



ATHERTONIAN

AN ATHERTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

2025 FALL EDITION



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CITY MANAGER UPDATE



This fall brings a number of important updates and community events in Atherton. In this edition of The Athertonian, you'll find information on Peninsula Clean Energy's new 24/7 emergency water heater

replacement program, tips from our Town Arborist on protecting your Oak trees and upcoming changes to construction and demolition debris box rules.

We've also included storm preparedness reminders as we head into the rainy season, along with updates on the Town's Active Transportation Plan — an effort to improve walking and biking connections throughout our community.

On the community side, learn more about the Friends of the Atherton Library, the Heritage Association and the Atherton Arts Foundation, each of which continues to enrich Town life through events, history and art. The Library also has a full schedule of programs this fall for children, adults and families.

Mark your calendar for upcoming events: the Halloween Celebration on Oct. 30, the ADU Mixer on Nov. 13, the Veteran Art Show Nov. 14–16 and the Holiday Tree Lighting on Dec. 11.

Thank you for staying engaged and connected with our community!

UPCOMING EVENTS



ATHERTON'S HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR

Thursday, Oct. 30, 3–5 p.m.

Atherton Library (2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane)

Sponsored by the Atherton Police Department and the Atherton Library, the Halloween Spooktacular returns to Atherton Town Center on Oct. 30! There will be activities and bounce houses for kids, as well as a costume parade. The Atherton Library will host a Halloween-themed musical storytime while Atherton Police officers pass out candy. Food and treats will be available for purchase.

Public Parking for this event will be at Holbrook Palmer Park, please do not plan on parking at Town Center.

RSVP for the event at our EventBrite: [Atherton.News/2025-Spooktacular](#)

2025 ADU MIXER

Thursday, Nov. 13, 6 p.m.

Atherton Council Chambers (80 Fair Oaks Lane)

This year's ADU Mixer will offer a more social and interactive format, giving home providers and home seekers the chance to connect directly through informal networking, "get-to-know-you" activities and pop-up Q&A tables. HIP Housing will also be present to share program information and facilitate conversations. If you've ever considered converting or renting an ADU, this event is the perfect opportunity to learn more and make connections.

RSVP at [Atherton.news/ADU-Mixer-2025](#)

ATHERTON ARTS FOUNDATION PRESENTS: VETERANS' ARTIST ART SHOW

Nov. 14–16

Jennings Pavilion, Holbrook-Palmer Park (150 Watkins Ave.)

A special art show hosted by Atherton Arts Foundation (AAF) and Iraqi & Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA). Open to all military veterans (WWII–present). Each artist may submit up to 8 works in any medium (ceramics, fabric/fiber, wood, etc.). Space is limited and art may be juried.

HOLIDAY EVENT AND TREE LIGHTING

Thursday, Dec. 11, 5–7p.m.

Atherton Library Deck (2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane)



SUSTAINABLE ATHERTON: PRESERVE. PROTECT. PROGRESS.

PENINSULA CLEAN ENERGY LAUNCHES 24/7 EMERGENCY WATER HEATER REPLACEMENT SERVICE

An emergency replacement of a broken water heater can be super stressful. Peninsula Clean Energy (PCE) has a new service that aims to make it easier and a lot cleaner. PCE is now offering rapid service to install a new energy-efficient electric heat pump water heater as a replacement for a broken gas-powered one. That replacement may result in zero cost to qualified residents.

By calling PCE at **(650) 314-4796**, their partner contractor is available 24/7 to confirm eligibility and schedule an in-home assessment for the same or next day.

So, who is eligible?

Any active Peninsula Clean Energy residential customer who legally owns anything from a single-family home up to a fourplex with an existing gas water heater. **Residents meeting income and other qualifications may be eligible for a no-cost installation.**



Check out all the details on [Peninsula Clean Energy's website.](#)



DEAR SALLY WITH THE TOWN ARBORIST



Dear Arborist,

My Oak trees are in decline and one is dead after I planted a row of shrubs nearby. Can you help me understand why that is and what I can do to protect my trees?

Sincerely, Oak Snubbed by Shrub

Hi, Oak Snubbed by Shrub! Yes, I see this every day when I drive around the Town. Screening shrubs are planted next to Oaks and just after a few months to a year the Oaks start to decline and eventually die.

