

# ATHERTONIAN

## 2025 YEAR IN REVIEW



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## City Manager's Update

With the close of 2025 and looking ahead to 2026, I am pleased to share this End-of-Year edition of The Athertonian. This annual report reflects a year of steady progress, thoughtful planning and continued investment in the services, infrastructure and community partnerships that make Atherton a special place to live.

Throughout the past year, the Town Council and staff remained focused on the priorities that matter most to residents: preserving our small-town character, maintaining fiscal discipline, strengthening public safety and being forward-thinking in how we deliver services. This issue highlights how those priorities translated into action. You will find updates on the FY 2025-26 Work Plan, advancements in digital tools that improve transparency and cybersecurity and major steps forward in sustainability and climate action. We also share progress on capital projects, planning and building activity and efforts to improve connectivity and facilities at Holbrook-Palmer Park.

Public safety remains central to our work, and this edition offers an inside look at free residential alarm monitoring and education initiatives focused on e-bike and pedestrian safety. Just as important is the role our community plays. From volunteer-led Designated Groups and emergency preparedness through Get Ready Atherton, to the Arts Foundation, Library and youth and senior programs, civic participation continues to be a defining strength of our town.

I am proud of what we accomplished together in 2025 and grateful for the engagement, trust and partnership of Atherton residents. On behalf of the Town Council and staff, thank you for being part of our shared effort to keep Atherton safe, resilient and vibrant.



## We're launching AthertonCA.gov in 2026!

### City Manager's Office Digital Transformation

The Town of Atherton is committed to delivering efficient, transparent and secure services to its residents. To that end, the City Manager's Office has been leveraging technology to enhance operations, internal workflows and fiscal accountability. The Town is excited to share about the recent initiatives that are contributing to our digital transformation journey:

#### Streamlining Records Management with Laserfiche

One of the cornerstones of this operational overhaul is the implementation of Laserfiche, a new content management system. The system facilitates a more centralized, secure storage system through digitization, as we move away from time-consuming paper-based processes. Staff can now quickly manage documents, significantly reducing the time spent on manual filing and effectively boosting productivity across departments. Laserfiche also aligns with the Town's commitment to transparency by providing a foundation for greater access to public information and a more efficient process for public records requests.

#### Cybersecurity Enhancements & .Gov Launch

In today's digital landscape, the security of the Town's data and systems is paramount. The Information Technology Department has successfully executed a strategy to enhance the Town's cybersecurity program, ensuring operational integrity and systems are protected.

These enhancements include a multi-layered approach to defense, ranging from updated network infrastructure to robust software solutions. Key components rolled out involve the expansion of two-factor authentication for Town-wide access and the deployment of advanced malware monitoring software. In line with the California state requirement for municipal agencies to transition to .gov, the Town secured the address athertonca.gov and is gradually transitioning from the previous Town website URL. This move serves to strengthen cybersecurity, enhance public confidence and combat online fraud such as impersonators of government websites and email addresses.

#### Launching OpenGov for Modern Financial Management

To achieve greater financial clarity and efficiency, the Town is re-launching the OpenGov financial software. This cloud-based platform replaces outdated systems. The Town's Finance Department intends to utilize its tools for collaborative budgeting and performance management, helping department heads and the City Council make more data-driven decisions and align expenditures with the Town's strategic goals.

Perhaps most importantly for our residents, OpenGov also powers a Financial Transparency Portal. This user-friendly tool allows the public to easily access, visualize and analyze the Town's financial data, enhancing accountability and public trust by making the budget understandable and accessible to everyone.

The implementation of Laserfiche, cybersecurity upgrades and the deployment of OpenGov are technical upgrades that invest in our goal of a more efficient, secure and transparent future for the Town. We will continue working to provide the highest quality of public service possible and look forward to the benefits these advancements will bring to our community.

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**APRIL 26**  
Earth Day  
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

**APRIL 11**  
Waste Wise Event  
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

## City Council Goal Areas

City Council establishes and refines the Town's Goal Areas during dedicated annual or bi-annual workshops to focus on Town goals and governance. The Council reviews the Town's strategic direction, identifying broad focus areas such as preserving small-town character and maintaining fiscal responsibility. These priorities then serve as the framework for the Town's work plan. Once adopted, these goals are integrated into daily operations. For example, every staff report includes a "Goal Alignment" section to ensure all administrative recommendations and budget allocations directly support the Council's specific strategic priorities.

