



ATHERTONIAN

AN ATHERTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

2023 SUMMER EDITION



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GET READY FOR THE SOUNDS OF SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

The Atherton Sounds of Summer Concerts Series is right around the corner! This series has become a beloved tradition in our community, bringing together friends and families to enjoy live music and entertainment as we welcome summer.

SOUNDS OF SUMMER 2023

This year, the Town is working together with the Library to bring residents music every Thursday throughout the month of June from 5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at the Atherton Town Center. There will be live music, kid-friendly activities and a featured food truck each night.

JUNE 1,
2023

JAZZ NIGHT FEATURING FIVE TEN MUSIC

Five Ten is a San Francisco Bay Area World Jazz group consisting of five longtime friends and international players. They are internationally renowned musicians each with their own impressive legacy of performances and shared stages.

JUNE 8,
2023

AMERICANA MIX FEATURING COOK'N FENNY COMBO

The Cook'n Fenny Combo presents a mix of Folk, Blues, Country, Classic Rock, Roots Americana and Originals offering a wide range of music that everyone can relate to. **Mark Fenny** is a masterful soulful harmonica player who combines those skills simultaneously with his convincing guitar playing and vocals. **Cathy Cook** brings warm friendly vocals and vocal harmonies in addition to percussive background on her West African Shekere.

JUNE 15,
2023

MERCY AND THE HEARTBEATS

THE HOUSEROCKERS is a 10-piece Rock & Soul band from Northern California that plays some of the greatest songs ever recorded. With a wailing 5 piece horn section and rock-solid rhythm section, they bring the timeless classics and today's hits to life.

JUNE 23 &
30, 2023

OUTDOOR MOVIE SERIES

The last two weeks of June will feature community movie nights There will be popcorn and activities for all ages. Check the Town's event calendar online for specific titles: www.ci.atherton.ca.us/Calendar



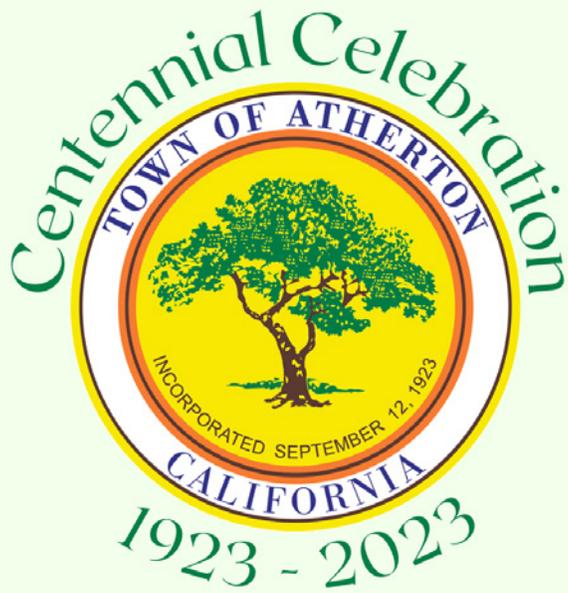
We can't wait to enjoy the warm summer nights with some good food and talented musical acts. We hope you'll join us! For more information about these free, exciting events, visit www.ci.atherton.ca.us/500/Events



SERVE ON A TOWN COMMITTEE OR COMMISSION

- Rail Committee
- Environmental Programs Committee
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
- Transportation Committee

Apply Today! tinyurl.com/AthertonPublicService



ATHERTON'S 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION UNDERWAY

The Town of Atherton is preparing a series of community activities for its centennial anniversary in September 2023.

To recognize one century of Atherton's history, the Town will be hosting a centennial celebration event at the Atherton Town Center on September 24 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Atherton City Council is grateful for all of the residents who participated in the centennial planning survey and helped select the venue for this event.

