atherton has also partnered with a new waste provider called Green Waste Recovery. Green Waste Recovery uses technology to sort through all waste, maximizing diversion from landfills. This new process will help decrease greenhouse gas emissions by 26%.

Along with these partnerships, the Town added green features to the new Town Center to make the building and construction process as sustainable as possible. With these features, the Town conducted the 1st reading and introduction of Reach Codes at the October 19, 2022 Council meeting to make all residential buildings more sustainable moving forward. This will return at the November regular meeting for adoption.

The Town is excited about the progress that has been made since creating this Action Plan back in 2016, but there is more room for improvement.

Atherton is committed to continuing the work to lower greenhouse gas emissions and being transparent about what is being done.



[Track the Town's Climate Action Plan progress!](#)



PROTECT YOURSELF FROM THEFT THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

The holiday season is meant to be the most exciting time of the year, but becoming the victim of a crime can quickly put a damper on the festivities. Unfortunately, robberies increase by approximately 20% in December, but the Atherton Police Department (APD) has resources and tips to prevent you from becoming a crime victim.

Workshops and Meetings

The APD conducts Neighborhood Prevention Workshops and Community Safety Meetings throughout the year in order to educate residents on safety best practices. The best defense against theft and burglary is an engaged and vigilant community. Residents are encouraged to talk to neighbors and get involved within the community in order to form a Neighborhood Watch Group. APD can help you work with your neighbors to improve security and reduce the risk of burglary. To learn more contact the Atherton Police Department at (650) 688-6500

Vacation House Checks

The APD also offers Vacation House Checks for those that are away for an extended period of time. Vacation House Checks is a service offered by APD to discourage home robberies by making unpredictable visits to ensure that there is no suspicious activity. While this alone cannot prevent all home break-ins, it provides another layer of defense for the Atherton community.

Residents are also advised to take adequate daily precautions as criminals are always looking to take advantage of an easy target. Ensure you are protected from becoming the next victim this holiday season, by following these tips:

- Leave exterior lights on at night to illuminate the areas immediately around your home
- If you have one, ensure that your alarm system is functioning properly and activated
- Do not leave gifts in plain view
- Do not have packages delivered at times you will not be at home to accept them
- Make sure to lock all doors and windows in your car before leaving it
- Never leave valuables in your car
- If you will be away from home, let your neighbors know so that they can look for any suspicious activity

To learn more visit:

ci.atherton.ca.us/620/Crime-Prevention

If you observe suspicious activity, please report it immediately to the Atherton Police Department.



Learn more about how to protect yourself and your property by utilizing the resources provided by the Atherton Police Department.

MEET OUR 2 NEWEST SERGEANTS – AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN POLICE WORK

Police Sergeant's are senior supervisors within the Police Department. They are the interface between management and the officers that carry out the daily day-to-day duties of the department, and they are empowered to give orders to their subordinates. Given that most sergeants are seasoned and experienced they also serve as mentors, advisors, and counselors to their officers.

Effective July 10, 2022 – Officer Taylor was promoted to Detective Sergeant.



Officer Taylor was hired as a lateral Police Officer in October of 2020 and hit the ground running. Officer Taylor is one of our newest Field Training Officers, participates on the POA Board, has become our 1967 Mustang DARE car expert and is now the new Detective Sgt. overseeing the Detective, Code Enforcement, the School Resource Officer, and Property / Evidence staff.

Officer Taylor earned his degree in Business Management, Economics from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and later attended the 144th ACSO Police Academy. After a diverse series of jobs, including corporate security, market research and SF Giants ballpark catering manager, Talor spent 7 years as a Deputy Sheriff with Stanford Department of Public Safety, the last 4 in Investigations.

Off duty, Officer Taylor enjoys camping, the SF Giants and 49ers, and never-ending house/hobby projects with his wife and 2 sons.

Effective October 4, 2022 – Officer Magami was promoted to Sergeant and will be assigned to a patrol team.



Sergeant Magami is new to the Atherton Police family and has been a positive addition to the team since his start on June 1 as an Officer. He has served in the US Army as an infantryman where he served a tour in an intelligence unit through the State National Guard. Being bilingual in Farsi, he is also a Defensive Tactics/ Firearms instructor and is Academy instructor certified. He is working on his coursework in Emergency Services Management and on his days off enjoys spending time with his wife and son.

We congratulate both of our newest Sergeants!

WILDFIRE PREVENTION – PROTECTING YOUR HOME

The Town of Atherton wants to ensure that homes and residents are prepared for fire season all year long.

Creating and maintaining defensible space is essential for increasing your home's chance of surviving a wildfire. It's the buffer that homeowners are required to create on their property between a structure and the plants, brush, trees, or other items surrounding the structure that could catch fire.

Tips to help keep your homes safe:

- Remove all dead plants, grass and weeds.
- Remove dead branches that hang over your roof. And keep branches 10 feet away from your chimney.
- Cut or mow annual grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches.

For more wildfire safety information please visit: www.readyforwildfire.org





TOWN OF ATHERTON
 80 Fair Oaks Lane
 Atherton CA 94027
www.ci.atherton.ca.us
 (650) 752-0500

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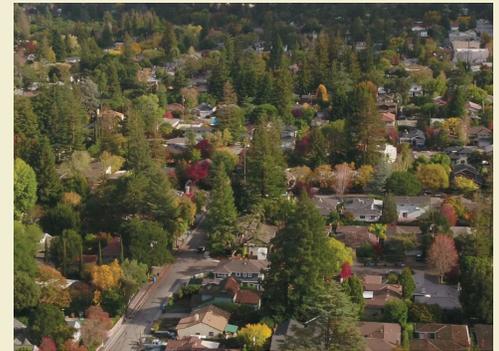
UPCOMING EVENTS



RAIL COMMITTEE MEETING
 December 6, 2022, 6:00 PM



CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION
 December 7, 2022, 4:00 PM



**PARK & RECREATION
 COMMITTEE MEETING**
 December 7, 2022, 6:00 PM



**PLANNING COMMISSION
 REGULAR MEETING**
 December 14, 2022, 6:00 PM



SPECIAL HOUSING TOWN MEETING
 DECEMBER 15, 2022, 3:00 PM



**CITY COUNCIL
 REGULAR MEETING**
 December 21, 2022, 6:00 PM

STAY IN TOUCH



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