



ATHERTONIAN

AN ATHERTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

2024 SPRING EDITION



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CITY MANAGER UPDATE

Welcome to the Spring Edition of the Athertonian Newsletter! Included you should find several relevant articles and tidbits about Town programs and resources as well as opportunities to engage with numerous community-based organizations.

The 6th Cycle Housing Element continues to dominate the Town’s attention at the current time. Focus continues designing a Housing Element that meets the Town’s mandated obligations to the State as well as maintains the Town’s unique community character. In progress items include environmental review, objective design standards, inclusionary ordinance, accessory dwelling unit ordinance, and associated land use changes. Once all of this completes, the full Housing Element will return to the Council for considered adoption and certification before sending it back to the State for final review and approval.

Stay in touch via the Town’s social media touchpoints for more information and visit the Town’s website to download agendas, reports and background material on any of these issues.

EVENTS CALENDAR

APRIL

- April 6-7: Waste Wise Recycling Event
- April 21: Annual Earth Day Festival

MAY

- May 15: Coffee with a Cop & National Police Officers Day

JUNE

- June 20: Summer Concert Series with music by Audrix
- June 28: Summer Movie Series

JULY

- July 11: Summer Concert Series with music by Take 2 Band
- July 19: Summer Movie Series

AUGUST

- August 6: National Night Out
- August 10: Summer Concert Series with music by Lucky Devils Band

SEPTEMBER

- September 21: Bike Rodeo

OCTOBER

- October 2: Coffee with a Cop
- TBD: Atherton PD Halloween Event

DECEMBER

- Town Holiday Party
- Annual Tree Lighting & Holiday Celebration
- Atherton City Council Re-Organization
- Toy Drive for Selby School
- Shop with a Cop

JOIN ADAPT AT THE ATHERTON EARTH DAY FESTIVAL!



A. D. A. P. T.

Earth Day typically elicits thoughts of what we can do to be better stewards of our natural resources, but it is also an excellent time to think about how we can protect ourselves from the environment as well. We’re all too familiar with the increase in extreme weather events that affect us, be that drought conditions, high winds, forest fires, or atmospheric rivers.

To honor these needs, the **Atherton Disaster and Preparedness Team (ADAPT)** is excited to participate in this year’s Earth Day celebration on April 21. Please drop by the booth to learn more about how to make your family and home more disaster resilient (including emergency food storage, alternative power sources, first aid tips and more!).

We’ll also have a number of hands-on stations that will allow you to learn about or practice disaster related skills, including the use of two-way radios for communication and preparing a go-bag. We hope to see you at Holbrook Palmer Park on Sunday, April 21 from 11 a.m.–3 p.m.!

If you’d like to help us out with the event, we appreciate all of our volunteers. Please email us at info@getreadyatherton.org if you are interested in helping.

CELEBRATING OUR PLANET: ATHERTON'S ANNUAL EARTH DAY FESTIVAL RETURNS!

The Environmental Programs Committee and the Town of Atherton is excited to announce the return of its beloved Earth Day Festival on Sunday, April 21st, from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Holbrook Palmer Park, 150 Watkins Avenue, Atherton. This year's event promises to be a vibrant celebration of our planet, featuring engaging activities, informative booths and ample opportunities to connect with the community while inspiring action for a sustainable future.

"Earth Day is a cherished tradition in Atherton, reminding us of our collective responsibility to protect the environment," said Atherton Mayor Diana Hawkins Manuelian. "This year's festival celebrates the theme of action, offering something to inspire everyone to take meaningful steps at home."

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ATHERTON EARTH DAY FESTIVAL:



- **Engaging Activities:** Immerse yourself in an interactive art exhibit, encounter live animals, groove to music, indulge in delicious food trucks, and treat your little ones to the dedicated Kids' Zone, complete with a pop-up bug museum.
- **Informative Booths:** Connect with local organizations at the forefront of sustainability and climate resilience efforts, learn about eco-friendly practices, and discover resources to reduce your environmental footprint.
- **Giveaways:** Explore the event and stand a chance to win sustainable products and services, promoting local businesses and encouraging eco-conscious choices.

Register now to attend this free event at climateaction.ci.atherton.ca.us/blogs-and-events. Let's come together to celebrate our planet and pledge to build a more sustainable future this Earth Day!