The centennial celebration promises to be a grand affair with a variety of exciting activities for residents to enjoy. Highlights of the event will include:

- Tree giveaway competition. Residents who attend will receive an Atherton History Passport, which they can use to collect stamps while learning about Atherton's history. Once they have collected enough stamps, residents can head to the "Table Under the Oaks" to get a tree tag, which will allow the first 100 residents to receive a free oak tree. Winners will be able to make arrangements during the event for delivery.
- Musical performances from the Menlo-Atherton High School Jazz Band and the Menlo School band.

- A variety of catered food options, balloons, face painting, a birthday cake for the Town and a photographer.
- An event shuttle to help residents easily get to the event.

To kick off the season of celebration, the Town of Atherton will host a special Town Council meeting on September 12, 2023. Residents are invited to join the Town for a screening of a centennial video celebration and cake.

The Town of Atherton's 100-year anniversary celebration will be a great opportunity for Athertonians to connect with their neighbors and reflect on the value of Atherton's long civic tradition. These celebrations will serve as a testament to the Town's commitment to preserving its rich history and to building on that foundation for the next 100 years.



The Town created a dedicated webpage that hosts the celebration information for community members to reference tinyurl.com/AthertonCentennial



WORK ON ATHERTON'S HOUSING ELEMENT CONTINUES

The Town of Atherton adopted the sixth Cycle Housing Element on January 31, 2023. Shortly thereafter, the Housing Element was submitted to the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) on February 3, 2023. After the 60-day review period, HCD returned a comment letter on April 4.

HCD's letter notes that the Town's certified and adopted Housing Element for the sixth (6th) cycle addresses many of the statutory requirements described in HCD's October 2022 review; however, additional revisions are necessary to substantially comply with State law. The letter outlines the changes necessary to bring the Town's housing element into compliance with the law.

The letter covers a wide range of crucial topics, including:

- Requests for more analysis of the various programs and objectives from the 5th Cycle Housing Element;
- Analysis related to concentrations of race and familial status geographically within the Town as well as analyzing the differences between the Town and surrounding region;
- Analysis related to local unique attributes that impact the Town's ability to provide fair housing;
- Analysis related to extremely-low income households and an examination of their tenure (renters and owners);
- An evaluation of sites identified as developable and their capacity for development of low income housing; and
- Demonstrate zoning that accommodates housing for lower income households in sufficient number to meet the State mandate.

The Town is in the process of addressing the issues raised in the letter. Essentially, the letter unequivocally states that the Town's current Housing Element

falls short of meeting the requirements laid out by State law, as it fails to identify sufficient sites to accommodate the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA). The next iteration must address this issue comprehensively by identifying the shortfalls by income group, acreage, allowable densities, and appropriate development standards, and meet all by-right requirements. In addition to a more detailed analysis, the Town's next iteration must also include permitting multifamily uses, where at least 20 percent of the units are affordable to lower-income households.

The Town has initiated the required California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review process for the Housing Element and will soon begin to take steps toward the development of the policy objectives set forth in the Housing Element. These include the development of Objective Design Standards, Updates to the Town's Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Ordinance, the creation of an Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance and Development Fee and updates to the Town's Land Use and Zoning to ensure consistency with the Housing Element Policies and Objectives. All of these efforts will involve a public review process via community workshops, Public Hearings and review by the Planning Commission, prior to submission to the City Council for consideration. To stay abreast of these meetings and issues, please be sure to sign up for the Town's News Flashes and Public Notices at www.ci.atherton.ca.us/list.aspx

The Town thanks the stakeholders, community and Town officials that have been engaged in the planning and public engagement process for the sixth Housing Element cycle. That process will continue for the better part of 2023 as we seek to develop a Housing Element that meets the Town's assigned RHNA of 348 new housing units across all income levels over an eight year period.

ATHERTON WELCOMES THE NEW DRONE PROGRAM

The Atherton Police Department (APD) is pleased to introduce its most recent addition to the investigations team—the APD Drone Program. Police departments throughout the country now use drones as part of their crime fighting arsenal. Drones can be used in several different ways to assist police with surveillance and crime prevention.

