



ATHERTONIAN

AN ATHERTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Photo by Bruce Damonte



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JOIN ATHERTON'S LOVE OUR EARTH FESTIVAL ON APRIL 22ND!

The Town of Atherton invites you to join the Love Our Earth Festival on April 22nd at Menlo-Atherton High School from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.! The Town of Atherton and the Atherton Environmental Programs Committee are partnering with cities, schools and community organizations across the peninsula to bring community members this free event.

The festival will feature a Green Vendor Fair where attendees can learn from over 50 local organizations about educational resources, local rebate programs, training opportunities and innovative new technologies to help take climate action to the next level. For those interested in electric vehicles or bicycles, don't miss the showcase of dealer and owner vehicles and e-bikes on display.

In addition, attendees will have the opportunity to enjoy live music, listen to inspiring speakers and view art displays.

For kids, there will be activities, crafts, storytime and interactive animal exhibits provided by local museums, elementary schools, libraries and small businesses.

For those who work up an appetite exploring all of these activities, there will be a sustainable, vegan food marketplace featuring cooking demonstrations, free samples and a variety of food from Anne-Marie Bonneau (The Zero Waste Chef), Zaida's Kitchen, Casita Vegana, Nixta Foods and many more.

Goodwill will also be at the event to accept items and ensure that they are reused in a sustainable way.

Register now for this exciting event at www.tinyurl.com/EarthFest23.

LOVE OUR EARTH FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 11 AM-4PM MENLO-ATHERTON HIGH SCHOOL

FOOD MARKETPLACE, COOKING DEMOS, LIVE MUSIC, FAMILY ACTIVITIES, GOODWILL DONATION COLLECTION, BIKE REPAIR, VENDORS, AND MORE!



TINYURL.COM/EARTHFEST23





ACHIEVING HOUSING GOALS WITH ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS

One of the strategies Atherton is deploying to achieve its housing goals involves constructing and leasing Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). As part of this effort, the Town is collaborating with the Human Investment Project (HIP) Housing, local schools, universities and employers to launch a new ADU rental program.

Whether you already possess an ADU, are considering building one, or are somewhere in between, it is crucial to learn how to rent out your unit to a member of our community.

The Town and HIP Housing are hosting a free informational workshop to educate ADU owners on the following:

- The HIP Housing organization, a non-profit that connects home providers with home seekers
- How to interact with local employers and schools to identify potential renters such as teachers, students, and other Atherton community members
- Resources available from the Atherton Planning and Building Departments
- Local ADU organizations, architects, and builders that can help you design + build

YOUR ADU CAN CHANGE A LIFE. RENT WITH HIP HOUSING.

Join a free Informational Workshop to learn about options for building and renting an ADU in Atherton—whether you have one, are looking to build, or are somewhere in-between. For more Information & to register, scan the QR code on this page or visit <https://tinyurl.com/HIPinAtherton>.

Thursday, April 6th
5:30-7 PM
Atherton City Council Chambers
80 Fair Oaks Lane



www.HIPhousing.org | (650) 348-6660

MEET THE NEW FACES OF ATHERTON

The Town of Atherton welcomes three new employees who will work to support residents and government operations.

Karena Shum—Police Officer



Atherton Police welcomes their newest lateral Police Officer: Karena Shum

Police Officer Karena Shum started with the Town on January 25, 2023 in the Field Training Program (FTP). Ms. Shum will be able to work as a solo officer after she completes her training, which takes

approximately 4-5 weeks. Ms. Shum was born and raised in South San Francisco with her parents and two sisters. Three years ago, she married her husband, who is currently a Police Officer in the Town of Colma.

She obtained her bachelor's degree in Communication with a minor in Psychology from UC Davis. After college, she started her career in law enforcement. She has been a police officer for approximately 8.5 years and previously worked for the Brisbane and Hillsborough Police Departments where she served as a school resource officer, field training officer, K9 officer, public information officer, and watch commander.

In her spare time, she enjoys running, traveling, spoiling her dog and spending time with family. Join us in welcoming Karena Shum to the APD family!

Field Training Program

The FTP is designed to provide each police officer with the necessary instruction and guidance to meet the standards of an agency. The Academy prepares the officers through classroom instructions and simulation exercises. A typical Police Academy is 6 months and 888 hours.

Tony Enochson—Public Works Maintenance Manager

Tony Enochson started with the Town as the Public Works Maintenance Manager on January 30, 2023. Tony's responsibilities are varied and include managing

the maintenance of Town infrastructure and facilities through various contract vendors and personnel. Tony started his work in Atherton by taking over the Town Center buildings, systems and landscaping, streets and storm drains. He will also manage the maintenance of Holbrook-Palmer Park and its buildings. In addition, he will also be overseeing streetlight and traffic signal maintenance, street sweeping and other Town maintenance responsibilities.