LEAF BLOWER BAN

It is the Town's goal to maintain peace and safety in our residential community by regulating noise and pollution levels. As part of that effort and in line with the State's move to ban the sale of gas-powered small off-road equipment, beginning July 1 the Town will no longer permit the use of gas-powered leaf blowers.

Beyond the benefits of reducing air and noise pollution, electric powered leaf blowers are also lighter, more compact and more convenient than traditional combustion leaf blowers. Electric leaf blowers never need to be filled up with gas or have their oil filters replaced. For more information about the benefits of electric landscaping tools, visit: ci.atherton.ca.us/668/Electric-Leaf-Blower-Program

In the event of a violation, a neighbor or code enforcement officer may report unlawful gas leaf blower usage. Upon verification of the violation, the landscaper and property owner will be notified of the violation and provided with educational materials via mail. If unlawful usage continues, the landscaper and property owner will receive additional notice and be

given 30 days to obtain lawful equipment. If violations continue, the violator will be cited and fined. Fines begin at \$100 and grow progressively with each additional violation.

If you are still in need of a replacement for your gas-powered leaf blower, the Town of Atherton is still offering a limited number of rebates to help residents purchase new equipment. Rebates are first-come, first-serve. To qualify for the rebate, you must provide proof of purchase, proof of residency and submit an application to the Town, which can be found on the Town's website.

The Town appreciates residents' cooperation as we work together through these changes and encourage any questions you may have about electric leaf blowers, the Atherton Municipal Code, or Code Enforcement procedures. These questions and concerns can be directed to Lisa-Marie Daley, Certified Code Enforcement Officer, LDALEY@ci.atherton.ca.us. To report a violation, please call Atherton PD's non-emergency number: (650) 688-6500

Unsure of What Goes Where?

GreenWaste is here to help! Check out the quick sorting guide below or scan the QR code to the right for a full list of materials that can go in each cart.

¡GreenWaste está aquí para ayudar! Consulta la guía de clasificación rápida o escanea el código QR a la derecha para la lista completa de materiales que pueden colocar en cada contenedor.



Town of Atherton

Recycling | Reciclaje

Material must be clean and dry.
Material debe estar limpio y seco.



Paper and Cardboard
Papel y Cartón



Metal
Metal/Aluminio



Glass
Vidrio



Plastic
Plástico

Town of Atherton

Yard Trimmings | Recortes de Jardín



Yard Trimmings (Including fruit tree branches)
Recortes de Jardín (Incluyendo ramas de árboles frutales)

Town of Atherton

Mixed Compostables | Orgánicos Mixtos



Garbage
Basura



Food Scraps and Food Soiled Paper
Desechos de Comida y Papel Contaminado con Comida

WASTE WISE

This year's Waste Wise Event will be April 6 and 7 at Holbrook Palmer Park. From 10 am - 1 pm, on the following dates you'll be able to:

APRIL 6 AND 7

- Drop off donations to Goodwill
- Self-Service Compost Pick Up - Atherton residents may take up to one 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. Compost will be located across from the Water Tower on the trail before entering the parking lot for the Jennings Pavilion.

APRIL 6

- Shred documents confidentially on-site for Atherton residents on Saturday only
 - 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

- Dispose of e-waste with GreenWaste for Atherton residents on Saturday only
 - **ACCEPTABLE ITEMS:** Camcorders, phones, computer components, computers, connectors, cables, DVD players, fax machines, keyboards, laptops, mice, monitors, optical drives, PDAs, printers, radios, scanners, servers, stereos, storage discs, zip drives, TVs, UPS power supply units, video game consoles and VCR players.
 - **NOT ACCEPTABLE:** Fluorescent tubes, batteries and household hazardous waste. You can dispose of those by scheduling an appointment with San Mateo County via email at hhw@smcgov.org or phone at (650) 372-6200. Visit smchealth.org/hhw for more information.

SAFETY ELEMENT UPDATE - CLIMATE RESILIENCY PLAN

San Mateo County is in the process of updating the Safety Element for the county and its constituent cities, including Atherton. The Safety Element is a state-required component of a City and County's General Plan that incorporates goals, policies and actions to minimize the risk of injury, death, property and environmental damage associated with natural and human-made hazards. In particular, SB 379 requires a component to identify how climate change will impact hazard risk for communities in the future.

