

ATHERTON POLICE NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER #2



Greetings from the Atherton Police Department. We hope to provide you with vital and interesting information on police business, along with helpful tips and articles to keep you involved in your community.

Department Services

The Atherton Police Department provides a variety of services to its residents beyond typical patrol and traffic enforcement. The following services are examples of what the Police Department provides, free of charge:

Residential Burglary/Fire Alarm Services – Your alarm can be connected directly to the Police Department and is monitored 24/7. If your alarm is activated, officers will be dispatched within minutes. If your alarm is inadvertently set off, you can call into our Dispatch Center, provide a unique code assigned by the Police Department to your residence, and officers will be cancelled. The Police Department will also issue signs for your residence notifying the public that your residence is alarmed and connected directly to the Police Department.

Vacation Checks – Are you going to leave Town for a while? Upon your request, the Police Department will provide a check of your property during times when your residence is vacant due to business or vacation trips.

Security Checks – The Police Department can periodically do a “drive by” check of your property if you feel it is required for your security and safety.

Resident Key File – A spare key can be stored in the Police Department’s Dispatch Center if you choose. This would allow you, the resident, with proper I.D., to obtain your key should you lock yourself out of your residence. This would also allow officers responding to your residence for

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Meet Officer Potts and the D.A.R.E. Program

D.A.R.E. is a Police Officer–led series of classroom lessons that teaches children from kindergarten through 5th grade how to resist peer pressure and live productive drug and violence–free lives.

D.A.R.E. goes beyond traditional drug abuse and violence prevention programs. It gives children the skills needed to recognize and resist the subtle and overt pressures that cause them to experiment with drugs or become involved in gangs or violent activities.



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an emergency to gain access to the residence without force or possible damage. To date, we have approximately 90% of the residents' keys on file.

Home Security Program – The Atherton Police Department is aiming to bring back its Home Security Program. Upon request, an officer or CSO will visit your home and conduct a security inspection and make suggestions to maximize your home's safety.

Rapid Notify – The Police Department can pre-record any urgent or emergency message and use Rapid Notify to inform residents. An automated phone call is made Town wide or to specific neighborhoods, depending upon the type of emergency.

Fingerprints – The Police Department still provides ink fingerprinting to its residents if a resident needs to be fingerprinted for a job or if parents wish to have a kit made for their children in case of an emergency. At this time the Police Department does not have LiveScan (electronic fingerprinting) and cannot provide that service.



Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design – *(CPTED)* is based on the premise that **"The proper design and effective use of the built environment can lead to a reduction in the fear of crime and incidence of crime, and to an improvement in quality of life."** We have trained officers that will meet with you in your home and determine lighting, lock safety and even the placement of shrubs and other bushes to lower the incident of a crime occurring at your residence. You can make an appointment for this service which takes approximately 1.5 hours to complete.

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Since 2001, Officer Potts and his wife Ruth have taught hundreds of kids the importance of just saying "No." His intense program empowers kids to look at some tough choices they may have to make and the consequences of making the wrong decision.

Rewards are also part of the D.A.R.E. Program so Officer Potts conducts BBQ's and ice cream socials where kids get to interact with Police Department employees and can even share an ice cream with our K-9's Rex , Lotty and Retired K-9 Zar.

Data 911 – Mobile Computers in Patrol Cars

Police patrol vehicles have evolved over the years. Computers are now standard equipment. Mobile Data Computers (MDCs) not only provide Internet access, they give Officers real time access to information about calls for service. Because of MDCs, our Dispatcher can view our patrol vehicle's position on a map and send us sensitive information not suitable for radio transmissions.

The Atherton Police Department deployed its first generation MDC solution in 2004. The cars were equipped with laptop computers. They have served the fleet well, but have become less reliable over the years.

The next generation MDC has arrived, thanks to the generous donation of the Arrillaga-Andreessen family. Atherton now has a patrol car with state of the art MDC technology. The rest of the cars will soon be retrofitted.