Tony comes to the Town from the private sector where he worked as a facility manager for a biotech company before starting his own business in the instrument controls space. His favorite part of this new role is meeting Atherton residents and helping them. He's looking forward to meeting you around Town, at our facilities, or at one of our upcoming community events.

Welcome to the Town of Atherton, Tony!

Rachael Londer—Management Analyst II



In November 2022, Rachael Londer started with the Town as a Management Analyst II in the City Manager's Office where she is focused on sustainability, including leading the update of the Climate Action Plan and facilitating the Environmental Programs Committee.

Additionally, she is working on public information and communications, emergency preparedness, and Town administration. Her favorite part of this new role is getting to work closely with residents to design new initiatives to create a more connected, sustainable community.

Previously, Rachael served as the Senior Sustainability Specialist in the County of San Mateo's Office of Sustainability. She holds a Master of Library and Information Science from San Jose State University and a Bachelor of Science from Cal Poly Humboldt where her primary focus was Environmental Science.

Join us in welcoming Rachel to the Town of Atherton!

ATHERTON'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

This year marks 100 years since Atherton was incorporated, giving us all a reason to come together and celebrate the Town's history and accomplishments!

Join us in planning Atherton's Centennial Celebration by participating in the 100-year Celebration Standing Committee meetings. Meetings are held as needed at City Hall. To find the latest agendas, visit www.ci.atherton.ca.us/641/Agendas-Minutes.

Residents are also encouraged to share ideas for activities and events to help make this centennial memorable on our survey here: www.surveymonkey.com/r/CentennialCelebrations.



Share your thoughts and ideas on the Town's 100-year Celebration Survey



ALL-ELECTRIC REACH CODES WORK TO CREATE HEALTHIER HOMES

Whether you are building a new home or remodeling your current home, you can enjoy living in the future by going all-electric.

The Town of Atherton has taken a bold step in the fight against climate change by implementing an All-Electric Reach Code with Exceptions and Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging requirements. This new code, which went into effect on January 1, 2023, sets building standards for new construction in Town to encourage electrification. By eliminating certain natural gas appliances, Atherton aims to reduce emissions and promote public health.

Under the code, new residential buildings may no longer include gas-powered water heaters, furnaces, dryers, pool heaters or boilers. While non-electric cooking appliances, fireplaces and outdoor firepits are still allowed in residential buildings, accessory dwelling units (ADUs), guest houses and pool houses must be all-electric, with no exceptions. Among other exceptions, residents will still be allowed to use emergency gas or diesel generators.

In addition to the building standards, Atherton has also adopted EV Charging requirements for residential properties. New single-family dwellings must have one dedicated EV Ready Level 1 circuit and one dedicated EV Ready Level 2 circuit. ADUs with off-street parking must provide either a Level 1 EV Ready Circuit, a Level 2 EV Ready Circuit or an electric vehicle charging station. These requirements will help Atherton prepare for an all-electric vehicle future that is rapidly approaching.

By adopting these new requirements, Atherton is demonstrating its commitment to combating climate change and becoming a leader in the fight against climate change.

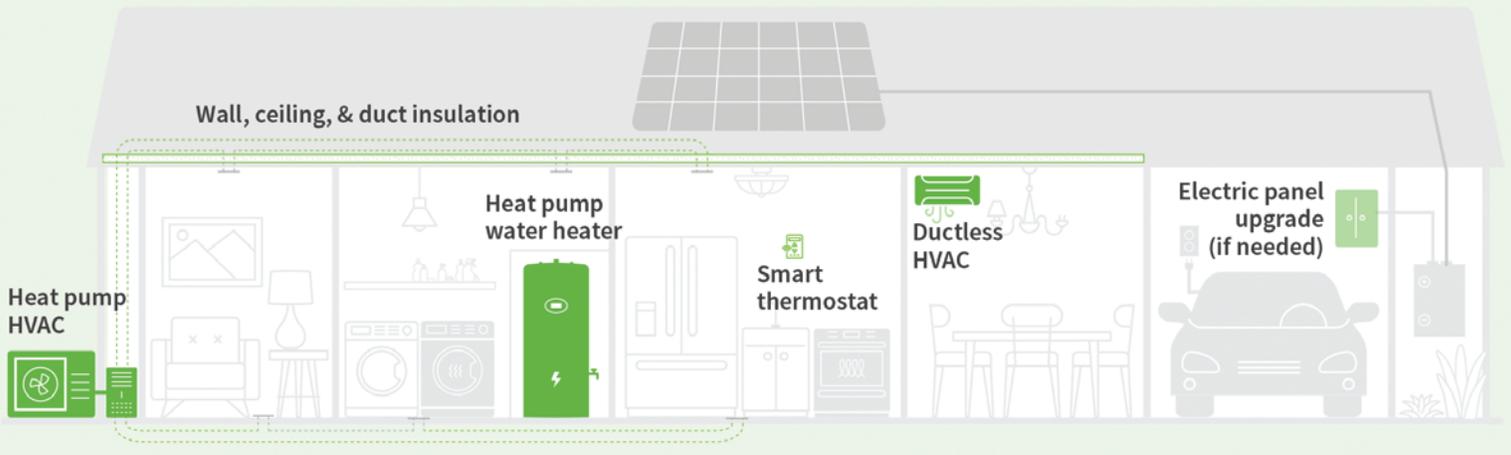
For questions regarding the All-Electric Reach Code with Exceptions or the new EV Charging Ordinance, please contact the Town of Atherton at (650) 752-0560.





