



# ATHERTONIAN

AN ATHERTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

2023 FALL EDITION



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## CITY MANAGER MESSAGE



As we approach fall, work on the Town's Housing Element continues with a strong focus on identifying options for multi-family solutions to address the State Housing mandate. Your input into this process is crucial, so we urge you to stay engaged and involved in upcoming public meetings over the next few months.

In this newsletter, we're thrilled to highlight upcoming community activities and events. Among them is the much-anticipated 100-Year Celebration of the Town's 100-Year anniversary, which kicks off on September 12. It promises to be a memorable event that brings our community together in celebration.

Other news and updates include the inaugural Bicycle Rodeo, updates on the Town's budget and activities around the Town's Climate Action Plan. We value your active participation and support in all of these areas.

Read on for more details and mark your calendars for these exciting events. Together, let's make this fall a season of growth, connection and progress for the Town.



## 100 YEARS OF ATHERTON, JOIN THE FUN!

The Town is celebrating 100 years! We invite all members of the Atherton community to participate in two celebrations as we reflect on our past and look towards the future. Save the date for:



- ★ Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 6 PM: Special Town Council Meeting including a screening of a centennial video celebration and cake.
- ★ Sunday, September 24, 2023 from 11 AM to 3 PM: Centennial Celebration at the Town Center

The September 24 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, allowing the first 100 residents to receive a free oak tree. Winners will be able to make arrangements during the event for future pick up.
- ★ Musical performances
- ★ A variety of catered food options and premium ice cream sandwiches
- ★ Family-friendly activities
- ★ An event shuttle from Holbrook Palmer Park and bike parking at Town Center to help residents easily get to the event

The Town'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. The Town created a dedicated webpage that hosts the celebration information for community members to reference [www.tinyurl.com/AthertonCentennial](http://www.tinyurl.com/AthertonCentennial)



## ATHERTON CONTINUES WORK ON SIXTH CYCLE HOUSING ELEMENT

### TOWN'S PROGRESS

The Town continues to make significant progress towards a comprehensive and compliant Sixth Cycle Housing Element. Approved by Atherton City Council, the Town's Housing Element was submitted to the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) in January 2023 for review. Since then, the Town has been working with HCD officials to produce a compliant Housing Element.

To address HCD's outlined improvement areas, Atherton has focused on the following key aspects in 2023:

- Extremely Low-Income (ELI) Households & Special Needs Populations
- Site Inventory and Analysis
- Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH)
- Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA)
- Multifamily and Affordable Housing
- General Constraints

The Town conducted quantitative analysis to identify gaps in resources for vulnerable groups and constraints on housing provision and analyzed housing unit distribution to comply with AFFH requirements. Extensive site inventory was completed to consider potential sites like SB 9 sites and align with RHNA requirements. To meet HCD requirements, the Town has included quantitative data on income levels, ensuring that Atherton's Housing Element caters to the needs of all Athertonians.

### NEXT STEPS

Atherton is actively addressing issues raised by HCD regarding multifamily housing sites. Staff is working on reviewing CEQA opportunity sites and providing additional information on expected accessory dwelling units (ADUs) for lower-income residents to meet Housing Element requirements.

In addition, the Town is proactively identifying potential constraints that could hinder housing development. Streamlining the review process for eligible SB 9 projects is a primary focus to mitigate any constraints arising from the Housing Element.

To engage the community, several public events and meetings have been scheduled for the latter part of 2023:

- **September 20:** Atherton City Council will host a public meeting to finalize housing opportunity sites in CEQA.
- **October:** Atherton residents will be invited to a public review of the draft Objective Design Standards (ODS).
- **November:** The Atherton Planning Commission will hold a special meeting on zoning modifications and ODS.
- **November 15, 2023:** Atherton City Council will consider adopting the revised Housing Element at its regular meeting.