Small, remotely operated Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), commonly referred to as drones, are an efficient and effective way of providing law enforcement with instant and critical information to respond to calls for service, emergency situations or to conduct criminal investigations. For example, drones provide a critical overwatch view of an area involved in an incident or in-progress crime, improving officer safety by providing real time information as officers are responding.

Types of calls the drone may be deployed to include:

-  Burglaries
-  Residential alarms
-  Lost or Missing persons
-  Disaster Response/Recovery
-  Public Safety and Life Preservation Missions such as active shooters, barricaded subjects, dangerous fleeing suspects, etc.
-  Mass gatherings (public) where public safety concerns exist
-  Traffic accidents
-  Training flights

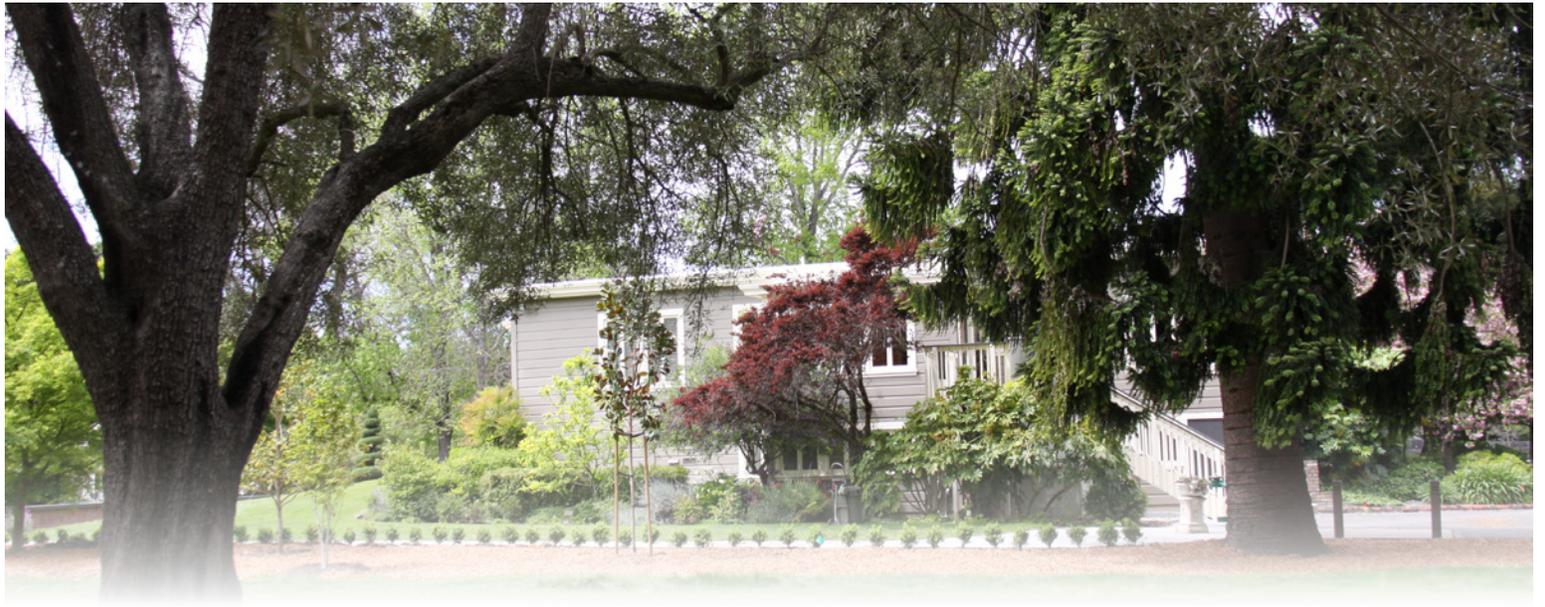
The APD utilizes the Paladin Nighthawk autonomous drone with Watchtower control software. This autonomous drone does not require additional support personnel and is specifically designed for Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) operation. The drone uses a cellular LTE connection, which allows it to reach a three mile radius limit required by the FAA with ease. The three mile radius covers all areas within the Town limits of Atherton when the drone is deployed from the Town Center. With a 55-minute battery life, users have ample time to gather overwatch operational information for most incidents and emergency situations.