Get thousands of dollars in rebates and zero interest loans to switch from gas to electric!

Our programs help you switch from gas to electricity, reduce emissions and make your home safer and healthier. As a Peninsula Clean Energy customer, the electricity you use is 100% clean.



Zero percent loans up to \$10,000

To qualify for a zero percent loan, your projects *must include either a heat pump water heater or a heat pump for heating and air conditioning*. Other eligible measures include electric panel upgrades (if needed for the heat pumps), smart thermostats, and insulation and weatherization for walls, ceilings, and ducts. Visit PenCleanEnergy.com/zero.

Heat pump water heater (HPWH) rebate up to \$3,000

Don't wait until your water heater fails catastrophically: if your water heater is at least 10 years old or you are planning a remodel consider a HPWH. Nearly 60% of the methane gas used by homes is for heating water. Heat pump water heaters are clean, safe, all-electric, and more than 3X as efficient as gas water heaters. Learn more at PenCleanEnergy.com/water-heating.

Heat pump heating and air conditioning rebate up to \$3,500 Planning to install air conditioning, remodel, have an old furnace, or just want to switch from methane gas? If so, consider a heat pump heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system: it provides both heating and cooling. Heat pumps are clean, safe, and all-electric and more than 3X as efficient as gas heaters. Visit PenCleanEnergy.com/heating-and-cooling.

Loan terms

Maximum loan: \$10,000

APR: 0%

Credit check: None

Repayment term:

2 to 10 years. You choose!

Learn more about our incentives and clean electric homes at PenCleanEnergy.com/All-Electric-Homes or scan the QR code:



CLIMATE-FRIENDLY NEW TOWN CENTER IS RECOGNIZED

The Town of Atherton is committed to continuing its environmental stewardship and reaching its sustainability goals. To achieve their goals, the Town started to upgrade its Town Center with the construction of a new low-carbon, zero net energy-ready, all-electric Town Library, located inside the Town Center.

As a sustainable building model in the region, the Town Center's Library was recognized for two awards:

- Sustainable San Mateo County and AIA SMC: Building Honorable Mention
- Peninsula Clean Energy: New Buildings Institute Annual All-Electric Leadership Awards in the category of "All-Electric Outstanding Commercial Project."

The library, completed in June 2022, is a 9,601-square-foot public library, all-electric and wired for a 100kW solar system that is intended to supply all of the library's energy needs.

The Town Library will be recognized and receive these awards at the 'Sustainable San Mateo County's 24th Annual Awards Celebration.'

"Winning these awards is a great recognition of our Town's past efforts to fight climate change and become a more sustainable town," said Mayor Bill Widmer. "We hope these awards inspire cities in the region and beyond to join us in creating a more sustainable future."

To learn more about these awards, visit www.sustainablesanmateo.org/2023awardscelebration.

Photos by Bruce Damonte



GEARING UP FOR CLEANER AIR WITH A PROPOSED BAN ON LEAF BLOWERS

The State recently adopted legislation to ban the sale of small off-road engines (SORE) beginning January 1, 2024. Small off-road engines are spark-ignition engines with rated power at or below 19 kilowatts (25 horsepower). Engines that use diesel fuel and engines that are used in stationary equipment, including standby generators, are not subject to the SORE regulations. Examples of some residential landscaping equipment with engines that are subject to SORE regulations banning the sale include edgers, hedge trimmers, lawn mowers, leaf blowers, and riding mowers.

