



ATHERTONIAN

AN ATHERTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

2022 FALL EDITION



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ATHERTON ELECTIONS 2022



Statewide
General Election
November 8, 2022

The City Council has three (3) terms that expire as of December 2022. The Nomination period for prospective candidates closed on August 17 at 5 p.m. Four candidates applied and qualified for the ballot for the November 8 General Election. The Town's website has information regarding the November 8 General Election, including Candidate Statements, Election Calendar, Voter Registration Information, and information regarding campaign signage.

We encourage all residents to visit the Town Elections page at <https://bit.ly/3Jlolk2> to review qualified candidates and for elections results. The Town will have an indoor dropbox once Vote-by-Mail ballots have been sent out, which will begin on Monday, October 24.

Voters will have the option to vote in person at Vote Centers that will be opened throughout San Mateo County. There will be three (3) Vote Centers opened on October 10, 2022. The closest to the Town will be the County Offices at 555 County Center Plaza in Redwood City. The County will open the Vote Center at Menlo College (El Camino Hall - 1000 El Camino Real) for 4 days from November 5-8. Voters in San Mateo County can vote at any Vote Center Countywide. To learn more about voting locations, voter registration, or other Statewide Election items visit the San Mateo County Elections website at www.smcacre.org/elections.

CITY MANAGER'S MESSAGE

At the July 27 Special Meeting, the City Council reviewed the final modifications to the Town's initial DRAFT Housing Element and authorized staff to submit the document to the State's Housing and Community Development Department for initial review. The final changes to the DRAFT Housing Element emphasized the Town's reliance on the production and rental of accessory dwelling units throughout the community, lot splits under Senate Bill 9, and the production of housing at schools for faculty and teachers. Together, these efforts help the Town tell its unique story to the State as the Town moves toward compliance with the Regional Housing Needs Allocation mandate.

The public engagement process for the 2023-2031 Housing Element began in 2020 after the Town received its housing allocation mandate as part of the State's process. While there was public engagement throughout the process, the community input intensified once a Draft Housing Element was produced and distributed for public comment. Thoughtful and engaged comments from the community helped the City Council shape the changes to the DRAFT Housing Element before submission to the State.

Once staff incorporated the changes from the July 27 meeting, the DRAFT Housing Element was submitted to the State and posted to the Town's Housing Element Update website <https://bit.ly/3zFrPEw>

Submission of the Housing Element to the State for review is the first step in what could be a long process. The DRAFT Element tells the Town's story of land use opportunities and emphasizes that the most significant barrier to the production of affordable housing in Atherton is the high cost of land. Most large-scale affordable housing projects receive some sort of subsidy that allows the development to pencil out for the developer. But when you start with a much higher cost of land, that subsidy, if any, is not enough to make that larger development feasible. The Town believes that a more distributed approach using accessory dwelling units (ADUs) will be more successful. However, even though the Town believes that a highly successful ADU effort can demonstrate that the Town supports affordable housing, the State may not agree.

So, the Town anticipates that the State's initial comments will require the Town to back it up or alter the approach. That may require more public engagement to work through solutions. We anticipate starting that engagement in late September 2022.



NEW TOWN CENTER OPENS TO THE PUBLIC

The Town is excited to announce that the new Town Center is now open to the public! The new Town Center houses the Atherton Library and the new City Hall. It provides residents and staff a fresh place to gather, learn, play and engage in civic work in order to improve the Atherton community.



Plans for the new Town Center began in 2014 when the City Council accepted the Master Plan for the Atherton Town Center. The overall objective of the project was to build a location that provides workspaces for the Administrative, Police, Building and Public Works departments, while simultaneously providing an engaging environment for residents to conduct civic business. The project's goal was also to preserve Atherton's local charm and create a modern building that is capable of meeting all of the Town's shifting demands.