To protect the privacy of individuals, operators are prohibited from intentionally recording or transmitting images of any location where a person would reasonably expect privacy, such as a residence, yard, or enclosure. Officers must take reasonable measures to prevent recordings in these areas, such as deactivating recording devices and vacating the immediate airspace whenever possible. Drones should only be deployed when there is a specific public safety need or incident that warrants their use. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, the use of drones to record or transmit images in private areas is strictly prohibited.

The drone program is designed to be as simple as possible and lowers the risk of human error through autonomous flight, making it both very safe and extremely effective at gathering and communicating important information. APD's drone program serves as a deterrent to crime, improving the quality of life for residents.

For question on the Drone Program, please contact Commander Daniel Larsen at dlarsen@ci.atherton.ca.us.



IT'S TIME TO TRIM YOUR TREES!

The Town of Atherton's urban environment contains beautiful trees all throughout the community. The trees in our community provide shade, improve air quality and add natural beauty to our neighborhoods. However, it is important to remember that trees require regular maintenance to ensure their health and safety, as well as the health and safety of our residents.

The storms earlier this year caused many downed trees and many limbs to fall. Due to the intensity of the storms, some damage was inevitable. To prevent further damage, the Town recommends preventive maintenance. It is recommended that residents hire a private Certified Arborist with ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) or a consulting arborist who is a member of the ASCA (American Society of Consulting Arborists). Trees should be inspected every 3 to 5 years. At the time of review, the private arborist can recommend pruning if needed and diagnose or treat any issues. Putting your trees on a pruning cycle and doing preventative maintenance will help minimize damage when storms come. Having a prior relationship with a private arborist or tree care company may make it easier to get help in the case of an emergency.

Now is the perfect time to get in touch with a private arborist and schedule a tree trimming appointment. Overgrown trees with weak branches pose a risk to public safety. During heavy winds, weak branches can fall onto power lines, homes or vehicles, causing significant damage or injury. Regular tree trimming helps identify and remove any of these hazards before they become a safety concern.

A private arborist can:

- Conduct preventive health/safety check-ups to keep trees healthy and prevent hazards
- Look for cracks
- Look for ways to prevent decay or further decay
- Remove dead and diseased wood
- Remove excessive weight and prune as needed
- Diagnose for pests and diseases, determine treatment or fertilization needs

As a reminder, trees located in the right of way are the responsibility of the adjacent property owner. A private arborist can review trees in the right of way. For pruning around power lines, reach out to PG&E or hire a ISA Certified Arborist Utility Specialist.

Please contact the Town Arborist if there is a code issue or violation. If you wish to remove a tree, you must submit a tree removal application and fee for the Town Arborist to visit your property. Per the municipal code, heritage trees will need to be dead or dangerous for the Town Arborist to approve their removal. Please note that the Town Arborist does not come out for consulting on private properties.

You can find the most up to date List of Tree Care Providers on the Town's website under Public Works, Arborist Services: bit.ly/3B8ttzX

COME CELEBRATE THE NEWEST ADDITION TO OUR ATHERTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY OUR BRONZE TOAD SCULPTURE!

The Friends of Atherton Community Library would like to invite you, your family, and friends to come celebrate the newest addition to our Atherton library community, our bronze Toad Sculpture, commissioned by the Friends to celebrate our new library facilities by welcoming readers of all ages into the wonderful world of exploration through literature. Our brief sculpture dedication will be followed by an amazing **Toad Party** on June 15 which will include the following fun activities for all ages:

- Slime Zoo
- Toad Sensory Bin
- Toad book giveaway
- Storytime
- Lots of fun games

So come prepared to get slimy, be silly, hop like a toad, and have some fun! We look forward to seeing you there!

Friends of Atherton Community Library is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization whose mission is to promote community support and use of the Atherton Community Library.