The City has initiated the public outreach process, going to the Planning Commission and City Council for briefings. In addition to working with community groups, like ADAPT, the City will hold a public workshop to introduce the Safety Element process and background information currently under assessment. During this phase, the City is evaluating whether all factors have been considered and whether information is up-to-date. The feedback from the public workshop will aid the City in preparing the analysis for draft goals.

- **Summer/Fall of 2024:** Release of draft goals, objectives, policies and implementation programs that the public will have the opportunity to comment on.
- **Winter 2024/2025:** Public comments will be used to prepare a complete draft of the Safety Element.
- **May/June 2025:** Formal public engagement opportunities, which starts with a 20-30 day California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) notice prior to adoption hearings.

The Town of Atherton continues to work with the County through the updating process, while adhering to the Town's Climate Action Plan.

ATHERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT THERAPY DOG PROGRAM

In recent years, police departments across the nation have been implementing innovative approaches to improve community relations and enhance the well-being of their officers. One such initiative gaining traction is the Police Therapy Dog Program, where specially trained dogs serve as invaluable companions and emotional support for law enforcement personnel. The many important benefits of this innovative program include:

- **Breaking Down Barriers:** The Police Therapy Dog Program aims to break down the barriers between law enforcement and the communities they protect by introducing a friendly therapy dog into the equation. Officers can engage with the public in a more relaxed and open manner, fostering trust and collaboration within the community.
- **Stress Reduction and Emotional Support:** Policing is a high-stress profession, and officers often face emotionally charged situations. Therapy dogs, trained to provide comfort and emotional support, play a crucial role in helping officers cope with stress. The calming presence of a furry companion has been shown to reduce anxiety levels, lower blood pressure, and improve overall mental well-being.
- **Community Outreach and Engagement:** Police therapy dogs aren't just confined to the precinct; they actively participate in community outreach programs. Whether attending local events, school visits, or neighborhood gatherings, these four-legged officers serve as ambassadors, strengthening the bond between the police force and the communities they serve. This proactive engagement helps bridge gaps, dispel misconceptions, and create a more positive perception of law enforcement.



- **Building Trust and Humanizing Law Enforcement:** In an era where public trust in law enforcement is crucial, the Police Therapy Dog Program contributes to humanizing officers and reinforcing their role as public servants. The presence of a friendly and approachable therapy dog can serve as an icebreaker, encouraging positive interactions and fostering a sense of unity between the police and the community.
- **Officer Well-being and Mental Health:** The mental health of law enforcement personnel has become an increasing concern. The therapy dog program recognizes the importance of addressing these issues by providing officers with a non-judgmental and unconditional source of companionship. This, in turn, contributes to a healthier and more resilient police force.

As police departments continue to evolve to meet the needs of their officers and communities, the Police Therapy Dog Program emerges as a promising initiative. Beyond the heartwarming moments of officers interacting with their furry partners, this program represents a tangible step towards building stronger community relations and supporting the mental health of law enforcement personnel.

By harnessing the power of therapy dogs, police departments are not only enhancing their image but also fostering a culture of empathy, understanding, and resilience within their ranks. The Atherton Department of Police is in the process of evaluating a police therapy dog program for the community and for our team members.

FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATES

The Menlo Park Fire District is offering free emergency preparedness classes:

- **Red Cross Ready Disaster Preparedness:** A 90-minute class covering basic response actions for disasters. Participants learn how to build a disaster kit, plan and stay connected during emergencies.
- **Stop the Bleed:** A one-hour class held monthly on the third Monday to teach citizens how to recognize and respond to first aid emergencies until medical personnel arrive. Participants receive an American College of Surgeons certificate upon completion.
- **First Aid & CPR-AED:** A six-hour class held monthly on Saturdays, focusing on recognizing and responding to cardiac, breathing and first

aid emergencies until medical personnel arrive. Participants receive First Aid and CPR cards upon completion.

- **CERT (Community Emergency Response Team):** Three 8-hour classes offered quarterly on Saturdays, providing training on basic disaster and preparedness skills. CERT members are equipped to safeguard themselves, their families, their community and assist local first responders.

For more information and registration, visit menlofirecert.com or email cert@menlofire.com.