Thank you for active participation in the Housing Element process. The Town remains committed to producing a Housing Element that reflects the community's vision and needs, and ensures compliance with State law. Stay informed on the process at

[www.ci.atherton.ca.us/627/Housing-Element-Update](http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/627/Housing-Element-Update)

# APPROVED FY 2023-24 BUDGET AND FY 2023-28 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM REFLECT TOWN'S PROGRESSION FORWARD

## FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2023-24 BUDGET

The Town remains in a strong financial position, which is evident in its \$21.6 million budget for FY 2023-24. Notable items in the adopted budget include:



A General Fund operating budget with more than \$19.2 million in total revenues and expenditures, with growth to be slightly more than 4% in FY 2023-24.



\$2.4 million from the City's Other Operating Budgets, including the Library Fund and the Equipment Replacement Budget.



Improvements to Atherton's disaster preparedness with a \$20,000 provision to purchase emergency equipment cache boxes, enabling first responders to act effectively in a crisis.

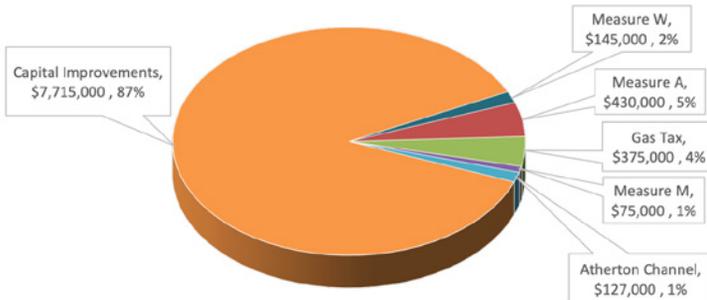


Funding for an electric leaf blower rebate program offering a one-time rebate of up to \$250 for a maximum of 100 residents to purchase electric leaf blowers and their associated batteries or chargers. This rebate can be used to offset the cost of eligible zero-emission equipment and encourage residents to adopt eco-friendly practices.



Allocating funds to purchase lifesaving equipment for its police officers, such as Narcan medication that can prevent overdoses, a door breaching tool to aid in responding to active shooter situations and red dot pistols for improved firearm safety.

Funding Revenue Sources  
Fiscal Year 2023/24



"The Atherton City Council is dedicated to building a strong financial foundation to be able to address the needs of our residents," stated Finance Director Robert Barron III. "With this budget, we showcased our

commitment to responsible financial management, while actively investing in initiatives that will have a positive impact throughout our community."

The primary revenue sources include property tax, building fees, franchise fees and sales tax. With the Town's revenue sources showing consistent growth, the Town can continue investing in projects that benefit the community.

To learn more about the Town's finances, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/TownBudgets>



## FY 2023-28 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP)

In the approved CIP budget, the City has identified key investments to address community needs, including:



Selby Lane Bicycle Lane Improvements



Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Update



Neighborhood Traffic Management Program



Holbrook-Palmer Park Improvements Program

"With the FY 2023-28 CIP in place, we are poised to address the needs of our residents. Our dedication to progress is evident in the projects outlined within the CIP," said City Manager George Rodericks. "I extend my sincere gratitude to our dedicated staff and City Council for their diligent efforts in crafting this budget and five-year CIP."

For more information on capital improvement projects, visit: [www.ci.atherton.ca.us/289/Capital-Improvement-Projects](http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/289/Capital-Improvement-Projects)



## SADDLE UP FOR FUN AND SAFETY WITH ATHERTON'S ANNUAL BIKE RODEO

The Atherton Police Department is excited to announce we will be hosting our Annual Bike Rodeo on September 30! This family-friendly event will be filled with valuable safety lessons and a celebration of cycling in the community.

The Atherton Bike Rodeo brings the excitement of a traditional rodeo to the world of bicycling. Kids of all ages are invited to participate in the cycling obstacle course, which has been designed to sharpen the participants' biking skills and abilities. Participants can maneuver through a series of various courses while learning the importance of remaining safe while doing so. This course will focus on control and balance on two wheels to encourage them to push themselves and be aware of safety.