### Current Council Goal Areas

-  Preserve Small Town Character & Quality of Life
-  Maintain Conservative Fiscal Policies & Financial Transparency
-  Improve Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness
-  Maintain & Improve Public Infrastructure
-  Be Forward Thinking
-  Build Community & Promote Civic Participation

### Town of Atherton Work Plan Priorities

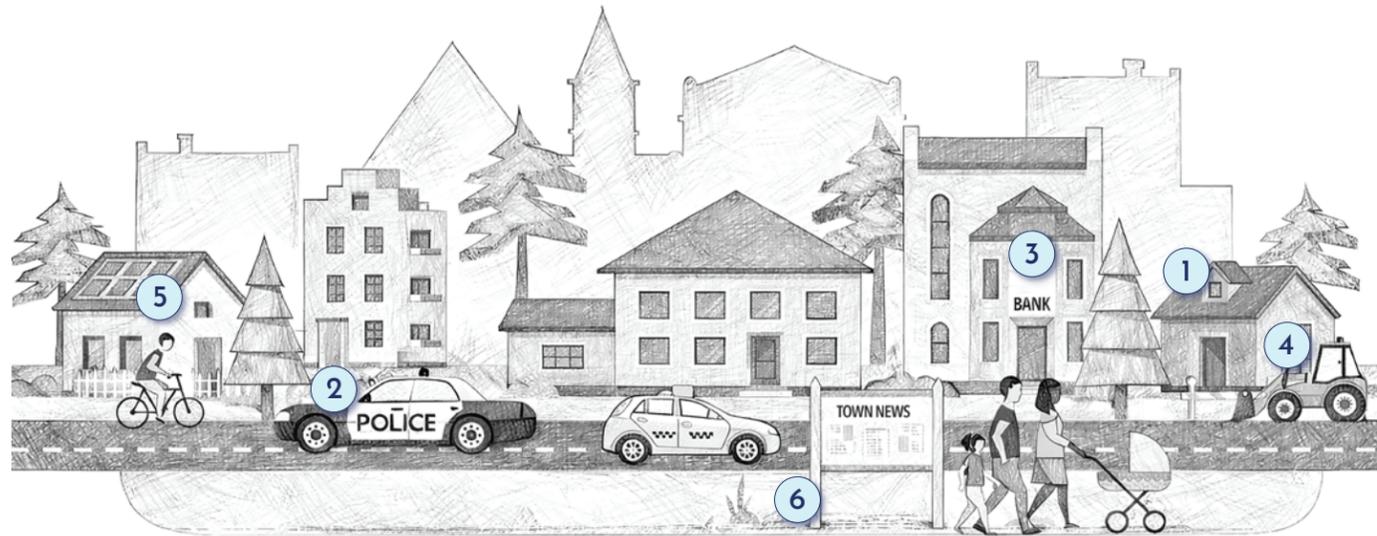
Each year, the City Council establishes priorities through a series of work sessions focused on the budget, long-range financial planning, Master Plans and capital projects, as well as the annual City Council Goals Workshop. These priorities serve as the foundation for staff efforts throughout the year. Staff translates Council direction into actionable projects that guide the work effort.

#### Determining Priorities

The Town's six priorities are guided by the following considerations:

- ◆ Projects with the greatest potential to advance the City Council's mission and long-term goals
- ◆ Availability of staff capacity and resources
- ◆ Existing municipal services, commitments, and obligations

The Town remains committed to delivering essential core services while continually enhancing livability, quality of life and opportunities for meaningful civic engagement.