FIRE MARSHAL'S SAFETY CORNER

LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES



Lithium-ion batteries are commonly found in cell phones, e-bikes, laptops, and e-scooters. Improper use and storage can cause fires. If you observe a lithium-ion battery fire, leave the area, **CLOSE** the door, and call **911**.

Proper Handling, Storage, & Disposal

- Keep lithium-ion batteries at room temperature away from direct sunlight and heat
- Do not keep charging the device after it is fully charged
- Store e-bikes and e-scooters away from exit doors
- Charge your e-bike away from tripping hazards
- Do not charge the device under your pillow or on your couch
- Dispose lithium-ion batteries in the **RECYCLING**
- Do not stack batteries in piles
- Keep batteries away from children, liquids, and flammable sources

HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE: ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS IN ATHERTON

Throughout the 2023-31 Housing Element Update (HEU) process, the Town has collaborated with the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to create a state compliant HEU that addresses Atherton's distinct local needs.

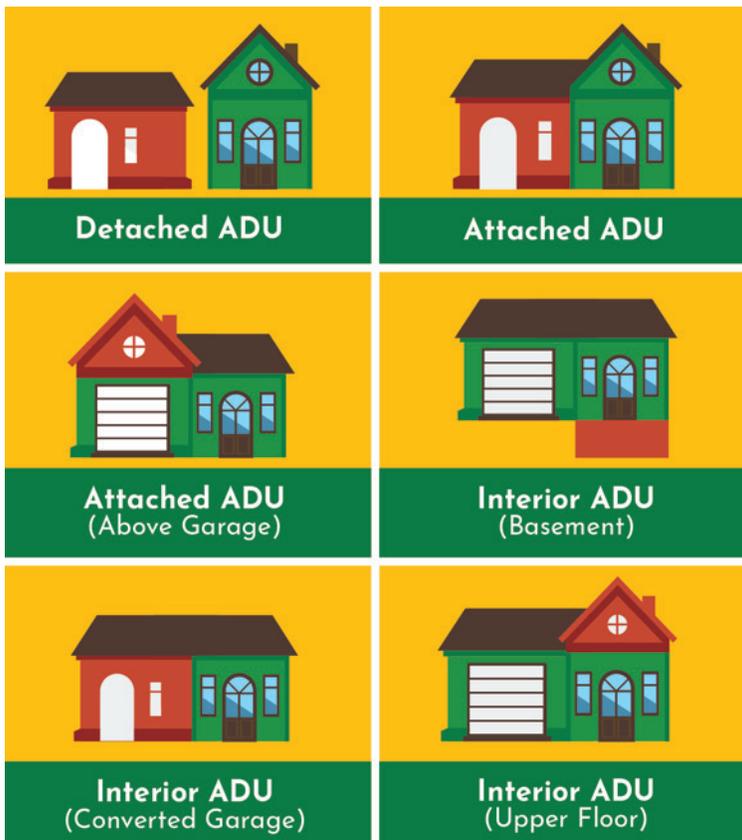
In doing so, the Atherton City Council introduced and discussed updates to the Town's Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) ordinance at its meetings on November 15, 2023 and January 17, 2024. A draft ordinance from the February 21, 2023 City Council meeting outlines all potential changes to the existing Atherton Municipal Code.

Atherton currently allows the development of ADUs of up to 1,200 square feet and a JADU of up to 500 square feet per single family property.

The Atherton 2023-2031 Housing Element includes strategies to meet the Town's Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA). To accommodate for its fair share of regional housing needs, staff recommends that the Town facilitate accessory dwelling unit production.



Scan QR Code to view
Town's ADU Brochure



ADU RESOURCES FOR HOMEOWNERS

Do I need a permit to build an ADU in Atherton?

Yes, you need a cost permit. Before you apply, be sure you meet the requirements to build.

Maximum Square Footage: ADUs may be up to 1,200 square feet, and JADUs may be up to 500 square feet.

Entrance Requirement: Any new ADU that is incorporated into a proposed or existing primary residence shall have a separate entrance facing the side or rear yard, where feasible. Any new detached ADU or JADU shall have a separate entrance facing towards the interior of the lot.

Parking Requirement: Most ADUs must have one parking space. Parking must be accessible from a public street and screened from view. These spaces may be provided as tandem parking on an existing driveway.

