



Neighborhood Captain Newsletter

For Neighbors, by Neighborhood Captains

Thursday, September 17, 2026

Next Issue: October 1 • Content Deadline: September 29

Send 50 words or less to newsletter@altgether.org

Subscribe directly and view archives at altgether.org/newsletter

Help keep Altadena together! Altgether is seeking new Neighborhood Captains across Altadena to build connections with neighbors, share useful information and resources, and help people stay connected throughout recovery. No special expertise is required. If you care about your neighborhood and want a concrete way to support it, visit altgether.org/join

Recovery Updates

TELL CONGRESS WE NEED OUR FINANCIAL AID

600+ days after the Eaton Fire, major federal disaster recovery funding has not arrived. Tell Congress to #FundRecoveryNow.

- Visit Altgether's action plan: <https://action.altgether.org/>
- Visit Department of Angels action plan:
<https://www.deptofangels.org/take-action>

DISASTER CASE MANAGEMENT ENDS SEPTEMBER 30TH

Five local DCM organizations – Wylie Center, Catholic Charities, CORE, Little Tokyo, and JFSLA – [are losing funding and closing on September 30th](#).

DCM is a dedicated, one-on-one recovery partnership. In the absence of FEMA-allocated funds, the state of California has funded DCM to:

- Identify your household's specific disaster-caused unmet needs
- Unlock critical relief funding accessible only through certified case managers
- Cut through bureaucratic red tape across aid agencies and programs

Reach out to Altgether's Marisol Espino for help navigating remaining DCM resources before September 30:

- [Neighbor Referral Form](#)
- marisol@altgether.org
- (626) 592-1814

LA COUNTY RELEASES SECOND AFTER-ACTION REVIEW ON WILDFIRE RECOVERY

The County published its second independent After-Action Review examining recovery and repopulation operations following the January 2025 Eaton and Palisades fires, covering January 7-March 31, 2025.

GOVERNOR NEWSOM SIGNS WILDFIRE RECOVERY LEGISLATION IN ALTADENA

On September 15, [Governor Gavin Newsom held a ceremonial signing](#) in Altadena alongside Eaton Fire survivors and community leaders to enact a major state wildfire recovery package into law. The signed legislation includes:

- Assemblymember John Harabedian's full four-bill slate – AB 1642 (toxic contamination testing standards), AB 1842 and AB 1847

(mortgage forbearance protections), and AB 2038 (insurance non-renewal bans)

- And Senator Sasha Renée Pérez's SB 1090, the "Keep Altadena Land in Altadena Hands Act," placing a temporary moratorium on state density laws to protect property owners from predatory speculation during the rebuild.

ALTADENA TOWN COUNCIL ELECTIONS ARE COMING!

Elections for Altadena Town Council are being held in November, and applications are open now for new candidates! Applications are due *October 16th*. Full election materials and candidate details will be posted on the [Altadena Town Council website](#) in the coming days.

The Altadena Town Council is the *only elected body* in Altadena which advises the county and state on local policy, disseminates new and important information from county and state partners, and seeks to hold our electeds accountable for Altadena's continued recovery and the restoration of our businesses and infrastructure. If you're interested in having a voice in that process please consider running!

ALTADENA TOWN COUNCIL: FEDERAL FUNDING, FLOCK CAMERAS & LIBRARY UPDATES

At its [September 15 meeting](#), the Altadena Town Council voted unanimously to advocate for federal wildfire relief. It also sent a letter requesting a pause on Sunday construction hours. The session also covered community debate over Flock license plate readers, November council election filing, and renovation and centennial updates from the Altadena Library District.

NEW FEDERAL LAW EXCLUDES EATON FIRE SETTLEMENTS FROM TAXABLE INCOME

A newly enacted federal provision officially excludes qualified wildfire relief payments to survivors from federal taxable income.

DODGERS DREAMFIELDS COMING TO FARNSWORTH PARK

The Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation (LADF) and LA County Parks announced a \$1.4 million investment to construct two new Dodgers Dreamfields at Charles S. Farnsworth Park. Upgrades will feature new playing surfaces, upgraded irrigation, solar scoreboards, and an

educational STEM Trail linking the upper and lower fields.
Groundbreaking is slated for November 5, 2026.

NAVIGATING YOUR REBUILD PERMITS

Facing permitting delays on your rebuild? Here are [tips to navigate the process and keep the permit process on track](#).