### Priorities

### Goal Area Addressed

<b>1</b>	<b>Land Use &amp; Planning</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Obtaining Housing Element certification</li> <li>◆ Making updates to associated ordinances</li> <li>◆ Updating the Heritage Tree Ordinance</li> <li>◆ Improving Planning and Building processes</li> </ul>	 Preserve Small Town Character & Quality of Life  Be Forward Thinking
<b>2</b>	<b>Public Safety</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Crime prevention</li> <li>◆ Community education</li> <li>◆ Disaster planning</li> <li>◆ Drone program</li> <li>◆ Directed enforcement</li> <li>◆ Get Ready Atherton</li> <li>◆ Alarm systems</li> <li>◆ Program audits</li> <li>◆ Storm preparedness</li> </ul>	 Improve Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness  Be Forward Thinking
<b>3</b>	<b>Fiscal Viability &amp; Budget</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Maintaining a balanced budget</li> <li>◆ Managing long-term debt</li> <li>◆ Diversifying revenues</li> <li>◆ Managing overtime</li> <li>◆ Achieving a clean annual audit</li> </ul>	 Maintain Conservative Fiscal Policies & Financial Transparency  Be Forward Thinking
<b>4</b>	<b>Infrastructure &amp; Capital Projects</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Maintaining and improving Town facilities</li> <li>◆ Building resilient infrastructure</li> <li>◆ Implementing the Town's Master Plan Projects</li> <li>◆ Drainage, Parks, Streets, Active Transportation</li> </ul>	 Be Forward Thinking  Maintain & Improve Public Infrastructure
<b>5</b>	<b>Climate Action &amp; Sustainability</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Investing in community education</li> <li>◆ Implement Climate Action Plan</li> <li>◆ Adopting Green Building Codes</li> <li>◆ Ensuring SB 1383 compliance</li> <li>◆ Implementing gas-powered leaf blower ban</li> <li>◆ Electrifying the Town fleet</li> </ul>	 Preserve Small Town Character & Quality of Life  Be Forward Thinking
<b>6</b>	<b>Community Events &amp; Active Engagement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Community workshops</li> <li>◆ Emergency drills</li> <li>◆ Summer concerts and movies</li> <li>◆ Holiday events</li> <li>◆ Social media</li> <li>◆ Town website</li> <li>◆ Town publications</li> </ul>	 Improve Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness  Build Community & Promote Civic Participation

## Sustainability Snapshot

This year, the Town of Atherton furthered our sustainability goals by supporting electrification through our adopted Electric Readiness Reach Code. The Town also transitioned three Town vehicles to EV or Hybrid models and planned the installation of EV Chargers at Holbrook-Palmer Park, anticipated for 2026.

The Town has also continued to support our Climate Action goals by:

- ◆ Installing solar panels on Town Center buildings
- ◆ Providing free compost and mulch at Holbrook-Palmer Park
- ◆ Developing and launching a logo to represent the Town's Sustainability efforts
- ◆ Appointing three new members to the Environmental Programs Committee



## GreenWaste Rate Negotiations

The Town has been working hard over the past several months to reduce the impact of rising waste service costs on Atherton residents. Under the Town's long term agreement with GreenWaste Recovery, service costs were set to increase by 11% in both 2025 and 2026. Understanding how challenging this could be for households, the Council, through its Refuse & Recycling Committee, reviewed all available financial tools with the goal of meeting the Town's contractual obligations while keeping rate increases as reasonable and predictable as possible.

Through negotiations with GreenWaste, the Council approved a plan that smooths out future increases and provides greater rate stability than those provided for in the existing contract. By using approximately \$530,000 from the Rate Stabilization Fund, implementing significant reductions in the annual franchise fee payable to the Town by GreenWaste before gradually restoring the franchise fee to 10%, and delaying a portion of scheduled cost escalations, the Town was able to reduce both the 2025 and the 2026 increase from 11% to about 8%, and the 2027 increase from 8% to 6%.

This structure creates a more consistent outlook for the years ahead, with lower projected adjustments before transitioning to CPI-only based increases beginning in 2033. Overall, this plan helps protect Atherton rate payers while ensuring the continued delivery of high quality waste services.

Learn more at [Atherton.News/GreenWaste-Rates-Staff-Report](https://Atherton.News/GreenWaste-Rates-Staff-Report).



## Join an Atherton Designated Group! How to participate as a community member

The Town of Atherton has a rich history of civic engagement and commitment from its residents, which is best exemplified by the various independent organizations that provide community benefit. These groups, formally recognized by the Town Council as Designated Groups, play a vital role in enhancing the quality of life, enriching cultural programs and supporting core community functions within Atherton.

We invite and encourage all residents to consider volunteering their time, skills and energy to these essential community partners. Participation in a Designated Group is a meaningful way to directly influence and support projects that benefit the entire Town.

### What are Atherton's Designated Groups?

The concept of a Designated Group was established by the Town in 2014 to formally recognize and support organizations that, while independent of the Town government, offer a clear community benefit.