ATHERTON'S ADU OCCUPANT MATCH PROGRAM

In partnership with HIP Housing, this program helps match individuals seeking housing with people who have a room or ADU to rent. HIP Housing conducts interviews, assists with client applications, conducts background searches, helps determine rent ranges, discusses home provider incentives and provides resource packets for new Providers. The Town is putting together a list of interested renters that residents can get and find a renter on their own: tinyurl.com/ADUMatchProgram.

TYPES OF HOME SHARING

The Home Share Program is a **FREE** service, aiming to provide a practical solution to our housing challenges and keep Atherton and San Mateo County workers local. The program works in one of two ways:

- A Home Provider is matched with a Home Seeker who pays rent.
- A Home Provider is matched with a Home Seeker who exchanges household duties for reduced rent.

Visit **Atherton's ADU Resource Center** to learn more about ADU and Junior ADU requirements: tinyurl.com/AthertonADU. You can also contact the Town of Atherton at (650) 752-0500 for questions about requirements or the permit process.



GREETINGS FROM THE ATHERTON HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

Since the community celebration of the Town of Atherton's Centennial in September 2023, there has been renewed interest in the history of our community. The Atherton Heritage Association is always open for visitors interested in seeing the Heritage Room, asking questions and getting historical information about the Town of Atherton.

While the Atherton Heritage Association is not a museum, they do have a robust history of Atherton with interesting resources recounting and commemorating our Town's past. The Association maintains historical files on current and historical Atherton homes and residents.

Visitors are welcome to contribute additional historical information or help research our Town's past. The Association also has an archive of local newspaper clippings, files on Atherton schools and organizations and a variety of photos, books and scrapbooks for research projects of any kind.

The Atherton Heritage Association is located in the historic Atherton Town Hall, right next door to Mademoiselle Colette and the Atherton Library. Its hours are 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. on each Tuesday.

SENIOR TASK FORCE SAVE THE DATE

The Town's new resident-led Senior Task Force is hosting an information/discussion session on **May 9th from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.** in the Atherton Council Chambers. All seniors are invited to attend and share their recommendations for possible future programs.

We plan to discuss a variety of topics related to seniors including approximately 8 that were developed by the recent senior specific focus groups conducted in late 2023. Meeting topics may include;

- What to do in an emergency
- Replacing your current phone landline
- Handymen & Service Experts
- Avoiding solicitors, scams and phishing emails and calls
- Aging in Place

For more details, contact Anthony Suber via email at: asuber@ci.atherton.ca.us

INTRODUCING WILL BURSE



I am honored to introduce myself as the Maintenance Manager for the Town of Atherton in the Public Works Department.

I bring over 25 years of experience in facilities maintenance and maintenance management.

I started my career at the San Francisco International Airport, where I worked for over 15 years maintaining buildings and equipment. I learned a lot about tough work, teamwork and what it means to provide a safe environment for everyone.

For the past ten years, I was a part of a Foster City's community center team, focusing on buildings and school maintenance. I enjoyed being part of a community and helping our senior citizens, adults and families with kids have a safe environment to work and play.

I am excited to be a part of the Town of Atherton and the structure of this community and team. I look forward to providing safe streets, buildings and parks for our residents and visitors to visit and enjoy.

I look forward to becoming a pivotal part of the Town and bringing my knowledge and skills to help Atherton thrive in years to come.

UPDATES FROM THE ATHERTON LIBRARY

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Did you know that the Atherton Library has been working with Center for Age Friendly Excellence (CAFE) to identify programming needs for residents ages 55+?

San Mateo County arranged for CAFE to work with select cities, resulting in the formation of a local Age-Friendly Task Force that serves to facilitate collaborative partnerships through shared resources and coordinated activities. Volunteers share their thoughts in one-time focus groups, with the goal of identifying the unmet needs of local older adults and potential programming solutions.

Technological assistance and social engagement were topics of discussion identified by CAFE, noting that the Atherton Library provides these important community functions through senior-specific programming. Keep an eye out for more programming to be announced on the library's website. Seniors are invited to register for Atherton Book Club, which meets every third Wednesday of the month from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Atherton Library will be hosting an array of enriching activities and courses for residents of all ages. Check out some of our offerings:

- In-Person English Conversation Club
- Family Story Time with Stay and Play
- Power Up Afternoons: Science Wednesday
- Power Up Afternoons: Wellness Thursday - Watercoloring
- Power Up Afternoons: Paper Art Monday
- Atherton Chess Club
- Computer Security Basics
- Playing with Comics: April 27, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.