The Atherton Bike Rodeo also emphasizes the importance of bike safety. The event will feature a dedicated safety zone where participants can learn bicycle safety tips and guidelines including how to properly wear a helmet and complete safety checks before riding. Local law enforcement will provide insights and lessons about biking practices and the importance of obeying traffic rules.

Free refreshments and snacks, including hot dogs and chips, will be provided to participants during the event. Information booths will also be available to showcase programs to help your family get started incorporating cycling into your routines.

Using your bike to get around Town is a fantastic way to energize your trips and meet neighbors, while reducing air pollution and the harmful greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change.

The Annual Bike Rodeo serves as a great opportunity to encourage education on cycling and safety among residents of all ages. Bring your family, your bikes and your helmets to this fun event for all! **Let's ride!**

Register for the Bike Rodeo here at [www.AthertonBikeRode.eventbrite.com](http://www.AthertonBikeRode.eventbrite.com)



## SIGHTS, SOUNDS, AND TOGETHERNESS: A SUMMER OF ATHERTON'S VIBRANT COMMUNITY EVENTS

It was a fun-filled summer in Atherton. Residents enjoyed the Sounds of Summer concert series and two weeks of Outdoor Movie Nights in June.



**Sounds of Summer** brought groovy tunes and many music-filled memories to the community every Thursday in June. The event allowed families to enjoy live music, kid-friendly

activities and a featured food truck each night. Families came together to dance and sing along to talented music acts while enjoying the company of one another.

In addition to Sounds of Summer, Atherton hosted **Outdoor Movie Night**. Families enjoyed cotton candy, popcorn and the kid-friendly films "Lyle, Lyle Crocodile" and "Puss in Boots".



**National Night Out** brought out hundreds of residents for an evening of community connection, music and BBQ. Atherton Police Officers mingled with residents to promote safe communities, generate awareness of local anti-crime efforts and strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships.

As the summer draws to a close, the Town is already looking forward to its upcoming fall events, including the event of the Century - the Town's Centennial Celebration. For more information about these events, visit [www.ci.atherton.ca.us/500/Events](http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/500/Events).

*Photos courtesy of Leo Leung*

## A NEW AGE-FRIENDLY ATHERTON

What does an age friendly community mean to you? The Town is proud to join other forward-looking cities in San Mateo County in launching age-friendly initiatives in. This project values the well-being of all intergenerational residents while placing a focus on the needs of older persons in particular.

In partnership with the Center for Age-Friendly Excellence (CAFE), this initiative uses scientific insights to create a livable environment that meets the needs of our older adult population and fosters an inclusive and supportive community for all ages.

The CAFE process involves collaboration between local government leaders, businesses, community organizations and our valued older adult residents. Focus groups are being held to ensure that the voices of older adults are heard and their needs integrated into age-friendly city policies and programs.

Through this initiative, the Town of Atherton aims to create an environment where older adults can remain vibrant and independent, surrounded by a supportive community. The project is funded by the County of San Mateo, supported by local community leaders and guided by the Office of County Supervisor David Canepa.

To learn more about CAFE, visit [www.cfafe.org](http://www.cfafe.org). If you're interested in participating in a focus group session, please contact Anthony Suber, Deputy City Manager, at [asuber@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:asuber@ci.atherton.ca.us). Let's work together to build a more age-friendly and inclusive Atherton!



## YOU'RE HELP IS NEEDED THIS COASTAL CLEAN UP DAY



Join all Californian's for this year's annual litter cleanup event, Coastal Clean Up Day, in an effort to clean up our communities and protect the environment. Whether you head to the coast or stay local, there are opportunities to join a team or form your own to help pick up litter throughout the month of September. Most cleanup events are held from 9 a.m.- 12 p.m. If you plan to organize your own neighborhood cleanup, you have the flexibility to pick a time and location that works best for you.

*Image courtesy of San Mateo County Health*

### How to Participate



Register for a group cleanup site near you at [smchealth.org/ccd](http://smchealth.org/ccd). If you opt to organize your own neighborhood cleanup, let us know you're participating by filling out a quick form using the provided QR code.