Founded in 1967, the organization is operated and managed by an active board of volunteers supported by a large membership base. Its purpose is to increase local participation in library activities, including cultural and educational programs, children's weekly story time, use of the maker space and computer training facilities, and other fun library experiences.



Friends of Atherton Community Library UPCOMING PUBLIC EVENTS

TOAD SCULPTURE DEDICATION AND PARTY

June 15, 4:00-7:30pm

Location: The Library (indoor/outdoor areas)

ICE CREAM SOCIAL AND BOOK EXCHANGE

August 19, 1:00-3:00pm

Location: The Library (indoor/outdoor areas)

SOUNDS OF SUMMER

June 1, 8, and 15, 5:30-7:30pm

Location: Library Deck

ATHERTON 100 ANNIVERSARY

September 24, 11:00am-3:00pm

Location: Library/Historical Center

ATHERTON NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

August 1, 6:00-8:00pm

Location: Holbrook-Palmer Park

Includes FACL Table and Ice Cream Giveaway

SIGN UP FOR THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN SURVEY!

Atherton adopted its first-ever Climate Action Plan (CAP) in 2016, which served as a blueprint for local climate action. With six years of progress, the Town is now updating its CAP to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045, following the state's leadership under Executive Order B-55-18.

The Town's staff is currently identifying specific actions that residents and the Town can take in building energy, transportation, waste management and landscaping to meet the new 2030 and 2045 goals. This includes a study session with City Council in Summer 2023 and community engagement before the final plan is brought to Council for adoption in Fall 2023.

If you're interested in helping Atherton become carbon neutral by 2045, you can sign up to receive the Climate Action Plan Community Survey when it's released. Your input will help the Town make informed decisions to achieve its climate goals. To sign up for the survey, visit tinyurl.com/CAPNotification

Let's work together to make Atherton a more sustainable and climate-resilient community.

SUSTAINABLE SUMMER LANDSCAPING AND GARDENING

WATER CONSERVATION REMINDERS

As we enter the hot summer months, it is important to continue to prioritize water conservation when in the garden. While there has been substantial rain this winter, it is still imperative that the Town's residents continue to conserve water whenever possible.



The Town of Atherton is a part of Cal Water's Bear Gulch District, which as of May 8, 2023, has been moved into Stage 1 of its Water Shortage Contingency Plan.

While the recent rain has improved drought conditions, Cal Water continues to encourage customers to remain vigilant about their water use and, in particular, ensure landscaping actually needs water before irrigating it. Some outdoor water-use restrictions remain in place, including:

- No watering of non-functional turf at commercial, industrial, and institutional properties.
- Watering only between the hours of 6 p.m. and 8 a.m.
- No watering of outdoor landscapes during and within 48 hours after measurable rainfall.
- Only washing vehicles with a hose that has a shutoff nozzle or similar device, or at a car wash that uses recycled water.
- No watering driveways, sidewalks, or other paved areas, unless for health and safety purposes.

Cal Water's conservation rebates and programs will also continue. For a complete list of rebates, programs, and water-use restrictions, visit calwater.com/conservation.

For more water conservation tips, visit www.ci.atherton.ca.us/481/Water-Conservation.

LEAF BLOWER REMINDERS

While leaf blowers can help the gardening and landscaping cleanup, they also create excess noise and produce greenhouse gases. ,

Depending on the tool, residents are able to use gardening equipment at various times of the week.

Gas-powered garden equipment may be used: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Electric-powered garden equipment may be used: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

As of July 1, 2024, gas-powered leaf blowers are not permitted to be used in Atherton. All other garden maintenance and construction equipment must be equipped with a muffler where applicable, be in good repair and be operated pursuant to all applicable Occupational Safety and Health Guidance for hearing safety.

For more information and training on recommended electric landscaping tools, visit youtu.be/ZQih3LdNyNs.



ATHERTON'S DEDICATION TO FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE: AN UPDATE ON ORGANIC WASTE RECYCLING

In January 2022, California implemented Senate Bill (SB) 1383, a landmark piece of climate legislation aimed at reducing the amount of organic waste sent to landfills. This legislation requires the Town of Atherton, and all cities in California, to divert 75% of the organic waste headed to landfills by 2025.