This is because roots are sometimes cut to install the shrubs. Oaks need a dry environment and Mature Oaks do not require water even during the dry summer months. When irrigation is installed for the shrubs near the Oaks, the wet environment can cause fungus to start to grow, especially if impacted by a combination of summer heat and moisture.

TO PROTECT YOUR OAK:

- Do not plant irrigated plants within a distance of **three times the tree's diameter**. For example, a 20-inch diameter Oak should have no competing plants within at least 5 feet.
- Ideally, keep **10 feet or more** clear around the base and avoid planting anything within the tree's dripline.

The photo to the left shows an Oak that failed after shrubs were planted too close. It's a reminder that leaving space and keeping Oaks dry in the summer is the best way to help them thrive.

If you have questions about tree care, feel free to contact me at sbentz@ci.atherton.ca.us.

Sincerely,
Sally Bentz-Dalton
Town Arborist

CHANGES TO CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION DEBRIS BOX RULES COMING JAN. 1, 2026

Starting **Jan. 1, 2026**, GreenWaste Recovery will be the only company authorized to provide Construction and Demolition (C&D) debris box service, also known as roll-off bins, for C&D collection, transport and disposal within Town limits. Other C&D debris box service providers may continue operating until Dec. 31, 2025.

Why the change? The requirement, which is written into the Town's exclusive franchise agreement with GreenWaste, supports State recycling and diversion laws, ensures consistent service and improves compliance with waste diversion requirements.

Who is impacted? Contractors, construction companies and property owners with projects that use debris boxes (roll-off bins) to collect C&D materials will be impacted.

Starting Jan. 1, 2026, GreenWaste is the only vendor that will have the right to rent and haul debris boxes within the Town. Other vendors will no longer be permitted to haul debris boxes out of the Town for disposal and any debris boxes rented from such vendors will need to be removed from use.

Are there exceptions? Yes. The following exceptions are still permitted, with some conditions, as long as no rented debris boxes are utilized:

- Self-haul by the contractor, construction company or property owner
- Scheduled dump truck hauling
- Roof tear-off debris hauled by a roofing company
- Organic landscaping materials hauled by a landscaping or gardening company
- Bulky goods hauled by a maintenance company

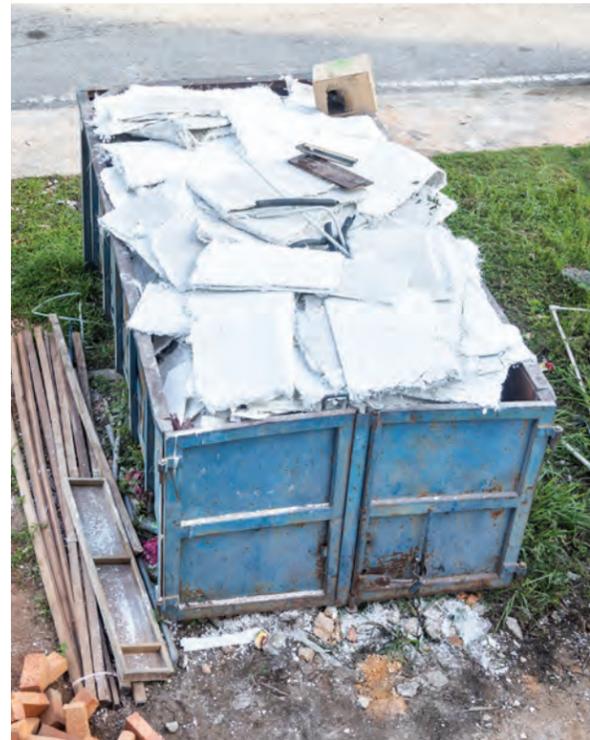


Scan the QR code to learn more about the debris box services.

How can I prepare for this change?

- Order GreenWaste debris boxes and check for availability by calling **(888) 533-9269**, emailing gwds@greenwaste.com, or visiting greenwaste.com/services/debris-boxes/bay-area.
- Coordinate with any other debris box vendors or hauling services to end service and remove rented equipment by Jan. 1, 2026.

Questions on building permit applicability? Contact the Building Department at **650-752-0560**.



Convenient Sizes For Your Needs



40 Cubic Yard
21' x 8' x 7.5'

Perfect size for large-scale or long term projects, such as major renovations, construction, and more.



20 Cubic Yard
16' x 8' x 4.5'

Our most popular box size, ideal for small remodels, property clean outs, and general debris removal.