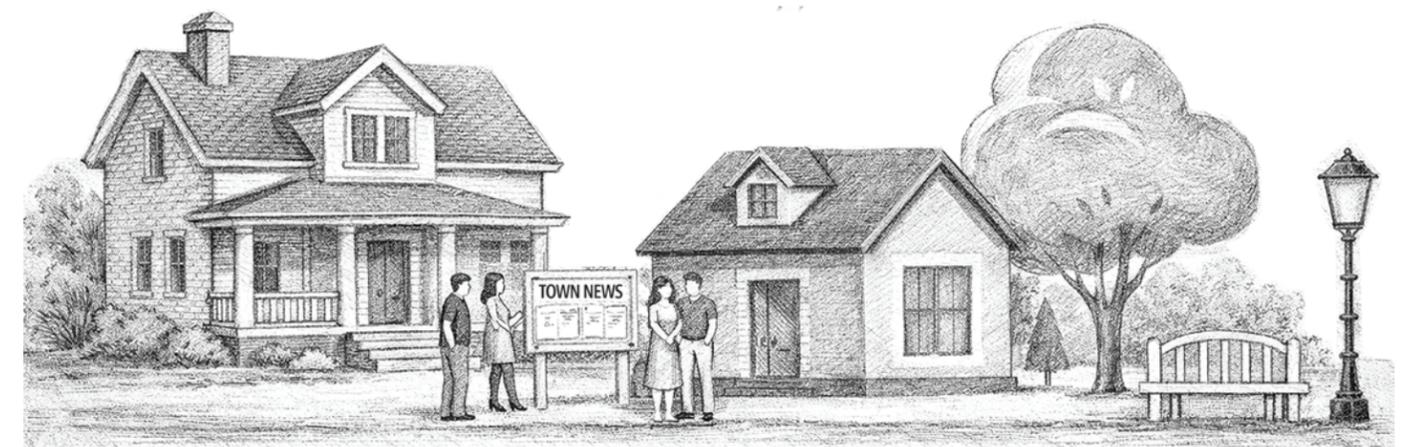
### Designated Groups currently include:

- ◆ Atherton Park Foundation
- ◆ Atherton Youth Advisory Group
- ◆ Friends of the Library
- ◆ Senior Task Force
- ◆ Atherton Arts Foundation
- ◆ Heritage Association

To facilitate their important work, Designated Groups receive specific support and privileges from the Town, which are conditional on meeting certain requirements. Over the last year, members of these groups have made considerable contributions by hosting community-based events and activities. The continued success of these vital organizations depends entirely on the dedicated volunteerism of Atherton residents. Whether your interest lies in the preservation of our parks, the enrichment of our library, the promotion of the arts or youth and senior engagement, there is a place for your participation.

We invite you to reach out to the existing Designated Groups to learn more about their missions and how you can contribute your time and talents to the community. Your involvement is key to maintaining the high quality of life we all cherish in the Town of Atherton.

To learn more, connect with Deputy City Manager Suber at [asuber@athertonca.gov](mailto:asuber@athertonca.gov).



## Free Residential Burglary Alarm Monitoring

### A simple, no-cost way to protect your home

The Atherton Police Department offers free residential burglary alarm monitoring for all residents. When your alarm activates, it connects directly to the Police Dispatch Center, ensuring an immediate alert and faster response – without monthly fees or delays from private alarm companies. To enroll, residents only need a current alarm permit and a short set of forms on file. Once connected, your system is monitored around the clock, and you may request an optional property sign that shows your alarm is directly linked to the Police Department.

The Town is also preparing to offer internet-based alarm connections, known as IP connections. These systems send alerts through your home internet network rather than traditional phone lines, providing faster, more reliable signals and allowing dispatch to receive more detailed information. IP systems can also switch to cellular backup if internet service drops, ensuring the alarm still reaches the Police Department.

This free Town service is one of the most effective and modern ways to strengthen home security.

**To sign up or learn more, call the Atherton Police Dispatch Center at (650) 688-6500.**



Property Sign



Dispatch Supervisor Kristy Cissco and Dispatcher Gabb Abarca

## Encinal Elementary Walking and Biking Audit

Fifth grade students from Encinal Elementary, through the Community Science Leadership Academy, conducted a walking audit in Fall 2025 to identify factors that make it easy or difficult to walk or bike around their neighborhood. Using the Stanford Discovery Tool app, students gave up their recess time to walk and document their area with photos, audio and text comments, collecting 123 photos, 74 audio comments and 50 text comments.

### Key Themes and Student Solutions

**Bike Lanes:** Students suggested widening bike lanes, painting them to be more visible and installing recycled vertical delineators to better protect cyclists.

**Walking Path on Middlefield:** Recommendations included evening out the path with compact natural materials, removing debris, maintaining the nature vibe and adding bushes or trees to create a barrier between pedestrians and the road.

The City Council greatly appreciated the students' findings and presentation, noting that this is a perfect example of how young people can engage with their local elected officials to share concerns and ideas. Councilmembers expressed their support for initiatives that empower students to participate in their community and make their voices heard. This project shows how students can use community science to document their experiences and propose practical solutions that promote safer walking, biking and rolling in their neighborhoods.