In response to the State's action to ban the sale of such equipment, local jurisdictions are adopting regulations that ban the use of such equipment. At the April 19, 2023, City Council meeting, the City Council will consider the introduction of an Ordinance to ban the use of gas-powered leaf blowers beginning July 1, 2024. At the Love Our Earth Festival on Saturday, April 22 there will be demonstrations and educational information to assist landscapers and residents interested in learning more about electric and battery landscape equipment.

The California Air Resources Board has a variety of incentive programs available to help purchase zero-emission lawn and garden equipment. The Clean Off-Road Equipment Voucher Incentive Project (CORE) provides a point-of-sale discount to help offset the incremental cost of zero-emission technology for professional landscaping services operated by small businesses or sole proprietors.

More details can be found on the CORE website: californiacore.org/how-to-participate-professional-landscape. The State rebate and voucher program is focused on the professional landscaper. In addition to resources provided by the State, the City Council will also be considering the adoption of a rebate program that would be applicable to residents to assist in their purchase of similar equipment.

ATHERTON'S ANNUAL WASTE WISE EVENT

SATURDAY, APRIL 8 | 10 AM - 1 PM* | HOLBROOK PALMER PARK
FOR ALL ATHERTON RESIDENTS - PROOF OF RESIDENCY REQUIRED

E-WASTE DROP-OFF

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS: Camcorders, Cell & Desk Phones, Chips & Components, Computers, Connectors, Cables, DVD Players, Fax Machines, Keyboards, Laptops, Mice, Monitors, Optical Drives, PC Boards, PDAs, Printers, Radios, Scanners, Servers, Stereos, Storage Discs, Zip Drives, Televisions, UPS Power Supply Units, Video Game Consoles, and VCR Players. **NOT ACCEPTABLE:** Fluorescent Tubes, Batteries

COMMUNITY PAPER SHRED

Atherton residents can bring a MAXIMUM of three standard banker boxes for secure on-site destruction. Maximum box size: 10"x12"x15". Staples and paper clips are acceptable.

COMPOST GIVEAWAY

Atherton residents may take up to one (1) cubic yard of compost (equivalent to six full garbage bags) free of charge from a self-serve station while supplies last. Bring shovels, gloves, and containers.

***THE EVENT LASTS UNTIL THE TIME LISTED OR UNTIL THE TRUCK IS FULL, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST.**

Questions? Please contact the Town's Management Analyst, Rachael Londer by email at rlonder@ci.atherton.ca.us or call (650) 752-0577



ATHERTON CELEBRATES 2022 BURGLARY REDUCTION RATES

THREE-YEAR BURGLARY STATISTICS LOOK BACK

	 Residential Burglaries*	 Commercial Burglaries**	 Auto Burglaries***
2022	16	0	3
2021	45	3	5
2020	31	2	17

*Residential Burglaries resulting in losses of at least \$206,000

**Schools, construction sites

***Force entry into a vehicle—typically by smashing a window

The Town of Atherton is pleased to announce that the Atherton Police Department (APD) burglary investigation rate decreased significantly in 2022.

APD investigated only 16 residential burglaries in 2022, for an average of 1.3 burglaries per month, resulting in a low financial loss of \$206,000. Historically, the Town's monthly burglary average has been 3. In 2021, APD investigated 45 residential burglaries.

While APD acknowledges that even one burglary in Atherton is too many, this is a significant reduction for the Town.

APD attributes this success to sustained educational community outreach and community meetings, increased valiance of residents and leveraging volunteer groups and law enforcement partners such as:

- The Resident Volunteer Patrol team
- The Atherton Disaster and Preparedness Team (ADAPT)
- 47-camera Automated license plate readers (ALPR) system for crime detection and deterrence
- The Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) program.

Prevent Burglaries in 2023

APD encourages residents to continue to be hypervigilant of suspicious activity and report it when necessary. To continue decreasing the burglary rates, APD prepared the following tips that residents can use to deter burglaries and protect their homes in 2023.

When you are away

- Ensure that your home appears occupied and is difficult to break in.
- Do not let mail, newspapers, or flyers pile up while you are away. Either arrange for the Post Office to hold your mail or request a friend or neighbor to collect them regularly.
- Arrange for your lawn to be tended to if you are going away for an extended period.
- All outside doors and windows should be locked before leaving the house or going to bed, regardless of the duration of your absence.
- Leave some lights on when going out. If you are going to be away for an extended period, consider setting up lamps with automatic timers to switch them on at night and off during the day.