### Clean up day reminders

1. Download the Clean Swell App on your phone to track the trash you collect.
2. If you're going to a group clean-up site, print and sign the waiver form from [smchealth.org/ccd](http://smchealth.org/ccd). Printed waivers will be provided on-site if needed.
3. Bring bags you've collected or a bucket from home to pick up trash. Bags will be provided on-site if needed.
4. Bring reusable garden gloves. Gloves will be provided on-site if needed.
5. Wear closed-toe shoes, layered clothing, a hat and sunscreen.
6. Stay hydrated by bringing a reusable water bottle.
7. Charge your cell phone to use the Clean Swell App.

Let's work together to create a cleaner and healthier environment for everyone!

# GO GREEN, SAVE MONEY AND BUILD THE GARDEN OF YOUR DREAMS!

The Town is proud to announce two initiatives aimed at promoting eco-conscious gardening practices within the community. By introducing an electric leaf blower rebate and offering free organic compost, the Town strives to make sustainable choices more accessible to its residents.

## ELECTRIC LEAF BLOWER REBATE

Atherton residents have the opportunity to receive a \$250 rebate when they purchase an electric leaf blower, including its batteries and chargers. Residents may purchase an electric leaf blower on behalf of their gardener or acquire a set of batteries to keep at home for their gardener's current equipment. Funding is available on a first come, first serve basis for this popular program. For more details and to apply, visit [www.tinyurl.com/ElectricLeafBlowers](http://www.tinyurl.com/ElectricLeafBlowers)

## FREE ORGANIC COMPOST

Atherton residents are invited to pick up free organic compost for their gardens at the self-service pile at Holbrook Palmer Park, across from the historic water tower. The compost is derived from the green bin yard waste collected by GreenWaste Recovery, the Town's solid waste service provider. Residents are required to bring their own containers, shovels, and gloves for the collection process.

These programs are part of the Town's ongoing commitment to reduce waste, conserve resources, and enhance the environment. Join in the effort to create a greener and more sustainable community—one landscape at a time!

# PLANNING FOR A CARBON NEUTRAL FUTURE

What will Atherton look like in 2045? The draft Climate Action Plan charts a path for a carbon neutral community that relies on clean transportation and state of the art buildings. Waste will be minimized, and natural processes, like compost, will help keep the Town cool. During the Council meeting held on June 21, 2023, Council discussed the 2023 Climate Action Plan (CAP) Update. This updated plan will help the Town reach set new ambitious targets that are made possible with State policies, technology, and science that has emerged since the Town's first CAP.

## BACKGROUND

Atherton's original and first CAP, adopted in 2016, set a target to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from energy and water, transportation, and waste by 15 percent below 2005 levels by 2020 (achieving 1990 level emissions) and 49 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. The Plan includes 25 actions which supported the Town in exceeding the goals set for 2020. In 2017, the Council prioritized critical climate actions, knowing that the CAP would need to be updated again in order to reach the 2030 targets and beyond.

## UPDATED CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

The 2023 CAP Update will aim to achieve two main objectives. First, reduce emissions to 49 percent below the 2005 baseline by 2030, and second, reduce emissions to 100 percent below the 2005 baseline, achieving carbon neutrality, by 2045.

Within this updated CAP, the Town lays out a comprehensive suite of GHG reduction measures that meet 13 objectives by taking 61 strategies, some of which were included in the original 2016 CAP and some that use new technologies and community-centered approaches.