## Public Works Capital Improvement Projects Update

In 2025, the Town of Atherton continued work on key Capital Improvement Projects focused on maintaining infrastructure, improving safety and enhancing parks and public facilities. Learn more about current, ongoing and planned projects below.

### Street Improvements

#### Pedestrian Safety and Sustainability

The Town focused a project on the Fair Oaks Avenue and Lloyd Drive Intersection to add connectivity between the Lloyd Park neighborhood and the Town Center/Library complex. It serves to increase mobility and driver awareness by extending the sidewalk along Lloyd Drive and installing an elevated crosswalk with a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon. The project also integrates sustainable “green streets” features for stormwater management, alongside new solar-powered street lighting, ADA-compliant access ramps and updated landscaping and irrigation.

#### Paving and Street Maintenance

The 2024-2025 Capital Improvement Program serves to preserve our roadways, enhance safety and maintain a high quality of life. These projects included routine patching, areas of roads that had structural failures, crack and slurry seals and street overlays to preserve and maintain roadway surfaces. Key project sites included Fair Oaks Lane, Austin Avenue, Greenoaks Avenue, Southgate Drive and Park Drive.

#### Speed Limit Updates and Traffic Studies

Following the adoption of the Town’s Local Roadway Safety Plan at the end of 2024, the Town completed various engineering and traffic studies allowing for the maintenance and reduction of speed limits on roadways to align with current safety standards and state regulations. Additionally, in support of safe routes to schools, the Town reduced the speed limit in school zones to 15 miles per hour when children are present.

## Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan

### Active Transportation Plan Update

The Town is currently refreshing its Active Transportation Plan (ATP) to recognize the needs of our community and serve non-motorized travel. Through community outreach and data collection, the Plan identified resident needs including updating the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan which would address gaps in the bicycle and pedestrian network, improve cyclist and pedestrian safety and prioritize future projects.

### Major Corridors and Transportation Projects

#### El Camino Real Complete Streets and Grand Boulevard Initiative

In coordination with regional partners, the Town continues to participate in the Grand Boulevard Initiative to advance “Complete Streets” improvements along El Camino Real. With the assistance of the San Mateo County Transportation Authority, the Town completed the El Camino Real Complete Streets Corridor Plan. This long-term planning effort evaluates options to improve sidewalk, bike lane and transit access, helping make the corridor safer and more welcoming. The Town funds this work through a combination of the General Fund, grant and regional funding.

#### Alameda de las Pulgas Traffic and Safety Improvements Project

This grant-funded project will improve mobility and safety along the Alameda de las Pulgas corridor with buffered bike lanes, a roundabout at the Atherton Avenue intersection and traffic signal and crossing improvements at the Camino al Lago intersection, as well as other enhancements. Project design is near complete and environmental review is underway.

#### Grants

Staff continues to pursue grant funding to advance Town priorities, securing approximately \$3,000,000 for improvements at the El Camino Real/Selby Lane intersection and an additional \$1,000,000 to support construction of the Alameda de las Pulgas Corridor Traffic and Safety Improvements project. This effort helps deliver needed improvement while reducing the burden on local taxpayers.



## Parks and Facilities Improvements

### Holbrook-Palmer Park Playground Remodel

The Town has approved a contract with GameTime for a complete remodel of the playground at Holbrook-Palmer Park. This project replaces aging equipment with modern, safe and engaging play structures designed for children of various age groups.

### Jennings Pavilion Improvements

In early 2025, the Town completed a full renovation of Jennings Pavilion with interior painting and flooring replacement. This project was identified as critical for maintaining the facility's appeal and functionality for private rentals. This work was a key milestone as part of a broader facility upgrade effort to enhance the Town's facilities, including updating new flooring for the Main House.

### Atherton Library Children's Garden Project

Work is proceeding on the Children's Garden at the Atherton Library. This project envisions a dedicated outdoor learning and play space adjacent to the library, designed to foster curiosity and nature-based exploration. The project includes specialized landscaping, hardscaping and interactive elements tailored for young visitors. Staff will continue to collaborate with the construction team and the Atherton Library to bring this vision to life in 2026.

### Pickleball

The pickleball trial at Holbrook-Palmer Park has been successful and outlined the community's desire for additional court time for this growing sport. To accommodate this need, Court 1 has been resurfaced and restriped to provide four pickleball courts over the existing tennis court.