The two-story, 28,000-square-foot building allows the Town to consolidate previously scattered offices across multiple facilities. The new building brings together Town administration, public works, post

office, community meeting spaces, police facilities and Council Chambers under the same roof. This reduces operational inefficiencies for Town staff and eliminates the inconvenience for residents trying to obtain multiple Town services. The Town Center serves as a true center for civic life that the Town was previously missing.

The building has several features that are designed to maximize its potential for civic engagement. The new, larger Council Chambers creates space for more participation and function as a meeting room, conference facility and emergency center, if necessary. At the joining of the building's two wings, a public lobby serves to welcome visitors. Additionally, the Council recently moved ahead with a plan to add a small café adjacent to the library area to further upgrade the space's ability to bring community members together in a central location. Mademoiselle Colette is building out the space to be open in late fall.

In accordance with the sustainability goals of the Town, landscaped space and natural environment drove planning and design. The site is organized so that the buildings relate to one another as well as the existing mature oak trees which help anchor the campus. The trees remain a meaningful symbol for the Town and an ecological resource for migratory birds.

The Town thanks the public for their input on the ultimate design of the building and looks forward to seeing community members at the new Town Center!

NEW AND IMPROVED TRAIN STATION CLOCK

The Atherton Train Station Clock was installed in May 1993. Late Atherton resident, Bob Simonds, used an old Toledo scale for the clock body, had the clock faces custom made, and installed the clockworks. When he passed away in 2004, the care and maintenance were assumed by Sandy Crittenden and former resident, Shirley Carlsen.

The Clock Committee is asking for interested residents to be part of the Train Station Clock Committee. The duties will include learning about the workings of the clock, maintenance and care of the clock tower, and keeping the clock working and on time.

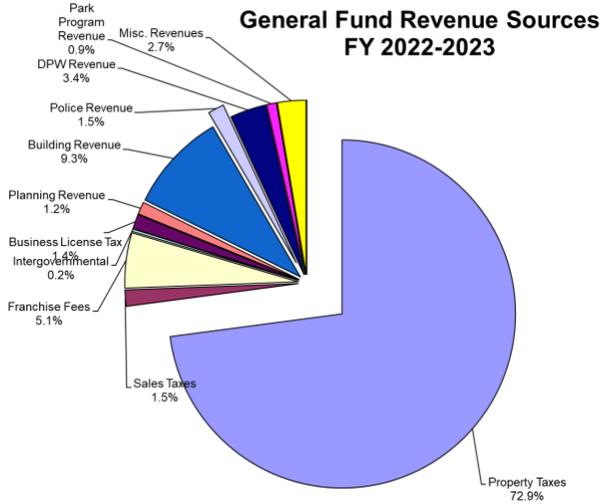
The time commitment for committee members is minimal, but will be asked to be available for regular maintenance and repairs when needed. You must be able to climb a ladder and have knowledge and use of regular hand tools.

Interested? Contact Sandy Crittenden (650) 321-7343, [hcrit3@gmail](mailto:hcrit3@gmail.com), or around town.

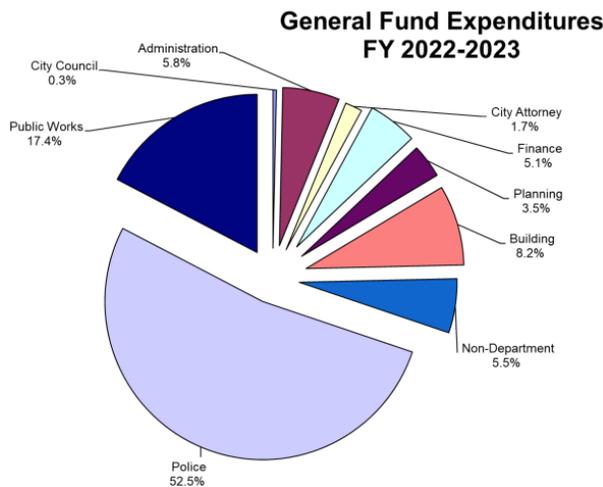


THE TOWN OF ATHERTON ADOPTS FISCAL YEAR 2022-23 BUDGET

On June 15, the City Council adopted the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23 budget, establishing the blueprint for Town services and projects for the next fiscal year.