Organic waste makes up half of what Californians send to landfills, emitting 20% of the state's total methane emissions, a greenhouse gas 84 times more potent than carbon dioxide. By diverting these materials from landfills, SB 1383 aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as part of the larger fight against climate change.

Atherton is taking steps to comply with this mandate and encourages residents to participate in the effort to increase organic waste recycling.

WHAT DOES SB 1383 MEAN FOR RESIDENTS?

Atherton residents can aid in this effort by correctly sorting their household waste. Atherton's solid waste service provider, GreenWaste Recovery (GWR), is one of the most advanced recycling and waste processing operations in the state, so by simply putting your trash in the correct bins you can help in the fight against climate change.

Residents must recycle all organic waste, including paper, cardboard, yard materials, food scraps, and food-soiled paper in their organics cart. GWR also processes yard trimmings into compost/mulch.

All Atherton residents have at least two trash bins: a green cart for yard waste (optional for some residents), a blue cart for traditional recyclables and a gray cart for mixed waste. Waste, such as food scraps, soiled paper products, and non-compostable items can be placed in the gray cart. When your trash is picked up each week, it is taken to GWR's processing center where upwards of 85% of the organic waste is diverted to composting facilities to be turned into rich, nutritious soil for farmers and gardeners across the region.



To learn more about what goes in the organics cart, scan the QR code or visit:

www.greenwaste.com/about-us/processing-facility/

WHAT ARE THE TOWN'S GOALS?

The Town's 2020 target was a 50% reduction from 2014 levels, which were exceeded. The Town now has a 2025 target of 75% reduction from 2014 levels.

Organics Collection Services

SB 1383 requires jurisdictions to provide automatic organic waste collection services to all residents and businesses. The Town of Atherton already has a three-bin collection system for residential and commercial properties.

Edible Food Recovery

SB 1383 requires jurisdictions to establish and enforce a food recovery program that requires food-generating businesses to donate edible food and strengthen existing food recovery networks. The County of San Mateo's Office of Sustainability is leading a countywide edible food recovery program to maximize the impact through economies of scale.

Partner with County Resources

The Town of Atherton is also participating in the effort to increase organic waste recycling through several initiatives. The Town has partnered with San Mateo County to provide residents with resources on how to compost their own organic waste and host compost giveaways to help them recognize the amazing fertilizing power of organic waste compost.

Increase General Sustainability

In addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by diverting organic waste from landfills, the Town of Atherton is investing in alternative methods to promote sustainability and environmental stewardship. This includes initiatives to promote renewable energy, reduce water consumption and encourage sustainable building practices.

SB 1383 represents a significant step forward in California's efforts to combat climate change and protect the environment. The Town of Atherton is proud to be part of this effort and is committed to doing its part to reduce its environmental impact and build a more sustainable future for all.



FOURTH OF JULY SAFETY TIPS AND FIREWORK PROHIBITION REMINDER

Summer is a time for relaxation, fun and adventure. As the weather warms up, many people begin planning for their Fourth of July celebrations. While it is wonderful to enjoy the festivities, it is important to prioritize safety, especially when it comes to fireworks and impaired driving.

The Atherton Police Department (APD) would like to remind residents that fireworks of any type are not only dangerous, but also illegal in the Town of Atherton. Fireworks have the potential to cause serious injury or death, and their use can also lead to significant property damage. The APD, in conjunction with the Menlo Park Fire District, will be working to enforce this policy and provide safe disposal options for any illegal fireworks that are found.

In addition to the dangers of fireworks, the Fourth of July holiday is also known for its high incidence of impaired driving. It is the second-most deadly holiday period of the year, just behind New Year's Eve. Drunk driving is a serious crime, and the APD has a zero-tolerance approach to enforcement. Anyone caught driving under the influence will be placed under arrest.