10 Cubic Yard
16' x 8' x 3.5'

Great for small remodels, home projects, bulky household items, and heavier materials such as concrete, brick, or dirt.



STORM PREPAREDNESS

As fall and winter welcome festive celebrations and cozy spirits, it's also the time of year to prepare for winter weather and more storms. The Town of Atherton is committed to supporting safety and promoting emergency preparedness throughout our community through resources and guidance.

GENERAL PREPAREDNESS

- Sign up for SMS and emergency alerts, follow the Town updates on social media and find emergency resources in the Connect with Atherton guide: Atherton.News/Connect-with-Atherton.
- Know your evacuation zone and ADAPT Emergency Assembly Points: community.zonehaven.com Atherton.News/Emergency-Assembly-Points.
- During peak storm hours, shelter in place and stay off the roads.
- Check that backup generators, sump pumps and other drainage systems are working properly.

FLOODING

- Do not drive through flooded roads — floodwaters can potentially hide roadway damage. Obey detours, barricades, and posted warnings. Roadways, where floodwaters have receded, may be damaged.
- Avoid being near large branches and trees during heavy rain and wind.
- Sandbags are available at the self-service sandbag station at Holbrook-Palmer Park (150 Watkins Ave., rear parking lot). There is a limit of five sandbags per residence. For placement tips, see San Mateo County's sandbag guide: Atherton.News/SMC-Sandbag-Guide.

POWER OUTAGES & DOWNED POWER LINES

- Keep flashlights and lanterns accessible in case of a power outage.
- Avoid contact with floodwaters, which may be contaminated or energized by downed or underground power lines.
- Stay clear of downed power lines and report them immediately to PG&E.
- Visit the PG&E Emergency Outage Center for the latest information on power outages and estimated restoration: pgealerts.alerts.pge.com/outagecenter.

The Town is working to keep public areas safe and clean in addition to sharing information with the community. Public Works staff are currently clearing the Atherton Channel of any debris and performing tree trimming with some additional patching. The Atherton Channel will also be sandbagged to prevent flooding near Alameda Avenue and Walsh Road.

If you have any questions related to storm preparedness or experience issues like blocked storm drains, downed trees that are not immediately dangerous or non-life-threatening property flooding, please contact the Town's Public Works Department at **650-752-0570**.

During storms, if you perceive any imminent threat to life or safety, please contact **911**.

Learn more about storm preparedness at Atherton.News/Winter-Storm-Preparedness.

THINKING ABOUT AN ADU CONVERSION? Here's What You Should Know

Do you already have a cottage, guest house, pool house or other accessory building on your property? If so, you may be closer than you think to creating an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU).

An ADU — sometimes called a granny flat or in-law suite — is a smaller, self-contained living unit on the same lot as a single-family home. Many property owners in Atherton already have accessory structures that may qualify as an “ADU conversion.” If the building is already livable, it may be possible to have it officially recognized and permitted under current state and Town regulations. Even if your structure isn't livable yet — such as a pool house — it could often be converted into a legal ADU with the right upgrades. Our Community Development staff are available to assist with questions and guide you through the process.

The benefits of an ADU go beyond property value. They can provide flexible housing for family members, friends, caretakers, local educators and first responders. They also support the Town's efforts to meet state housing requirements by creating more diverse housing opportunities within the community.

To make renting out ADUs easier, the Town of Atherton has partnered with HIP Housing to launch the ADU Match Program, with more information at **Atherton.News/ADU-Program**. This free service connects home providers with qualified home seekers in San Mateo County. HIP Housing conducts interviews, assists with applications, facilitates background checks and helps determine fair rent ranges — making the process safe and supportive. For those who prefer a more independent approach, the HIP Housing and the Town also offers an interest list of potential renters at **Atherton.News/Home-Seekers**.

Interested potential home providers and home seekers are invited to attend the 2025 ADU Mixer on Thursday, Nov. 13 at 6 p.m. at the Atherton Council Chambers. Connect with HIP Housing, explore “get-to-know-you” activities and pop-up Q&A tables to learn more about renting your ADU and home sharing.