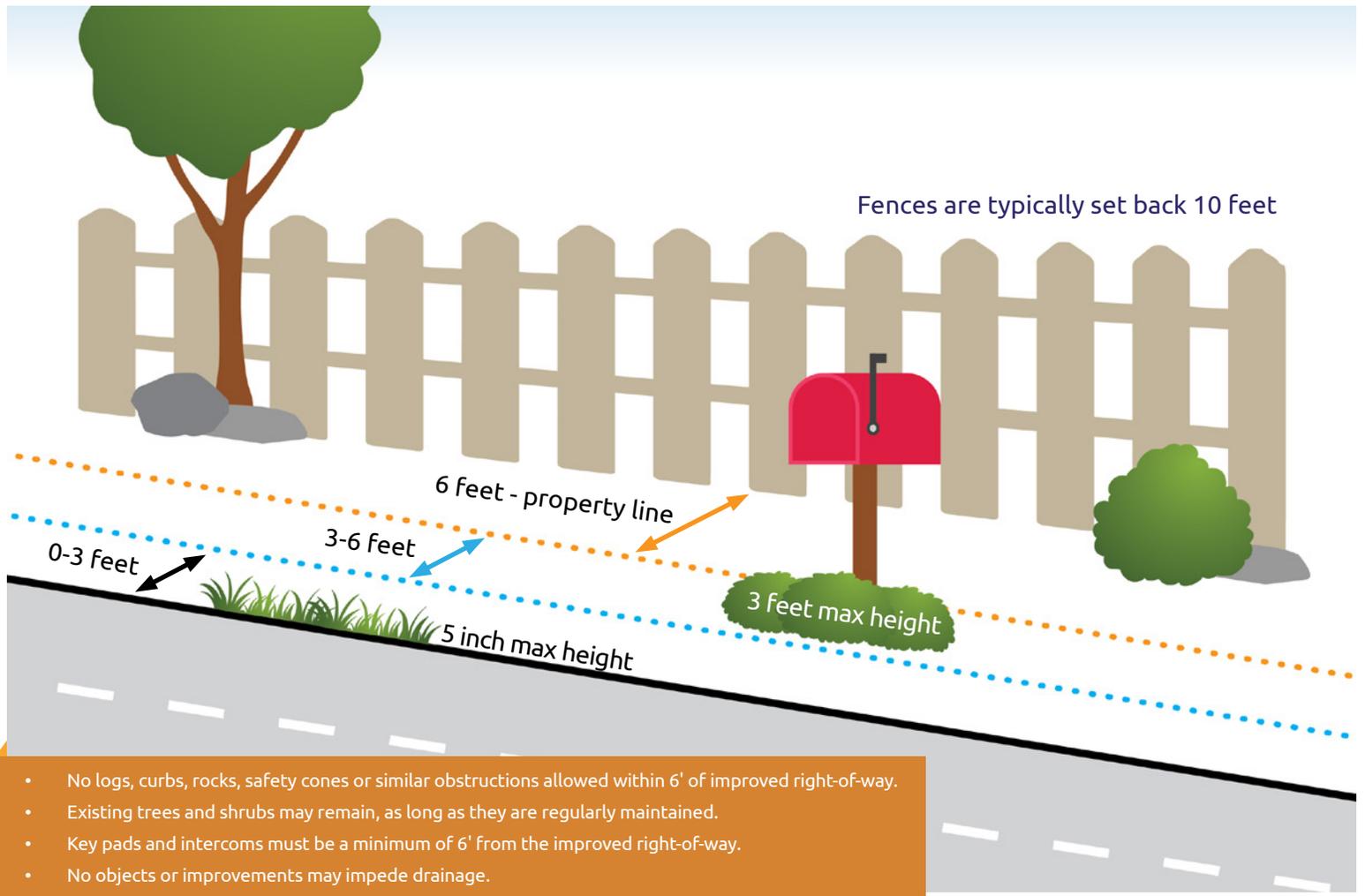
The 61 strategies each address the following four main sectors involved in meeting these goals:

- 1. Building Energy:** Utilizing technological advances to support building electrification, renewable energy, and energy storage in the community and in Town operations.
- 2. Transportation:** Shifting to electric-powered vehicles and zero-emission, off-road equipment, while increasing community adoption of public transit, walking and biking.
- 3. Waste and Materials Management:** Eliminating single-use plastics, developing a curbside organics collection program and compost to eliminate organic waste, as well as promoting reducing, reusing and recycling.
- 4. Carbon Sequestration and Water Use:** Sequestering carbon through tree planting and compost application.