NEW STREET SWEEPING REGULATIONS

Starting September 19th, citations may be issued. Enter your address in LA County's interactive map to see when parking is prohibited on your street.

REBUILD CONTRACTS WORKSHOP: WATCH THE LAFLA & COX CASTLE RECORDING

LAFLA and construction law firm Cox Castle recently hosted an essential workshop on navigating rebuild contracts, contractor negotiations, and homeowner legal protections. Catch up with the webinar recording on [LAFLA's portal](#), and if you haven't read it – find critical construction contract guidance in the Bet Tzedek [Construction Contracts Guide](#).

UCLA STUDY FINDS ELEVATED HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM IN ALTADENA BURN SOILS

A [UCLA soil study released on September 15](#) revealed that soil sampled in Altadena neighborhoods burned in the Eaton Fire carried higher median concentrations of hexavalent chromium (0.22 mg/kg) than neighboring burn zones, with several scraped and unscraped lots exceeding California's residential screening level of 0.3 mg/kg. While overall medians remain below federal action thresholds, health officials advise residents to minimize contact with bare soil, while LA County continues offering free lead soil screening at Altadena's One-Stop Permit Center through 2026.

EL NIÑO IS COMING

El Niño could bring heavier rain and increase the risk of flooding, landslides, and debris flows across Los Angeles County. Burn scar areas are at higher risk for certain hazards.

- [Ready LA County's Rain page](#)
- [Subscribe to LA County's El Niño newsletter](#) to receive LAC's El Niño Preparedness Guide
- [Video of Presentation to the Board of Supervisors](#)
- [El Niño Fact Sheet](#) (PDF)
- Follow and support Edgar McGregor's [in-depth weather analysis](#)

EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM TEST SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

A test of the Non-Weather Emergency Message (NWEM) system for civil emergencies will take place on Monday, September 21, at 10:25 AM PT. The message is only a test and requires no action. You can review or sign up for regional updates through [LA County emergency alert options](#).

LOMA ALTA POOL HOURS EXTENDED

Summer season at Loma Alta Park extended to September 30, see [pool hours here](#).

Opportunities & Deadlines

NEW Samaritan's Purse is [accepting applications through September 30 from Altadena homeowners](#) whose primary residences were destroyed in the Eaton Fire. The relief program aims to rebuild up to 100 owner-occupied homes using approved Foothill Catalog floor plans, prioritizing uninsured and underinsured families who commit to retaining the property as their primary home.

NEW **The Altadena People's Plan** is a community-driven initiative to create a shared vision for Altadena's future, led by the Altadena Wildfire Response Coalition together with Project Passion, My Tribe Rise, and Dena Heals, with technical advisors Kounkuey Design Initiative, LA Voice, and Bet Tzedek, and funded by United Way of Greater Los Angeles. Since August 2025, the coalition has worked with nonprofits, community leaders, residents, and youth, with particular emphasis on marginalized and communities of color, to identify critical

needs around funding, legal support, planning, and long-term investment.

- [Provide your feedback in a survey to identify the ideas you think are most important](#)

Have a story about an Altadena tree you'd like to share?

The Altadena Tree Stories project is hosting September tree story sessions to build an oral history and photo archive of the community's trees. Led by Altadena resident and science journalist Mona Patterson and Bay Area photographer Andrea Gaffney. [More Info](#)

- September 12-13 and 19-20
- [Sign up for a 1-hour appointment](#)

[EFSN Insurance Experience Survey](#)

Every Fire Survivor's Network (EFSN) is building a public, insurer-by-insurer record of insurance experiences following the fires. No individual household will be identified in public reports or datasets. All survey results will be reported only in de-identified, aggregate form.

Weekly Fire Recovery Job Sessions: The LA County Department of Economic Opportunity and America's Job Centers of California (AJCC) host free weekly employment sessions. Open to fire-affected youth and adults (ages 14+), offering paid work experience, career planning, and direct employer hiring connections. Contact: 888.226.6300

- Thursdays @ 1-4 pm
- Altadena Job Center (464 W. Woodbury Rd., Suite 210)

Community Rebuilding Response has pro bono spots for design, planning, and advocacy.

[Office Of: Office](#) is an LA-based architecture, urban planning, and policy non-profit organization primarily supporting residents of color. Supported by The Center for Lendistry.