Scan here to see a full list of upcoming events.

For more information, visit: ci.atherton.ca.us/268/Library.



CALLED BY THE TREES

Patricia Larenas' artwork highlights the sacredness and fragility of life, as experienced through the lens of trees. She studies and draws individual trees on location, often naming them in order to elevate their visibility and tell their stories. Her recent work includes collecting local soils and charcoal from wildfires to make paint and using renewable, recycled, or handmade papers.

Patricia values using her work to promote conservation and nurture our connection with nature. She is currently planning to host workshops on making soil and charcoal paint at San Vicente Redwoods with the Peninsula Open Space Trust and the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County. She also recently completed an artist residency near Joshua Tree National Park (the resulting artwork is included in this exhibition).

Patricia teaches classes on drawing trees and book arts through the Atherton Arts Foundation and serves on their board of directors. She studied at the Filoli Botanical Art Certificate Program and received her B.A. degree in Studio Art from San Jose State University.

To learn more visit: athertonartsfoundation.org

ATHERTON HOLBROOK-PALMER PARK TREE PLANTING

Have you visited Holbrook-Palmer Park recently? There are newly planted trees from the recently completed park circulation project.

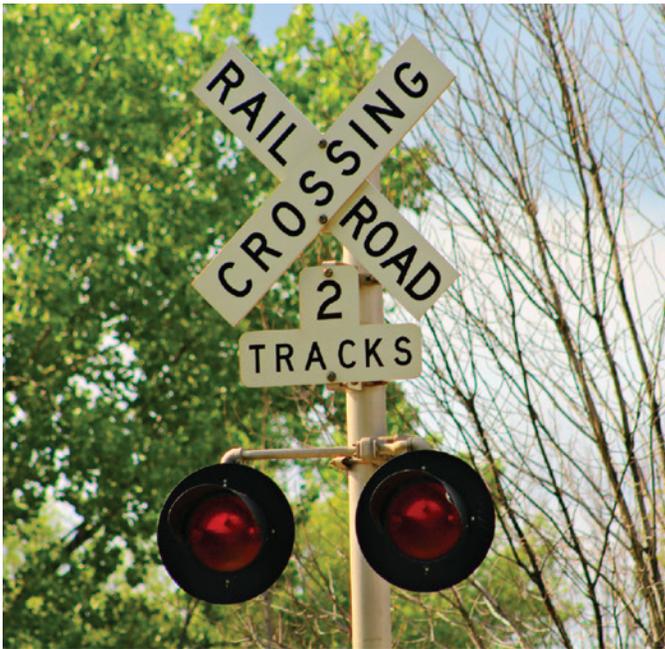
Be sure to check out the below evergreen trees along the new decomposed pathway path. One of these four evergreen tree species could be a good candidate for you property.

- Catalina Ironwood
- Burgandy Peppermint Willow
- Cork Oak
- Southern Live Oak

If you have any questions about planting your tree, please contact the Town Arborist at: sbentz@ci.atherton.ca.us



ATHERTON QUIET ZONE



Get more information about Atherton's Quiet Zone



Safety is the top priority: At a railroad crossing, always wait for the gate. Even if you can't hear the train coming, make sure to wait for the gate to fully rise before crossing.

ATHERTON TREE GIVEAWAY

The Town of Atherton gave away 100 Oak trees on September 24th, 2023, for the Town's Centennial celebration.

If you received a tree, have you planted it yet? If so, please share photos of your tree with us via email at: Town@ci.atherton.ca.us

If you haven't planted it, the best time to plant your tree is today! If you have any questions about planting, please contact the Town Arborist at: sbentz@ci.atherton.ca.us. In person counter hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 1- 4 p.m.



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

UPCOMING EVENTS



CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION
April 3, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
April 17, 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.



CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION
May 1, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
May 15, 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.



CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION
June 15, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
June 19, 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.

STAY IN TOUCH



@TownofAtherton

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