### Civic Center Upgrades

The Town, with the support of Peninsula Clean Energy, completed the installation and activation of new solar panels on City Hall to support sustainability and reduce operating costs. Additionally, the Town completed resiliency improvements that enhance the Town's ability to operate during power outages, linking the library and administrative offices to the on-site generator.

## Infrastructure and Drainage

### ECR Stormwater and Drainage Improvement

In partnership with our consultants, the Town is advancing the design and implementation of critical stormwater improvements along El Camino Real (ECR). This project targets historical drainage issues to reduce roadway flooding and at critical intersections. Design of drainage improvements to the ECR/Selby Lane intersection has been initiated and will be integrated with other proposed improvements at the intersection.

### Atherton Train Station Rehab

Council approved preservation efforts for the historic Atherton Train Station. Public Works led a rehabilitation project focused on maintaining the structural integrity and historical significance of the station building, ensuring it remains a preserved landmark within the Town Center. Rehabilitation work has been completed and repurposing as a train museum is well underway.

## 2025 Building and Planning By the Numbers



**1,527**

Total Building Permits Issued



**29**

Total New Residences Finalized



**39**

Total Demo Permits Issued



**37**

Total New Residence Permit Applied



**43**

Total Approved ADU Applications



**7**

Total Approved Junior ADU Applications



**1 of each**

Variance and Special Structures Permit Count in 2025



**7**

SB9/Lot Splits Applied For



**2**

SB9/Lot Splits Approved

## Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), Housing Element, Inclusionary Housing Ordinance

After a multi-year effort, the Town received certification of its 6th cycle Housing Element in May 2025. The Housing Element is the Town's state-required plan for meeting current and future housing needs, and certification allows the Town to move forward with local housing policies while maintaining access to key funding and regulatory protections. The Planning Department is now focused on implementing various programs to meet state housing requirements – coordinating ADU review with the Building Department, updating the ADU ordinance to align with state law, preparing the Inclusionary Housing Ordinance and working with the City Council to facilitate campus housing projects. The Planning Department is also moving forward with an update to the Town's Safety Element.



## Atherton Building Department End-of-Year Report

2025 has been a year of change and transition for the Building Department, with the departures of the long-serving Town Building Official, Mike Greenlee, and Building Inspector Adam Sandler. In August, Fred Lustenberger joined the team as its new Building Official. In October, Esequiel (Zeke) Mota joined the team as the Town's new Building Inspector.

**In addition to its new staffing changes, the Building Department team has been busy working on several key process improvements and changes, including:**

- ◆ The 2025 California Building Codes update and adoption process, which will become effective in early 2026.
- ◆ Changes to Construction & Demolition Roll-Off Bin Debris Box rules, starting Jan. 1, 2026.
- ◆ New field approval process for RFIs (Request for Information from design professionals) and other minor structural revisions or documents, saving time and bypassing the usual plan submittal process in most cases.
- ◆ Reviewing and revamping some of our most used forms, including a complete redesign of the Inspection Record or "Job Cards," making them more user-friendly and intuitive. Look for upcoming changes in mid-2026 after a process involving stakeholder input and collaboration.

## Building Department Welcomes Contract Chief Building Official and Building Inspector

The Town is proud to welcome two new teammates to the Building Department, Contract Chief Building Official Frederick (Fred) M. Lustenberger and Building Inspector Esequiel (Zeke) Mota.



### Frederick (Fred) M. Lustenberger

Fred Lustenberger joins the Town as our new Contract Chief Building Official, bringing more than 30 years of experience in local government building departments. His background includes serving as a Building Inspector, Plans Examiner and Building Official. He will now oversee Atherton's small but active Building Department.

Fred holds a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of San Francisco and an Associate of Science degree in Building Inspection Technology from

the College of San Mateo. He is an ICC Certified Combination Inspector, Plans Examiner and Building Official, a California Certified Access Specialist and a licensed Building and Plumbing Contractor.

He is excited to support the construction and renovation of Atherton's unique, high-quality homes and to collaborate closely with Town staff and local builders. Fun fact: he's a fifth-generation San Franciscan, dating back to 1850.

### Esequiel (Zeke) Mota

Zeke joins the Town of Atherton as a Building Inspector contracted through Interwest Consulting Group. He brings 17 years of extensive field knowledge and practical expertise serving both the private and public sectors across various jurisdictions in Northern and Southern California.