## NEXT STEPS

In late Fall of 2023, the Council will have a study session to review each of the strategies and consider adoption of the CAP's first update. Once adopted, new programs and policies, will be considered to catalyze climate action.





## KEEP OUR TOWN SAFE AND BEAUTIFUL THIS FALL

As we embrace autumn, it's time to prepare for fall in Atherton. As we embrace the we ready for autumn, let's also ensure our Town remains safe and beautiful by following these Municipal Code guidelines:

- **Remove Fallen Trees and Debris:** Clear any fallen trees and debris from the right of way to prevent hazards for pedestrians and vehicles.
- **Maintain Line-of-Sight:** Trim overhanging trees and vegetation at least 10 feet from the ground to ensure clear visibility around corners, driveways and stop/yield signs, which will enhance safety for pedestrians and drivers.
- **Easement and Pedestrian Paths:** Refer to the diagram above for vegetation guidelines in different areas from the street. It helps maintain a neat and organized environment.
- **Proper Greenwaste Disposal:** Make use of assigned service days for trash, green waste, and recycling pick-up. Place receptacles on the curb up to 24 hours before collection, and bring them in within 24 hours after collection.
- **Landscaping Crews Awareness:** Ensure your landscaping crews are aware of the collection schedule, and receptacles should not be put on the curb until the collection day or 24 hours before.

Let's work together to make our Town even more inviting this fall! For more information on the Municipal Code, visit <https://atherton.municipal.codes>

# PLAN AHEAD AND BE PREPARED FOR DISASTERS

In an ever-changing and uncertain world, being prepared for emergencies and disasters is crucial. The Town of Atherton is shining a spotlight on the necessity of proactive measures to prevent and mitigate the impact of potential crises, while also fostering community resilience in times of adversity. Below are some tips to help you be better prepared.

## MAKE A PLAN

- Prioritize communication:** Identify a designated meeting place outside of your immediate neighborhood where family members can find each other in the event they cannot be reached or you are unable to return home. In case local communication lines are down, establish communication channels with out-of-state contacts ensuring connectivity.
- Stock up on emergency supplies:** Assemble emergency food and supply kits for your home, workplace, and car, preparing to be self-sustainable for up to two weeks. [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) provides a number of recommendations on what to include in your supply kits.
- Plan for evacuation:** Practice evacuating your home using multiple routes in the event of a fire, ensuring you can exit within two minutes. Familiarize yourself with your neighborhood's evacuation routes to ensure a safe escape.
- Strengthen community ties:** Foster community awareness and engagement by building a network of support and be mindful of vulnerable individuals who may require assistance during critical situations.



## PREVENT EMERGENCIES FROM HAPPENING

1. Install, test, and maintain smoke and carbon monoxide alarms regularly.
2. Remain vigilant against common causes for house fires, such as unattended candles, space heaters near flammable items, unmaintained home heating sources, electrical wiring issues and kitchen fires
3. Allow for defensible space around your home to prevent the spread of fires.
4. Ensure storm drains are clear to prevent flooding.
5. Keep trees trimmed and healthy to prevent storm-related accidents.

## STAY INFORMED

1. Sign-up for free emergency preparedness classes offered by Menlo Park Fire at [menlofirecert.com](https://www.menlofirecert.com).
2. Volunteer with local emergency preparedness organizations like CERT and A.D.A.P.T.
3. Sign-up to receive emergency alerts and updates on SMC Alert.
4. Stay connected with local fire, police, and emergency agencies on social media channels.
5. Familiarize yourself with your evacuation zone on Zonehaven, preparing to evacuate promptly if necessary.