The total General Fund revenue is projected at \$19.58 million showing that the Town is in strong financial standing with a stable General Fund that maintains core services for the community. Property tax revenues remain the Town's highest estimated revenue for the next fiscal year, at 74% of the total General Fund revenues, exceeding the original estimates outlined in the budget for FY 2021-22. Building Fees, Franchise Fees and Miscellaneous Fees, including COVID-19 Relief, make up a significant portion of the remaining revenue funds.



Overall General Fund expenditures are estimated at \$17.72 million. Expenditures continue to be evaluated based on operational needs to provide consistent services to the community. Staff reviewed operational expenditures and known expenditure adjustments

were incorporated wherever possible based on upcoming contract costs, projected dues/fees for member agencies, as well as corresponding changes in rate adjustments for CalPERS, health costs, and Workers' Compensation rates.

Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) continue to be a top priority for Council with a budget of over \$5.9 million. The CIP projects for FY 2022-23 will focus on:

- Annual Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation program
- Green Infrastructure - minor projects
- Contribution to the Bayfront Canal Collaborative Project
- Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan project implementations
- Atherton Station Building Redesign
- Holbrook Palmer Park Access and Circulation Project

Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF) is considered a vital revenue component for the use of one-time capital projects, reduction of any long-term liabilities, and Town CIP projects and programs. Allocation is reviewed by the Council as part of the budget process. Once staff determines the amount of ERAF to be received, a recommendation is made to the Council for its use as part of the coming fiscal year budget. During the last several years, ERAF was instrumental in funding for the Town Center construction project. Staff set future ERAF at \$2.31 million per year. This will be monitored each year through the budget process.

The budget also includes the final close-out of the multi-year construction project for the new Town Center. The FY 2022-23 Budget includes estimates for costs associated with the new Civic Campus.

The Town of Atherton is in a strong financial position due to prudent policies and conservative spending. For a detailed overview and to learn more about the budget process, please view the Annual Budget Report at <https://bit.ly/3vZqgrt>



ATHERTON DRAFTS THE HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE

The Town drafted its updated Housing Element for the 2023-2031 cycle. The Town is updating its Housing Element of the General Plan to receive certification from the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).

An update of the Housing Element is required of all California local governments every 8 years. The Housing Element is a State-mandated policy document that guides the implementation of various programs to meet future housing needs for residents of all income levels. During this process, the California HCD determines a targeted housing number known as the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA). The Town and all other San Francisco Bay Area cities must have the Housing Element submitted to the state by January 31, 2023.

The process of updating the Housing Element allows the Town to evaluate the existing and projected housing needs of all economic segments of Atherton. This process focuses on looking into existing policies and programs aimed at the preservation, improvement and development of housing and identifying new priorities. In addition, the update includes an analysis of housing needs, statements of goals and policies and an estimate of the number of housing units the Town expects to be developed, improved and maintained in the local housing stock.

While the previous Housing Element provided a strong foundation for the 2023-31 edition, the updated Housing Element looks to address several new areas. The updated Housing Element lays out nine goals with objectives and policies towards which the Town will strive to meet within the next eight years:

- Facilitate the private development of housing to meet a portion of the “above moderate” income housing needs.

- Use accessory dwelling units to meet a substantiation portion of the Town’s “moderate” to “very low” income housing needs.
- Facilitate the development of faculty and student housing on or near school campuses to meet a portion of the “moderate” and “very low” income housing needs.
- Facilitate the development of additional affordable housing at the Calwater Bear Gulch reservoir site.
- Promote private efforts to conserve and improve Atherton’s existing housing supply.
- Encourage special consideration for the maintenance and expansion of housing opportunities for handicapped and “low to moderate” income and homeless persons.
- Meet the needs of seniors, in light of the pending growth of the population in San Mateo County.
- Continue to promote housing opportunities for all persons regardless of race, sex, marital status, ancestry, national origin or color.
- Support efforts to affirmatively further fair housing in Atherton.