He has a strong background working with Code Enforcement, assisting in not only issuing code violations for illegal structures, but guiding property owners through the often-complex resolution process. Zeke is committed to upholding safety and integrity and is deeply honored to have the opportunity to work with the Town of Atherton.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Atherton Library: Best of 2025

Atherton Library had a rewarding year with new partnerships, successful programs and community-building events.

#### Atherton Earth Day

In April, the Library celebrated Earth Day with the Town of Atherton in Holbrook-Palmer Park. Atherton Library welcomed over 400 attendees to tables with crafts that promoted this year's theme of Conservation.

#### Día de los Niños at Adelante Selby School

This year, Atherton Library initiated a fulfilling outreach partnership at Adelante Selby school, a Spanish Immersion elementary school. The Library kicked off the partnership at Día de los Niños, a festival that celebrates children and literacy. The event provided families with free bilingual books, a paletas craft (a traditional symbol for Día de los Niños) and a lotería game.

#### My Summer Adventure

Atherton Library had its best Summer Adventure to date, giving out 2,745 books and keeping kids entertained with special programming all summer. Before the end of the school year, the Library visited local schools across Atherton and promoted Summer Adventure to participants at the Menlo Atherton Education Fund's 5K race. The Library also brought free books and library swag to Music in the Park.

#### Janelle Brown Author Talk Event

In June, Atherton Library shared an unforgettable community experience with Janelle Brown, Atherton and Woodside native, and the acclaimed author behind multiple national bestsellers. Brown engaged an audience of 104 attendees with a thrilling discussion of her latest page-turner, *What Kind of Paradise*, followed by light refreshments (generously donated by Friends of Atherton Library) and a book signing.

#### National Night Out

In August, Atherton Library tabled at National Night Out in partnership with the Atherton Police Department. The Library offered live screenprinting on tote bags, generously funded by the Friends of Atherton Library. This instructor-led activity taught attendees how screenprinting works, and they left the event with a bag customized with a unique Atherton design. The Library also gave out free books and hosted crafts inspired by Therapy K-9 Emmy.

#### Halloween Spooktacular

The Atherton Library pirates had a rollicking good time at the Halloween Spooktacular on Oct. 30. Staff hosted pirates and Halloween-themed crafts to complement the fantastic decor in the Town Plaza, along with a musical performance from one of our staff members.



## We are rebranding! "A.D.A.P.T." is now "Get Ready Atherton"

A.D.A.P.T. has undergone a transition to now be officially referred to as Get Ready Atherton. They are making this pivot to better align the organization with other emergency preparedness programs countywide. Their mission and goals remain the same, to cultivate a resilient and self-reliant Atherton community by empowering residents with the knowledge, tools, and neighborhood networks necessary to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies.

In the event of a major quake or disaster situation, help may take three to seven days to arrive. Your neighbors will be the first to help. We are our own immediate first responders.

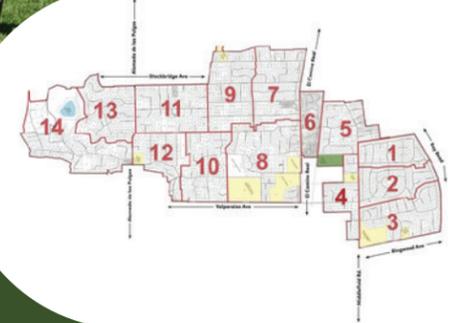
After attending to yourself, family, pets and home – checking for injuries, smelling for gas, listening for hissing and checking for structural damage – collective organization can help our community remain calm and recover. As a part of Get Ready Atherton, you can be a part of creating a community that is prepared to support one another in the face of major emergencies.

While power is out, fallen objects may have blocked pathways and roads and cell service is down. A Neighborhood Emergency Assembly Point can provide an emergency cache of first-aid kits, flashlights, walkie-talkies, HAMs and a map of residents with medical skills or generators. Neighbors check on seniors and homes with medical needs and radios the Town of Atherton's Emergency Operations Center to report on the status of the neighborhood.

**Get Ready Atherton is in need of volunteers. Learn more about how you can get involved and support an essential community safety network.**



For more information, scan the QR code or visit [GetReadyAtherton.org/Area-Maps](http://GetReadyAtherton.org/Area-Maps)



### Volunteers Needed

#### Part-time Volunteer Treasurer

- ◆ Responsibilities: Managing basic financial records.
- ◆ Time commitment: a few hours a month.

#### Area & Block Coordinators

- ◆ Connect with your neighbors and help them prepare for an emergency.
- ◆ Local volunteers are needed in: Central, East, & West Lindenwood; Victoria Manor near Sacred Heart; Faxon, and Los Lomitas areas.