 Detached ADU	 Attached ADU
 Attached ADU (Above Garage)	 Interior ADU (Basement)
 Interior ADU (Converted Garage)	 Interior ADU (Upper Floor)

 Learn More about the ADU Match Program	 Sample List of Persons Seeking Housing
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2025 ADU Mixer
Nov. 13, 6 p.m.
Atherton Council Chambers
80 Fair Oaks Lane

ATHERTON'S ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN ROLLS ALONG



This spring, Atherton's Public Works Department began work on an Active Transportation Plan in partnership with Alta Planning + Design. The Active Transportation Plan is an update to the 2014 Town of Atherton Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, designed to develop a comprehensive approach to improving safety and usability for walking and biking around Atherton.

Over the summer, the project team gathered community input through an online survey and interactive web map, where planners received comments from community members about where and how they get around, what challenges they face biking or walking and what improvements they would like to see.

Planners analyzed the feedback alongside technical data and developed a set of draft recommendations, which they presented to the Transportation, Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Committee on Sept. 30.

At this meeting, the project team presented existing conditions for walking and cycling infrastructure in the Town, a summary of responses from recent

outreach and the draft recommendations. This was followed by a discussion with the Committee.

With the proposed recommendations released, more opportunities for community input are coming soon! The project team will host neighborhood outreach and community engagement events to gather feedback on the recommendations. Additionally, there will soon be a new survey available on the project website. Additional information will be available on the website as dates and locations are finalized.

These outreach sessions over the fall will offer residents a chance to weigh in on recommendations before the project team finalizes the Active Transportation Plan for potential adoption by the City Council in 2026. The project team would like to thank all who have responded to outreach so far, as your feedback has been instrumental in shaping the plan.

For more information on the Active Transportation Plan, please visit the project website at **Atherton.News/Active-Transportation-Plan**.



FRIENDS MAKE IT POSSIBLE: HOW COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUELS THE ATHERTON LIBRARY



The Atherton Library is deeply grateful for the support from the Friends of Atherton Library. Through generous donations and strategic partnerships, the Friends of the Atherton Library (Friends) help power meaningful outreach, enrich Makerspace programming and strengthen community connections.

Enriching School Outreach

This year, Atherton Library had its strongest school outreach in recent years, thanks to support from the Friends. A particular highlight was the Library's inaugural presence at the Menlo Park Atherton Education Foundation Schoolhouse Rocks 5K. Local families were delighted by the giant lawn games, 3D-printed keychains and giveaway books supplied by Friends donations.

Makerspace Innovations

One of the highlights of the Library is its Makerspace. Donations from the Friends help the Maker team purchase unique tools, such as heat guns for screenprinting and 3D printing supplies and a rotary cutter for maker programs.

Impactful Community Events and Programs

National Night Out, in collaboration with the Atherton Police Department and Town of Atherton, was a huge success for Atherton Library this year! The event offered live screenprinting on tote bags, generously funded by the Friends of Atherton Library.

This year, Atherton Library launched a Nature Journaling series in Holbrook Palmer Park thanks in part to the Friends of Atherton Library.

The Library also held its first-ever End of Summer party for families in Holbrook Palmer Park. This joyous party celebrated the closing of our Summer Adventure reading program with a special visit from the Bubblesmith bubble artist, thanks to the Friends.



FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY CALENDAR

December 2025

Thursday, Dec. 11
5–7 p.m.

Holiday Tree Lighting Event:
Cookie Decorating

January 2026

Thursday, Jan. 15
4–6 p.m.

Jim Caldwell: Auguste Rodin,
Sculptor

February 2026

Thursday, Feb. 19
4–6 p.m.

Mary Jo: Sarah L. Winchester,
heirress to the rifle fortune,
in her book titled
“Captive of the Labyrinth”

March 2026

Thursday, March 19
4–6 p.m.

Meg Danohue: Book launch
“The Memory Gardener”

April 2026

Thursday, April 16
4–6 p.m.

Robert Buelتمان: Energetic
Photograms

For more information, visit athertonlibraryfriends.org/friends-events-calendar/

THE MANY DIMENSIONS OF AAF

Atherton Arts Foundation is an active — but often behind the scenes — partner with the Town of Atherton!

AAF loans the Town artwork to exhibit throughout the Town Center; don't miss it! The Town thanks Jim Caldwell for sharing his beautiful, landscape paintings with the community. Mary (Woollomes) Lipian, the next featured artist, will soon be bringing her abstract and contemporary paintings to the Town Center.

In the downstairs of the Main House at Holbrook Palmer Park, AAF offers a wide variety of art classes for all levels of students. Offerings include sewing, botanical art, painting with acrylics or watercolor, calligraphy, basketry, book binding and more! Visit the AAF website at athertonartsfoundation.org for more information.