- [Add your info to learn more](#) or call: 213.282.8123

Apply for home remediation assistance from [the Fire Poppy Project](#)

SWITCH: Simplified Wildfire Incentives for Transforming Customer Homes

SCE's SWITCH program helps wildfire-impacted homeowners rebuild or repair using energy-efficient electric technologies. Eligible customers can receive incentives typically ranging from \$100 to \$2,400 per technology category.

- Equipment must be purchased and installed on or after August 1, 2026.

SoCal Edison Wildfire Recovery Compensation Program | DEADLINE
November 30, 2026

Events

Altadena Walk Club

The Altadena Walk Club welcomes all ages and fitness levels for a light walk with neighbors followed by coffee on the third Sunday of each month.

- Friday September 18, 2026 @ 09:30 AM
- Unincorporated Coffee

Dance for the Trees - A Ritual Performance with the Trees of Altadena | [More Info](#)

- Friday, September 18, 2026 @ 4:45 - 8pm
- Loma Alta Park

Alcoholic Beverage Sales Ordinance Listening Session | [More Info](#)

LA County is drafting a streamlined alcohol permit ordinance for Altadena, replacing 6-12 month discretionary reviews with fast ministerial sign-offs and cutting application costs from \$13,000+ to under \$3,000.

- Saturday September 19, 2026 @ 09:30 AM - 12:30 PM
- The Collaboratory, 540 W. Woodbury

Altadena Soil & Site Recovery Residential Workshop with EFRU | [Register](#)

Join Eaton Fire Residents United (EFRU), Resilient Palisades, and Center for Applied Ecological Remediation (CAER) for a hands-on workshop about site assessment and testing, remediation strategies, and long-term monitoring and maintenance.

- Saturday September 19, 2026 @ 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- Location sent upon registration

Altadena Rapid Housing Solution | [Register](#)

Learn about the RV program, its options, and next steps in a short virtual information session.

- Saturday September 19, 2026 @ 11:00 AM
- Online

Community Art Ice Cream Party

Pick up decorations for your construction fencing, get creative with the whole family, neighbors, and friends, and enjoy free ice cream!

- Saturday September 19, 2026 @ 05:00 PM - 07:00 PM
- Altadena Cookie Co. (3027 Lincoln Ave)

Goodbye To Summer Community Connection Dinner

Enjoy dinner and time together, followed by fun, resilience-building activities for adults and children. Contact

firerresponse@epicentrechurch.org

- Saturday September 19, 2026 @ 06:00 PM - 08:30 PM
- Epicentre Church HOPE Room (425 Sierra Madre Villa Ave, Pasadena)

Fund Recovery Now Drop-in Outreach Session

Bring Your Own: Pens, paper, stamps, envelopes for letterwriting, or laptops and phones for emails and social media. Refreshments will be provided.

- Sunday, September 20 @ 2-5 pm
- RSVP for address: moradaeast@gmail.com

Rebuilding Together: Navigating Inspections | [Register](#)

[Hosted by LA County Public Works](#), hear directly from LA County representatives about how to request inspections through EPIC-LA, how to avoid common delays, and ask questions in a Q&A.

- Thursday September 24, 2026 @ 01:00 PM - 03:00 PM
- [Register for Zoom](#)

Saint Marks School Town Hall: Old Campus Rebuild

Join us for a Community Town Hall to hear the latest updates on the [Saint Mark's Rebuild Project](#) and Master Plan. Learn more about the County approval process, ask questions, and share your feedback.

- Thursday September 24, 2026 @ 06:00 PM - 08:00 PM
- The Collaboratory, 540 W. Woodbury

[Altadena Disaster Preparedness Fair](#)

Connect with neighbors, public agencies, local nonprofits, and community partners to access essential resources, emergency guidance, and practical tools for disaster preparedness, response, and long-term recovery.

- Saturday, September 26, 2026 @ 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
- Altadena Community Center (730 E. Altadena Dr)

LA County Virtual Town Hall: El Niño Preparedness | [Register](#)

Join LA County emergency officials for an update on anticipated El Niño storms, regional agency preparations, and critical storm-safety measures for hillside and burn-scar neighborhoods.

- Monday, September 28, 2026 @ 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
- Online (Virtual via Zoom, registration required)

Practicing Joy In Times Of Crisis: Soft Landing | [Register](#)

Through Jericho Road: Open, move, release, and rest your body. Move through some gentle and freeing movement to shake off the day, open the body, and awaken lighter energy within. Expect breathing exercises and sound bowls to carry the group into a state of deep rest through a yoga nidra experience with sound healing.

