



# ~ ATHOL CITY NEWSLETTER ~ & WATER UTILITY BILL December 1, 2015

## 2015 CITY ELECTION RESULTS

*Newly elected officials will take office at the January 19, 2016 meeting:*

### City of Athol Mayor

**Bob Wachter** 106 votes 61%  
**Darla Kuhman** 67 votes 39%

### Council-Seat 1

**Bill Hill** 91 votes 53%  
**Daniel Ratcliff** 57 votes 33%  
**Deborah Warner** 23 votes 13%

### Council-Seat 2

**Joshua Spencer** 107 votes 61%  
**Lynn Gronlund** 66 votes 39%

173 votes were cast

## **Athol Library Activities:** **Preschool Story Time**

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. **Geared for Ages 2 – 5** Stories, songs, crafts, snacks, and playtime!

### **Afterschool Fun**

Tuesdays, Homeschool Hour 2-3 p.m. and Afterschool Hour 3:30-4:30 p.m. **For Kindergarteners – Grade 6** Join us for crafts, science, building, cooking, and more!

### **Teen Game Day**

Friday 12/4/15 3:30-5:30pm  
Open to teens in 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade  
Video games, board games, just dance, candy competition and snack will be served.

**If you need Energy Assistance please call 208.664.8757 to sign up.**



## **How the Grinch Stole**

### **Christmas**

Family Events at Library Saturday 12/19/15 10am-11:30am Join us for some fun with the Grinch! Crafts, games, activities, and fun snacks!

## **Fall Clean-Up & Dump Day!**

A BIG THANK you to the Athol Church of God local volunteers who helped out with the Fall Clean-Up and Dump Day on Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. - Nine volunteers gave approximately 5 hours of their time, helping 6 different citizens. They took 3 truck-loads and a trailer full of items to the Ramsey Transfer Station.

Watch your city newsletter in the spring for information on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Athol Beautification week**, when volunteers will once again be available for yard clean-up, another city dump run, and a city wide yard sale!

## **CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS @ 7:00 PM**

**CITY HALL – 30355 3<sup>rd</sup>  
208-683-2101**

**Clerk/Treasurer Office Hours:**  
**Monday – Thursday 8:00-4:30pm**  
**Fridays 8:30am- 12:30 pm**

**The November Council meeting was cancelled due to the severe wind storm and power outage.**

## **Future Council Meeting Dates:**

December 15, 2015  
January 19, 2016  
February 16, 2016  
March 15, 2016  
April 19, 2016

City website:

**[www.cityofathol.us](http://www.cityofathol.us)**

Mayor:

**Darla Kuhman**

City Council:

**Mary Zichko**  
**Lewis Miller**  
**Shane McDaniel**  
**Josh Spencer**

City Attorney:

**Vacant**

City Clerk/Treasurer:

**Lori Yarbrough**

Public Works/Water Operator:

**Stephen Williams**

## ON THE CALENDAR THIS MONTH:

<p><b>Sunday -</b> Mountain View Baptist (every Sun) 10am – 1pm, Downstairs Main Room</p> <p><b>Monday –</b> Fit n Fall Class (every Mon, Wed, &amp; Fri) 10am-11am Gym Grandmothers (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday each month) 10am-1pm Real Life Ministries (every Monday) 6:00pm-8pm, Gym, Conference &amp; Main Downstairs</p> <p><b>Tuesday –</b> Food Bank (every Tuesday) 9am-12 noon &amp; 1pm-3pm, Contact Charlotte Hooper 683-3244 City Council Meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday each month) 7pm Heritage Health Mobile Clinic (every Tuesday 9am-12pm) Eager Beavers 4-H (2<sup>nd</sup> Tues each month) 6:30pm-7:30pm</p>	<p><b>Wednesday –</b> Fit n Fall Class (every Mon, Wed, &amp; Fri) 10am-11am, Gym Remington Water District (every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed) 6:30pm Hip Hop Classes (every Wednesday) 4-7pm, Gym Healthy Cooking (every 2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday) 6:30pm-8pm</p> <p><b>Thursday –</b> Lady A's (every Thursday) 9am-10am, D. Dryer Dance &amp; Drama Classes 2:30pm-6:00pm, Gym Farragut Flyers (every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday) 6:00pm-7:00pm</p> <p><b>Friday –</b> Fit n Fall Class (every Mon, Wed &amp; Fri) 10am-11am, Gym</p> <p><b>Saturday –</b> Big Book Recovery AA's (every Thursday) 5pm-6pm</p>
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**Upcoming:** Athol City Hall will be closed for the following holidays this season: Friday December 25<sup>th</sup> for Christmas and Friday January 1, 2016 for New Year's Day!

*Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas*

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↓ WATER BILL ↓



Timberlake Fire Protection District is holding **Strategic Planning meetings** to identify future needs of the District. Committees have been formed to identify current and future needs in five specific areas. Each committee is made up of a commissioner, paid staff, volunteer, and private citizen. These committees will have made their first initial report to the Board of Commissioners on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 5:00pm at Station 1, however if you are interested in participating please contact the fire protection district for more information and future meeting dates. Your input is important to us.

**Bill Wright Captain, Timberlake Fire Protection District**

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**A few questions and concerns have been circulating around town lately and your council would like to address them.**

**Why is the agenda no longer on the city newsletter?** Since the change of meeting dates from the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month, the deadline for submittal of agenda items occurs after the newsletter is already mailed out with the water bills. **The agenda is however, always posted at the front of the community center in the glass case, at the post office, as well as on-line on the city's website,** the Friday before council.

**Accusations of others being involved with the theft of City funds** Council did not choose how far back to investigate, the proper authorities made those decision. Previous audits were overlooked by the former Mayor and Council due to mistakenly trusting the word of the former City Clerk in that "all is well". Since the embezzlement, all financial, as well as, forensic audits are completed and up to date back to FY 2010. **Reviews by numerous individuals from more than one agency including the opinion of the U.S. District Attorney show no indication or evidence of any involvement in the misuse of City funds by anyone other than the former City Clerk.** Restitution (\$434,112.00) has been ordered; attempting to do anything further is not likely to get the money back to the city any faster; and waste of taxpayer's time & money.

**ICRMP Insurance was initially denied for all years:** The Council appealed the initial denial to the city's ICRMP Insurance claim regarding the embezzlement. Council also voted to appeal a second time, which was denied just as a councilman and city attorney thought would happen. Overall, the city was able to collect the most recent years' worth of losses, \$102,980, this was really determined because of the city's lapse in audits, as well as ICRMP's policy on payments old claims. There was 8 different elected officials during that 5 year time span, that contributed to the non-compliance, whether they were aware or not.

**An accountability committee...**is a waste of people's time. **Every citizen already has the right to attend meetings, ask questions, get copies or see city records and documents. Every decision the council makes, happens at a public meeting, and citizen attendance is always encouraged.** It is the duty of the Council and Mayor to ensure a tragedy like that does not happen again. **It is the citizens who vote to elect, who they feel is the right person to do that job.**

**There is no censorship in the City office.** Idaho state code sets the public records policy, with very little interpretation by the city attorney. There is no censorship to requests for public records and the City's website is continuously updated with information to help with education & transparency of city records or documents.

**City Newsletter** The council did vote for "**oversight**" of the newsletter, allowing for comments information and suggestions by all City staff and all elected officials, prior to it being mailed out to citizens. Our intentions were to ensure that more complete and accurate information is going out in the newsletters. **The City newsletter was previously created by a single individual, the Mayor, with minimal input from the staff and never any prior approval by council.**



**ABC FOOD BANK**

The ABC Food Bank is in need of donations, anything is helpful. Cans of Tuna, canned fruit, and peanut butter are always needed. ABC serves approx. 200 families a month. **FOOD BANK hours: every Tuesday from 9am- 12 noon and**

**1pm- 3pm;** please call 208-683-3244 for questions.

*Christmas Food Box sign-up is Tuesdays at the Food Bank; and will be given out Tuesday December 15<sup>th</sup> and December 22<sup>nd</sup>.*



*Thank you again to everyone in this great community who's willing to help their neighbors out and makes donating food a priority.*

**Did you know...** The City of Athol had 290 previously registered voters and 32 new city voters who registered on Election Day. The city now has 322 registered voters, in the city limits.

**Did you know??** In 2011 only 29 votes were cast, in 2013 66 votes were cast. **This year there was 173 votes cast in this past election,** that's a 54% turnout this year.



*The Share Tree tags are available at the Little Town Market. They will need to be brought back in by Tuesday December 15<sup>th</sup>. There are over 200 children who benefit from your generosity in making a donation for the Share Tree.*

Thank you to all the families and friends in Athol who have known and trusted in me for the nearly 30 years our family has lived here. I enjoyed working as your maintenance man / water operator for 17 years, and now look forward to serving the community which I love as your mayor.

I know that Bill, Josh, and I are excited to start our new journey as your mayor and council members.

A special thanks to my wife and family for supporting me during this campaign.

Thank you all, Bob

**Love's Burgers inside of Love's Trading Post/Cenex Gas Station**

We are dedicated to producing the freshest and best tasting food anywhere, We offer fresh



made Burgers, Fries, Onion Rings, Shrimp Baskets, Chicken Nuggets, Hot Dogs, Hard

Scoop Ice Cream, Milkshakes and much more!  
**Open 7 days a week /** Call in orders are welcome /  
Groups & Parties Welcome  
and don't forget about our Drive Through Window

**Hours: 10am - 8pm Sun-Thurs  
& 10am - 9pm Fri- Sat**

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**208-920-0559**

**Thank you for supporting your local business**