When strolling through Holbrook Palmer Park, please visit the newly redecorated art room, supported by the Town of Atherton. Visitors may even encounter a class in action!

A community art show, featuring Veteran artists and members of their family, will be open for all to enjoy from Nov. 14–16. The art show will open to the public, free of charge, from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 15 and noon–4 pm on Sunday, Nov. 16. There will be family activities, including military vehicles, an obstacle course and children's art projects throughout the event weekend.

The Veteran Art Show is also introducing Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America to the Bay Area. A benefit for IAVA will be held Friday evening. Speakers will address Veteran issues and provide an opportunity for discussion with the artists. Saturday, Nov. 15, will feature a Veteran Together Meetup at 9 a.m. Veterans for all services are welcome to attend at any time.

For tickets and more information, visit the AAF website at athertonartsfoundation.org.

DISCOVER THE ATHERTON HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1982 by residents passionate about preserving the history of Atherton, the Atherton Heritage Association has grown steadily over the decades. The Association continues to thrive, expanding its archives and embracing new methods of research and technology.

The Atherton Heritage Association's mission includes:

- Responding to inquiries from residents, students and researchers
- Providing historical facts and background to the Town Council
- Researching historical people, events, properties and structures
- Collaborating with local historical groups, authors and preservationists

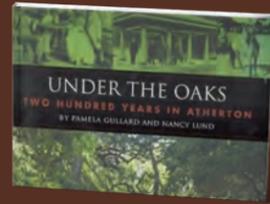
Their growing collection includes:

- Oral histories in the voices of local eyewitnesses
- Over 3,000 historical photographs
- Local and subdivision maps
- Family archives and personal collections
- Historical magazines and newspaper clippings
- Books and journals documenting Atherton and its residents
- Extensive files on properties, residents (past and present), local organizations and unique town stories

The Heritage Room is a valuable resource for those researching local history, writing family heritage papers or simply exploring Atherton's rich past.



The Heritage Association also offers *Under the Oaks*, a beautiful coffee table book filled with historic photos and engaging stories about Atherton. It is available for purchase in the History Room.



Visit! The Atherton Heritage Association is made up of individuals committed to preserving the past, serving the present and enriching the future. We invite you to stop by and discover more.

Hours: Tuesdays, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Location: 80 Fair Oaks Lane (next to the library)

Phone: (650) 752-0536



UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT ATHERTON LIBRARY

The Atherton Library has an exciting fall planned with programs for all ages and interests! Due to very limited parking at the Town Center, visitors are encouraged to park at Holbrook-Palmer Park and enjoy a short walk to the Library.

Adults

CREATIVE WRITERS' WORKSHOP

Monday, Nov. 3, 2–4 p.m.

Bring a writing project you've been working on or wanting to start. The workshop includes relevant writing craft resources, sharing and feedback. Come away inspired and with a path forward.

INTRODUCTION TO ADOBE PHOTOSHOP

Monday, Nov. 10, 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Adobe Photoshop CC is the industry-standard software for creating and editing stunning images, graphics and designs. Whether you want to enhance your photos, create digital art or design logos, flyers, posters and more, Photoshop CC can help you achieve your creative goals.



Children

PAWS FOR TALES

Thursday, Nov. 6, 5–6 p.m.

Do you have a reluctant reader? Sign your child up for a session to practice reading with a therapy dog at the library.

BABY BOUNCE STORYTIME WITH STAY AND PLAY!

Monday, Nov. 17, noon–12:45 p.m.

Bring your bouncing baby to our biweekly playtime, full of nursery rhymes and songs you can do together to stimulate your baby's development. Ideal for newborns up to 18 months old, but all are welcome.

All Ages

3D PRINTING FOR FAMILIES

Mondays, 5–6 p.m.

Come visit our Makerspace for an hour of 3D printing exploration. Print your own small project or customize pre-printed projects!





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Atherton, CA 94027

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UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS



CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION
Wednesday, Nov. 5, 4–6 p.m.



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, Nov. 19, 6–8 p.m.



CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION
Wednesday, Dec. 3, 4–6 p.m.



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, Dec. 17, 6–8p.m.



CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION
Wednesday, Jan. 7, 4–6 p.m.



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, Jan. 21, 6–8 p.m.

STAY IN TOUCH

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