Everyday Safety

- Keep your garage door closed and locked.
- Check your door and window locks and replace them with sturdy devices.
- Avoid pushbutton locks on doorknobs as they are easy for burglars to bypass. Instead, install deadbolt locks on all your outside doors.
- Use special locks to secure sliding glass doors as they are particularly vulnerable to break-ins.
- Consider consulting a locksmith or hardware store for better lock options on windows.

Officers may also come to your home and conduct a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) review at no charge. To schedule a free CPTED review, email Jennifer Frew at JFrew@ci.atherton.ca.us or call 650-752-0503.



This home is protected
by a residential

ALARM SYSTEM

REDUCING FALSE ALARMS: PROMOTING SAFETY AND EFFICIENCY

Residential alarm systems can be a great tool to increase safety and security for your family and home. However, false alarms can happen due to improper usage or maintenance of the system.

Why should you cancel a false alarm?

If a false alarm is not canceled by the homeowner or alarm monitoring company, it can trigger a rapid police response, involving at least two officers. Too many false alarms can have a negative impact on police operations and resources.

In 2022, the Police Dispatch Center received 1,388 residential alarms, of which 544 required a full police response. These responses often require a search of the residence and property to ensure the safety of the owner and occupants. However, all of these alarm calls were false alarms except for one.

What has the Town done to address this issue?

To address the issue of false alarms, the City Council amended the Town's alarm ordinance in October 2018. The amendments include education, enforcement, and fines for repeated false alarms within a 12-month period. The ordinance also requires a permit for all residential alarm systems, whether monitored by the police department, an alarm company or not monitored at all. The initial permit fee is \$100, with an annual renewal fee of \$50.

What can you do now?

Residents can obtain a new permit or sign up for free alarm system monitoring by contacting the Police Department in person. The hope is that the modifications to the alarm ordinance will help mitigate and reduce false alarms. If you have a current alarm account with the Police Department, you will receive an invoice for \$50 to renew your permit in March.

For questions regarding the new alarm ordinance, alarm system permitting, or monitoring, please contact the Atherton Police Dispatch Center at 650-688-6500.

WILDFIRES, SMOKE DAYS, POWER OUTAGES, FLOODS, A PANDEMIC— OH MY!

The Atherton Disaster and Preparedness Team (ADAPT) would like to invite all residents to a celebration of our community's resilience. Come to enjoy food and refreshments, and share tales of overcoming our recent challenges.

The ADAPT team will also present information about ADAPT's future. Your thoughts and feedback about how we can best serve our community in invited.

Let's get prepared together, and have fun while doing it!



A . D . A . P . T .

Atherton Disaster and
Preparedness Team

ATHERTON'S ALL VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM MEETING

Date and Time: April 17th at 7:00 PM

Location: City council Chambers
(80 Fair Oaks Lane)





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

**PRESORTED
 STANDARD
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 MENLO PARK, CA
 PERMIT NO. 26**

*****ECRWSSDDM*****
**RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER
 ATHERTON RESIDENTS
 ATHERTON, CA 94027**

UPCOMING EVENTS



ANNUAL WASTE WISE EVENT
 April 8, 2023, 10 AM
 Holbrook Palmer Park



**CITY COUNCIL
 REGULAR MEETING**
 April 19, 2023, 6 PM



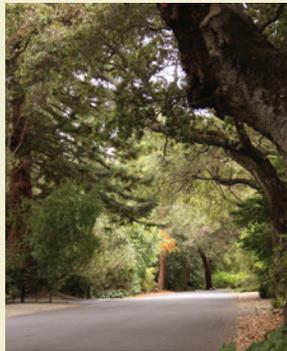
LOVE OUR EARTH FESTIVAL
 April 22, 2023, 11 AM
 Menlo-Atherton High School



**PLANNING
 COMMISSION MEETING**
 April 26, 2023, 6 PM



**CITY COUNCIL
 STUDY SESSION**
 May 3, 2023, 4 PM



**PARK AND RECREATION
 COMMITTEE MEETING**
 May 3, 2023, 6:30 PM



**ATHERTON DISASTER
 AND PREPAREDNESS
 TEAM (ADAPT) AREA
 COORDINATOR MEETING**
 April 17, 2023, 7 PM



**PENINSULA COMMUNITY
 DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
 FAIR HOSTED BY ADAPT**
 April 29, 2023, 11 AM-3 PM
 1105 Valparaiso Ave., Menlo Park



SOUNDS OF SUMMER
 Thursdays, June 1, 8, 15
 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM
 Holbrook Palmer Park

STAY IN TOUCH



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