- Tuesday September 29, 2026 @ 05:30 PM - 07:30 PM
- DENA Heals Wellness Center (300 East Colorado Boulevard Suite 151)

Community & Financial Resources

***NEW* [Altadena Land Initiatives \(ALI\)](#)**

Interest-free gap financing to help Altadena families rebuild when working with an ALI network builder. Repayment is tied to future legal settlement proceeds, sale, or refinance – not monthly payments – and comes with coordinated support across insurance review, rebuild cost analysis, and builder/financing partners: alirebuilds.org

[Greenline Housing Foundation is offering up to \\$250,000 per family in construction](#) support to help fire-impacted families rebuild and remain in Altadena.

- Express your interest in the [NEW intake form](#)

FEMA Extension

FEMA officially extended financial and housing assistance under the Individuals and Households Program (IHP). Contact: 800-621-3362 or apply at DisasterAssistance.gov

- Renters: Direct assistance has been extended through October 9, 2026

The Step Fund is giving \$2,500 to fire survivors who face eviction.

Union Station Housing Assistance helps Eaton Fire survivors covering security deposits, rent, motel vouchers, and essential furnishings.

6 free mental health support sessions from Didi Hirsch for anyone impacted by the fires.

The CalAssist Mortgage Fund Reopened and provides up to \$100,000 in non-repayable mortgage assistance, covering up to 12 months of payments. Income limits are now up to \$281,400 in LA County.

The LA County Sheriff's Department Altadena Station's Construction Check Program provides free, regular courtesy checks during the rebuilding process. Email altadenahomecheck@lasd.org

In-Person Locations & Resources

24LA

- No-cost "shopping", recovery resources, and town beautification projects. See website for appointment and volunteering opportunities.
- 5760 West Jefferson, Los Angeles

Eaton Fire Collaborative's Collaboratory

- Monday-Wednesday: 9-5 pm | Thursday: 9-7 pm | Friday: 9-1 pm
- [Book an Appointment to Visit the Store](#)

The HUB Rebuilding Altadena CORE

First Time Visitors: [Schedule Appointment](#)

- Suite 2A, 2333 Lake Ave
 - Wed-Thurs @ 11-6 pm | Fri-Sat @ 10-3 pm

- Drop-in office hours:
- Foothill Catalog: Wednesdays @ 2-4 pm
- Collective O/R: Wednesdays @ 2:30-5 pm
- Neighborhood Legal Services LA County Clinics: 2nd and 4th Thursdays @ 12:30-4 pm

Wildfire Survivor Support Centers (FEMA, SBA, LA County departments)

Optional: [Schedule an SBA Appointment](#)

- Mon-Fri, 9-4:30 pm @ Altadena Community Center, 730 Altadena Dr.
- Mon-Fri, 9-4:30 pm @ One-Stop Rebuilding Center, 1828 Sawtelle Blvd, Los Angeles

Altadena One-Stop Permit Center

- Mon-Fri, 8-4:30 pm @ 464 W Woodbury Rd. Suite 210

SCE Altadena Rebuild Community Hub (ARCH)

Support for customers with billing inquiries, planning inquiries (i.e. service reconnections, undergrounding, temporary power poles and panel), and other SCE programs and services.

- Monday-Friday, 8-4:30 pm
- 2680 Fair Oaks Ave.

Additional Community Calendars

[Eaton Fire Residents United](#) | [Altadena Town Council](#) | [Altadena Calendar](#) | [Altadena Connections](#)

Links

[Altadena Library eConnect](#) | [Altadena Recovery Wiki](#) | [Altadena Talks Foundation & Podcast](#) | [Buildnotes.LA](#) | [CalAssist Mortgage Fund](#) | [Department of Mental Health Resources](#) | [Disaster Legal Assistance Collaborative](#) | [Eaton Fire Residents United](#) | [Eaton Fire Survivors Network](#) | [LA County GIS Visualizations](#) | [LA County Recovers](#) | [Legal](#)

[Aid Foundation of Los Angeles](#) | [Mortgage & Foreclosure Relief](#) |
[NSLSA Disaster Assistance](#) | [PostFire LA](#) | [United Policy Holders](#)

EPIC-LA is back online!

Altagether

2054 Madison Avenue, Altadena
United States of America



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