While the Town is committed to addressing the housing needs of community members, it is notable that the population of Atherton has decreased by 2.3% over the last eight years and the Town still shows a smaller percentage of lower-income households compared to the rest of the County and region. During the process of this Housing Element, it was clear that Atherton stands out for its high property values and high land costs and that these impact the ability to create affordable housing in its traditional sense.

For additional information on the Town’s Housing Element process, visit <https://bit.ly/3zFrPEw>

HOLBROOK-PALMER PARK NEWS & INFORMATION

The Town welcomed Brightview as the new landscape maintenance contractor in April 2022 to provide Town-wide services, including maintenance in Holbrook-Palmer Park. Brightview offers a full range of services including general maintenance, design, installation, irrigation, tree services, and horticulture consulting. Brightview is committed to improvement through systematic development of priorities for safety, bike path conditions, shrub care, tree care, water basin, sidewalks planters and aesthetics.

Holbrook-Palmer Park has approximately 860 trees within the 22-acre parcel. There are over 100 species of trees within the park including native Oak trees and other unique species. Almost 500 of those species are smaller trees and about 68 are larger. The park also houses the large Redwood, located near the Main House, which has a large donated Staghorn Fern connected to the trunk.

Holbrook-Palmer Park is located at 150 Watkins Avenue and is open one-half hour before sunrise to one-half after sunset.

The Town looks forward to working with Brightview to continue to beautify Holbrook-Palmer Park!

For questions, contact Town Arborist and Park Manager, Sally Bentz at (650) 752-0526 or sbentz@ci.atherton.ca.us



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS IN ATHERTON

In order to alleviate the demand of Police and other first responders after a disaster, the Town of Atherton encourages you to prepare your household and family to be safe and resilient, and 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. A.D.A.P.T. invites you to visit their YouTube Channel, where they address a variety of importation preparedness topics.



The Town will be hosting an Emergency Preparedness Drill at Holbrook-Palmer Park on September 10 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The focus will be on learning tangible skills such as locating and turning off a gas supply and water to a house and applying a tourniquet to a person.



ATHERTON LIBRARY NEWS & EVENTS

You can reserve a computer and a WiFi hotspot/Laptop combination at the Atherton Library. The library also provides access to reserve 3D printers, sewing machines and other equipment. To learn more visit www.smcl.org/locations/1A/



WEEKLY AND UPCOMING EVENTS:

Preschool Storytime

Every Thursday from 10:30 – 11:30 AM

Get ready to learn and play with your little one! We have songs, wiggles, and stories that are all developmentally appropriate for preschoolers ages 3-5. Let's make learning fun as you play alongside your kids!

Sign up today: <https://bit.ly/3R1qypb>

Toddler Storytime

Every Tuesday from 10:30 – 11:30 AM

Get ready to learn and play with your little one! We have songs, wiggles, and stories. Come play with us! This event will be held in an outdoor space at the Atherton library. Please bring your own blanket/seating, sun protection and face masks.

Sign up today: <https://bit.ly/3QK8Hga>

Latin Jazz Youth Ensemble of San Francisco

September 24, 2022 at 3:00 – 4:00 PM

The Latin Jazz Youth Ensemble of San Francisco (LJYE) is a performing group of talented musicians ages ten to 18. They play Latin jazz classics and original compositions at a high level.

Sign up today: <https://bit.ly/3wjWM0s>



GET TO KNOW YOUR ROUTE DRIVER

A **typical day** starts early. I clock in at 5:30 a.m. before conducting my safety checks and then heading to Atherton to collect yard trimmings.

I start my route by servicing schools. Servicing busy areas first not only saves time and conserves fuel, but it is also safer. I am always on high alert. I am constantly aware of bikes, pedestrians, and cars backing up.