Thank you for doing your part to help build a prepared and resilient community. For more information and resources on emergency preparedness, visit [www.getreadyatherton.org](https://www.getreadyatherton.org)



# CELEBRATING OUR DEDICATED & COMMUNITY-ORIENTED STAFF AND OFFICERS!

## STAFFING CHANGES: ATHERTON DISPATCHER SHARON KOEHLER TO RETIRE



After an impressive 10 years of service to the Town of Atherton and over 34 years of experience in law enforcement, Sharon Koehler is set to retire in early October. During her time with us, Sharon has been an invaluable asset to the Atherton Police Communications Division, excelling as a premier Dispatcher. Not only did she

handle thousands of 911 and non-emergency calls with remarkable multitasking skills, but she also served as an expert on records releases and trained new dispatchers.

Sharon's extensive experience also includes working with various agencies over the years:

- Burlingame Police from 1989 – 2023
- San Francisco Airport Police from 1991 – 1998
- Foster City Police from 1997 – 2017
- Palo Alto Animal Control from 1995 – 2005
- Millbrae Police from 2001 – 2005
- Atherton Police from 2013 – 2023

We are grateful for Sharon's hard work and dedication, as she played a vital role in ensuring public safety services

that our community relies on every day. We wish her the best in her well-deserved retirement and we are delighted that she plans to continue contributing as a Per Diem Dispatcher.

Sharon will be honored with a Proclamation on October 18 during the regular Council Meeting at 6 p.m. Join us in expressing our gratitude for her service!

## JUST FOR FUN: ATHERTON OFFICERS WON 1ST AND 2ND PLACE

In a delightful community event, Atherton Officers showcased their unique talents! On July 4, the Lloyd Park neighborhood hosted a community BBQ, and among the festivities was the cherry spitting contest.

Our Officers, Igor Davidovich and Nik Torres, demonstrated exceptional skill and took home both 1st and 2nd place!



We're proud of our Officers for participating in this fun event and adding some laughter and camaraderie to our community!

As always, we value and celebrate our dedicated staff and the vibrant community spirit in Atherton. Stay tuned for more exciting events and updates that bring us together as a thriving Town!

## BUILDING RESILIENCE TOGETHER



There's a saying in the disaster preparedness community: "When the earth is shaking you rely on yourself. When the earth stops shaking, you rely on your neighbors."

When disaster strikes, we can't always depend on the usual systems for water, food, energy, and more.

That's why building strong community connections is essential for our preparedness. Together, we are more resilient and better equipped to handle challenging times.

At ADAPT, we believe in building these relationships through neighborhood get-togethers. While some have

already taken place this year, there are more to come. Find out which Area you live in at [www.getreadyatherton.org](http://www.getreadyatherton.org) and join the upcoming gatherings:

- September 10: Join the party for Areas 1, 2, and 3, and the Lindenwood Homeowners Association from 3-5 PM at the cul-de-sac near 238 Catalpa Drive.
- September 17: Area 8's gathering will be held from 4-6 PM at 2 Odell Place.

Keep an eye out for October dates for Areas 10 and 11 to be announced soon!

Everyone is welcome at ADAPT's monthly meetings on the first Saturday of each month from 9-10 am at the Town Hall Council room. Mark your calendar for October 7, and let's strengthen our community's resilience together.



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

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## UPCOMING EVENTS



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



**CITY COUNCIL  
 REGULAR MEETING**  
 September 20, 6 PM



**ENVIRONMENTAL  
 PROGRAMS  
 COMMITTEE MEETING**  
 September 21, 1 PM



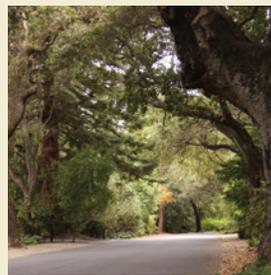
**100-YEAR CELEBRATION!**  
 September 24, 11 AM  
 Atherton Library/  
 Historical Center



**PLANNING  
 COMMISSION MEETING**  
 September 27, 6 PM



**CITY COUNCIL  
 STUDY SESSION**  
 October 4, 4 PM



**PARK AND  
 RECREATION  
 COMMITTEE MEETING**  
 October 4, 6 PM



**CITY COUNCIL  
 REGULAR MEETING**  
 October 18, 6 PM

## STAY IN TOUCH



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