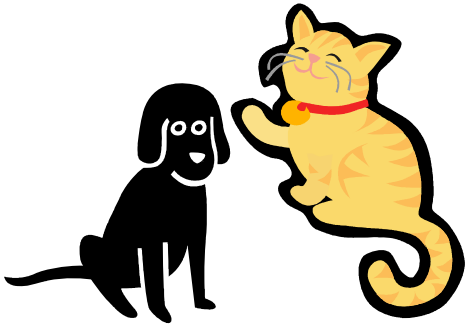
These computers, manufactured by Data911, are designed for in vehicle use. They have touch screen monitors and backlit keyboards. Whereas the laptops could become a projectile in an airbag deployment, these MDCs are installed to avoid that problem.

Our new MDCs also allow for better integration with our in car video system. The future holds out the possibility of integrating license plate reading technology and remote viewing of live patrol car video at the Dispatch station.

The 21st century has finally arrived in the Atherton Patrol Vehicle. The Police Department cannot overstate its gratitude to the Arrillaga-Andreessens for making it all possible.

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RIMS Pet information – The Police Department can put your pets' information into our computer database in case they ever go missing. Should Officers find your pet away from home, this information can help officers identify your pet. Is your pet micro chipped? The Police Department has a microchip reader to help ensure every pet returns home safely.



Pharmaceutical Drop off Box – For a few years now the Atherton Police Department has had a white pharmaceutical box. This is designed to properly dispose of any prescription medication. Over the counter medications can still be disposed of at home in a regular trash can. However, the Pharmaceutical box is not designed for disposal of syringes.

Defibrillators – Atherton Police Department still prides itself in being the first police department on the West Coast to carry defibrillators in its fleet. The Police Department has also expanded this to include defibrillators at the schools within the Town's limits.

And finally, do not forget that the Atherton Police Department has a front counter which is staffed with a friendly dispatcher who is available 24/7. The front door is locked at night for safety reasons, but ring the buzzer and the Dispatcher will help you.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS ...ARE YOU READY?

If you want to learn more information about Disaster Preparedness, disaster supplies or how to become a volunteer in your neighborhood to help out, please contact **Scott Barnum** of the **Atherton Preparedness Team** at microbarny@msn.com.

WHAT IS P.O.S.T.?

The Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) was established by the Legislature in 1959 to set minimum selection and training standards for California law enforcement.

POST funding comes from the Peace Officers' Training Fund (POTF). The POTF receives monies from the State Penalty Assessment Fund, which in turn receives monies from penalty assessments on criminal and traffic fines. Therefore, the POST program is funded primarily by persons who violate the laws that peace officers are trained to enforce. **No tax dollars are used to fund the POST program.**

The POST program is voluntary and incentive-based. Participating agencies agree to abide by the standards established by POST. The more than 600 agencies in the POST program are eligible to receive the Commission's services and benefits, such as job-related assessment tools, research into improved officer selection standards, management counseling services, the development of new training courses, reimbursement for training, and quality leadership training programs. POST also awards professional certificates to recognize peace officer achievement and proficiency.

What does this mean to Atherton Officers? To be hired as an officer takes several months which include an oral board examination, interview with the Chief, completing and passing the Personal History Statement form, passing an intense Background Investigation, Polygraph exam, Psychological exam and medical tests. For official training, every sworn officer has attended the Basic Police Academy which to date is over 800 hours of instructional training lasting approximately 6 months. Once graduation occurs, our probation period is 18 months long and also includes a Field Training Program which trains new recruits to be able to drive as a solo officer.

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For Emergencies
DIAL 9-1-1

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

<http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/police>

GET TIMELY INFORMATION IN AN EMERGENCY

SMC Alert, a free* alert-notification system, is used to contact you during urgent or emergency situations. The alert provides useful information and updates by sending text messages to your:

- ✓ Email accounts (home, work, school, etc.)
- ✓ Cell phones
- ✓ Pagers
- ✓ Smartphones or other handheld devices

Here's How It Works

When an incident or emergency occurs, authorized senders can instantly notify you. SMC Alert is your personal connection to real-time updates, instructions on where to go, what to do or what not to do, who to contact, and other important information. LOG ON TO <http://www.smcready.org/Community/Alert.html>.

*Registration is free; but text message charges may apply depending on your carrier and plan and will not be reimbursed by cities, towns, or the county. When registering your cellular device, make sure it is capable of receiving email-generated text messages. Email accounts that have spam filters or blast email protection should be modified to allow alerts from SMC Alert.

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ATHERTON RESIDENT
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