I then move on to quieter streets. I drive a fully automated collection vehicle, so I can stay in the truck while the arm grabs, dumps and returns the cart. I do get out of the truck if I need to clean up incidental fallen debris, or if a resident has backyard service.

After the truck is full, I drive back to San Jose to our Materials Recovery Facility to dump the material. From there, the material will be processed and sent to a composting facility. I usually dump material twice in one day. My day typically ends around 2:00 p.m. back in San Jose.

The best part of my day is seeing the kids who love watching the trucks. Just a simple smile and wave makes a meaningful impact on my day.

My favorite memories from the past 15 years are my interactions with plenty of customers that have thanked me in a meaningful way, like posting signs on carts and in windows, especially through COVID-19.

The highlight of my work is knowing I am doing something positive for the world while being able to take care of my family. The material I collect is diverted from the landfill. The yard trimmings become a new product and have a new life through composting. It is rewarding to know I am helping my kid's future by doing something that helps the environment.



LEAF BLOWER BAN TO BE CONSIDERED IN ATHERTON

Starting this fall, Atherton residents may be limited on the use of gas-powered leaf blowers. In accordance with the Town's Climate Action Plan, Atherton is looking to ban the use of gas-powered leaf blowers.

Restricting the use of gas-powered leaf blowers will have a positive impact on the Town's air quality and quality of life. Due to their high speeds, leaf blowers can kick up excess particulates and contribute to worsening air quality. Gas-powered leaf blowers also contribute a disproportionate amount of carbon emissions compared to their size. Carbon monoxide emissions play a role in altering the chemical balance of the atmosphere, are toxic to humans and are one of the biggest sources of pollutants in the Bay Area.

Atherton's Climate Action Plan establishes a framework for reducing the Town's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. With the implementation of the leaf blower ban, the Town is able to work towards the goal to reduce GHG emissions to 49 percent below 2005 levels by 2030.

For more information on the Town's plan to fight climate change, visit <https://bit.ly/3T95wQI>



SAVING WATER EVERY DAY NOW MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER!



As the drought worsens, conserving water at home—both indoors and out—is more important than ever. And, California Water Service is here to help. Here are some easy ways customers can save:

- Check your faucets for leaks. Get a free conservation kit with high-efficiency shower heads, hose nozzles, and faucet aerators that let you conserve water without even thinking about it.
- Check your toilets, too. The kit also has leak detection dye tablets that help pinpoint problems. If your older toilet uses more water to flush, you can get a rebate on approved high-efficiency models.
- Wait for a full load to wash laundry or dishes. Save water and energy by running those machines less often. If you get a new clothes washer, Cal Water also has rebates on high-

efficiency models.

- Irrigate outdoors on your designated days between 6 p.m. and 8 a.m. Addresses ending in odd numbers may water on Tuesday and Saturday, and addresses ending in even numbers water on Wednesday and Sunday.
- Take advantage of Cal Water’s free Smart Landscape Tune-Up Program. It includes an irrigation system evaluation plus installation of efficient devices and repair of irrigation leaks at no cost to customers.
- Replace your thirsty lawn with native plants. Get a rebate of \$3 per square foot of lawn removed through the lawn-to-garden program, if at least 50% is converted to California-friendly, drought-tolerant landscaping.
- Upgrade your irrigation system. Our spray-to-drip program provides a rebate of \$0.50 for every square foot of landscaping converted from standard spray irrigation to a drip system.

To learn more about any of these programs, rebates, and resources, visit calwater.com/drought.

NEW REACH CODES TO BE CONSIDERED TO MEET PUBLIC HEALTH GOALS

The Town will be considering an Ordinance adopting Building Codes and Reach Codes in October 2022. The new Reach Codes would consist of building energy codes that “reach” beyond the state’s minimum requirements for energy for residential and commercial buildings and construction. The Town will consider an “all-electric with exceptions” approach.