To help prevent impaired driving and keep everyone safe this holiday, it is important to take a few simple precautions. If you plan on consuming alcohol, designate a sober driver before heading out and give that person your keys. If you find yourself impaired, use alternative transportation options such as rideshare, public transit or getting a ride from a sober friend or family member. Wearing a safety belt or using protective gear on your motorcycle is also essential for protection against impaired drivers.

If you see a drunk driver on the roadways, promptly report them to law enforcement. Finally, remember "Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk." If you know someone who is about to drive or ride while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely.



The Atherton Police Department is proud to Celebrate the Annual National Night Out!



Join us Tuesday, August 1, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Holbrook-Palmer Park (150 Watkins Avenue).

Activities include music, bbq party, bouncy houses, face painting, and many more.

Join us in a national community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships.





THINKING ABOUT BEING DISASTER PREPARED?



Preparing for disaster is important for all households to minimize damage and protect lives in case of an emergency. However, the Atherton Disaster and Preparedness Team (A.D.A.P.T.), a volunteer group of Atherton residents committed to being disaster prepared and ready to help their neighbors, understands that we all have a myriad of demands on our time and attention, and as long as the ground does not shake (or another disaster is on the radar), getting disaster prepared can wait for another day.

In fact, most households already have at least a third or more of the supplies and resources that will be necessary if a significant disaster occurs. The challenge is combining all of the supplies into one go bag or kit.

Follow this guide to help you become disaster prepared with tools around you home:

- Give yourself 30 minutes to understand what supplies are important to have on hand and locate them in your home. Supplies to include are a flashlight, batteries and a first aid kit.
- Reorganize your disaster kit or room so that all of the supplies are together and somewhere easily accessible.
- Hit the grocery, hardware and drug store. You should bring your list and grab the last few missing pieces, such as water bottles and any necessary medicine.

Getting prepared for a disaster does not need to be a particularly consuming project. By working with what you have, organizing your items and getting a few final items, you will be sufficiently supplied for any situation that interrupts our community's normal functioning.

A.D.A.P.T. also has a wealth of resources available. Check out our website at www.getreadyatherton.org. The team meets on the first Saturday of each month at Town Hall from 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m. to discuss various aspects of disaster preparation, such as how to prepare a go bag and how to take care of your pets in a disaster. Community members are also welcome to ask the group questions or note a need you may have at info@getreadyatherton.org.

Oh, and if you've seen those shows on TV about hardcore preppers? Yeah, that's not A.D.A.P.T. The team is regular folks who recognize that bad things can happen to a great community like Atherton.



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

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UPCOMING EVENTS



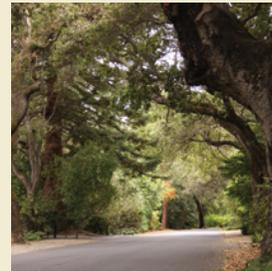
SOUNDS OF SUMMER
 June 1, 8 and 15
 5-7:30 PM
 Town Center



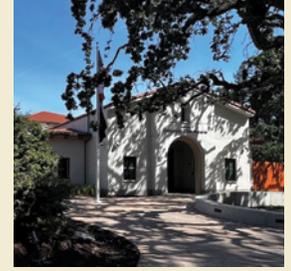
RAIL COMMITTEE MEETING
 June 6, 6-8 PM



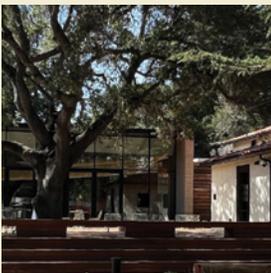
CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION
 June 7, 4 PM



PARK & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING
 June 7, 6 PM



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
 June 21, 6 PM



PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
 June 28, 6 PM



ATHERTON NIGHT OUT
 August 1, 6-8 PM
 Holbrook-Palmer Park



ATHERTON'S 100 YEAR CELEBRATION KICK-OFF
 September 12, 2023, 6 PM
 City Council Chambers



ATHERTON 100 YEAR CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
 September 24, 2023
 11 AM-3 PM
 Atherton Library/Historical Center

STAY IN TOUCH



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