#### Board Member

- ◆ Ready to make a difference? Join the Get Ready Atherton board.
- ◆ Quarterly Meetings.

#### Host a Neighborhood Party

To foster community and help neighbors get to know one another, we have started and are encouraging residents to host neighborhood or block parties in their area. We hope to host parties in each of our Atherton neighborhoods. Please sign up to host a neighborhood party or block party in your neighborhood. We will provide you with support, educational materials and cookies.

#### New Neighborhood Cache Program

Thanks to a generous donation from the Atherton Police Department, Get Ready Atherton has launched a new Neighborhood Cache Program. Emergency supply boxes are now placed at homes near the 14 official Assembly Point signs throughout town. Each cache contains first-aid supplies and communication equipment that allows volunteers to connect directly with Atherton's Emergency Operations Center in an Emergency.

#### Host a Cache for Your Neighborhood

We are in need of volunteer hosts for caches near the assembly points located at:

- ◆ 3 Irving Ave.
- ◆ 1 Larch Dr.
- ◆ 117 Heather Dr.
- ◆ 2 Toyon Rd.
- ◆ Across from 55 Victoria Dr.
- ◆ Corner of Isabella & Spencer
- ◆ 61 Atherton Ave.
- ◆ 43 Santiago Ave.
- ◆ 26 Camino al Lago

**Volunteers living near the above locations are encouraged to host.**

For more information on Get Ready Atherton and these volunteer opportunities, please contact Susan Warren at [susan.w.warren1952@gmail.com](mailto:susan.w.warren1952@gmail.com).

## Atherton Arts Foundation

The Atherton Arts Foundation continues to enrich the community through a wide range of creative programs and events. Each month, AAF offers 12 to 18 community art classes, including botanical art, watercolor, sewing, acrylic painting, book arts, papermaking, knitting, basketry, block printing and more.

This year, a team of a dozen botanical artists created an 18-foot, 2-inch banner featuring more than 150 endangered California plant species, drawn as close to life-size as possible using colored pencil, watercolor, ink, graphite and watercolor pencil. The banner was proudly displayed during the Town's Earth Day Festivities in April 2025. Additionally, several local teens and a few adults contributed a large Earth Day mural titled "Protect What You Love."



The mural, **'Protect What You Love'** was completed by over a dozen local students and a few adults in honor of Earth Day, April 2025.

Artists working on the endangered species banner: Kim Borick, MaryAnn Ho, Pamela Schenk, Amanda Napoli. (Banner: 18 feet 2 inches, over 150 California endangered plant species, 12 Botanical Artists did the drawings)



In November, AAF hosted a Veteran Artist Art Show, showcasing work from more than 20 veterans and family members.

Shown: Self portrait sculpture created by veteran (now deceased) accompanied by a 'Rag Scrap Book created by his daughter (Marion VanHeteren, Book Arts & Botanical Art student)

**The Foundation looks forward to continuing its growth, offering even more classes, exhibits and community art experiences.**

**Learn more at [AthertonArtsFoundation.org](https://AthertonArtsFoundation.org).**

## A Beloved Park Treasure Returns The Restoration of the Holbrook-Palmer Fountain

The Holbrook-Palmer Park Foundation (HPPF) was established in 1965 as the only volunteer organization to raise funds to enhance park use for Atherton residents. Recent community partnerships included the repair of lights at the Park's entrance with local Scout groups and the pilot re-launch of the beloved children's Easter Egg Hunt with the Atherton Youth Advisory Group.

Visitors to the Park can now enjoy results from the most recently-completed HPPF project: restoration and re-installation of the Park's lovely multi-level fountain. This effort was spearheaded by Frank Merrill, President of the Foundation, and holds a special place in his heart.

Frank remembers the fountain being not only part of the community, but also part of childhood memories with his brother, until its removal in 2015 after damage from misuse rendered it unsafe. Estimates for repair were prohibitive and "parts and pieces" were stored in the Corporation Yard, until Frank connected with a statuary expert who appreciated the fountain and committed to its restoration as part of the HPPF's mission.

Summer 2025 saw the end of the fountain project and its journey back to its place of honor at the Park. It is now once again an operating jewel available for Park visitors to enjoy.



## Upcoming Events

### Waste Wise Event

Saturday, April 11 | 10 am.-1 p.m.

### Earth Day

Sunday, April 26 | 10 a.m.-1 p.m.



We hope you had a  
happy holiday season – stay in touch!



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