If adopted, the new guidelines will support the expansion of building electrification and electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure to reduce the community’s dependence on fossil fuels and will require that new buildings come equipped with all-electric appliances and EV charging. With these new regulations, it is estimated that two tons of CO2 emissions will be avoided in Atherton every year.

By implementing the new reach codes, the Town will be able to further lead the way on clean air, climate solutions and renewable energy economic development. The Town’s infrastructure will also be ready to support electrical vehicles, allowing Athertonians to move forward and transition away from gas-powered vehicles.

To learn more regarding the Town’s and surrounding area’s reach code initiatives, visit BayAreaReachCodes.org.



WELCOME OFFICER BOBBY MAGAMI!

It is the Town's pleasure to welcome our newest Police Officer Bobby Magami to the Atherton family. His first day was June 1 in the Field Training program.



Shortly after graduating from Gunn High School in Palo Alto, Bobby served in the United States Army as an infantryman. Being bilingual in Farsi/English, he served a tour in an intelligence unit through the state National Guard.

He was hired as a Police Officer by the City of East Palo Alto in 2009. As his schedule permits, he has been taking coursework in order to obtain a degree in Emergency Services Management through Union Institute and University.

On his days off he enjoys spending time with his wife and 3-year-old son.

Officer Magami has completed his field training effective July 6 and is now a solo Officer.



BACK TO SCHOOL TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

The Atherton Police Department has a specialized unit of motorcycle officers who primarily focus on reducing traffic collisions and improving the adherence to traffic laws within the Town of Atherton. In preparation for back to school traffic, motor officers and all patrol officers will increase their presence around schools, including during drop-off/pick-up times.

The Police Department encourages you to follow these tips to maintain the safety of drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians:

1. Please travel at or below the posted speed limit. The majority of streets within the Town of Atherton are posted at 25 miles per hour. Traveling at the posted speed limit will help reduce collisions, which will reduce injuries and property damage.
2. Remember that a bicycle is considered a vehicle, and a bicyclist must obey all of the laws and regulations which apply to a vehicle, including speed limits, stop signs, and red lights. Also remember that a bicycle must travel with the flow of traffic (in the same direction), not against it (in the opposite direction).
3. If you walk on the streets within the Town of Atherton, please walk facing on-coming traffic, not with your back to on-coming traffic. This will allow you to see vehicles that are approaching and may give you time to move out of the way to avoid a possible collision.



**MENLO PARK
FIRE DISTRICT**



**MENLO PARK
FIRE DISTRICT**



FIRST AID & + CPR TRAINING

FREE TO THE COMMUNITY

FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

Learn the following skills !

- CPR/AED for adults, children and infants.
- Bleed control management.
- Airway obstruction/ suspected poisonings.



REGISTER AT :  www.menlofirecert.com



COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS TRAINING

BECOME RED CROSS READY in 90 MINUTES !

Second Wednesday of the Month

- ✓ Learn how to make a disaster plan and emergency pack.
- ✓ Learn how to respond during and after a disaster.
- ✓ Receive a disaster kit, radio and family preparedness flip-chart.



REGISTER AT:
www.menlofirecert.com



Registration Open!

DO YOU know what to do when disaster strikes?

How can you help yourself and loved ones before emergency crews can respond? CERT has answers!



**Sign Up For The Next CERT Basic
Training Class!**

Class Starts October 8, 2022



Class will be held over three Saturdays at our facility in East Palo Alto.



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

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UPCOMING EVENT(S)



CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION
 September 6, 2022, 4:00 PM



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



ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS COMMITTEE MEETING
 September 15, 2022, 1:00 PM



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
 September 21, 2022, 6:00 PM



PLANNING COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
 September 28, 2022, 6:00 PM

STAY IN TOUCH



TOWN OF ATHERTON • 650-752-0500 • WWW.CI.ATHERTON.CA.US

