

~ ATHOL CITY NEWSLETTER ~ & WATER UTILITY BILL January 1, 2017

Athol, A New Direction

Athol City Hall will be closed
Monday, January 16th
for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

FREE TAX HELP

Will be available again this year every Monday beginning Feb 6, 2017 through April 10, 2017 at the Athol Community Center. **You must call first and schedule an appointment. NO WALKS-IN's.** Tax-Aide services low to moderate income taxpayers of any age. You don't have to be a member of AARP to use this service. **Please contact Janet at 208-683-2407.**

What to bring: your Social Security Card (and those of children), your picture ID, your last year's (2015) income tax return, and all your 2016 income documents (W2's, 1099s, etc.)



Don't forget "Civilian Response to Active Shooter" Training Wednesday, January 25th, 1:30-3:30pm

The City of Athol will be hosting a training conducted by the Kootenai County Sheriff Dept.'s, Community Resources Officer. Following, is "Disaster Relief" Preparedness Training from 3:30-5:30pm. This event will be conducted by Darin Foster, Disaster Preparedness Coordinator for the Red Cross.

A Steering Committee is being put together to organize an Athol Chamber of Commerce. The benefit of having a local Chamber of Commerce is that it becomes the collective voice of local business men and women in community growth and activities. It serves as the public directory of services available in Athol. The Steering Committee are people who share this vision and want to roll up their sleeves to make it happen. If you want to be a part of this workforce or are interested in participating in Athol Chamber of Commerce, please contact John or Janet Ellis at 208-660-2714.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

@ 7:00 PM

CITY HALL - 30355 3rd
208-683-2101

WINTER Hours

Clerk/Treasurer Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday 9:00-4:30pm

Fridays 8:30am- 12:30 pm

Future Council Meeting Dates:

January 17, 2017
w/ Public Hearing
February 21, 2017
March 21, 2017
April 18, 2017
May 16, 2017
June 20, 2017

City website:

www.cityofathol.us

Mayor:

Bob Wachter

City Council:

Mary Zichko

Bill Hill

Shane McDaniel

Josh Spencer

City Attorney:

John Cafferty

City Clerk/Treasurer:

Lori Yarbrough

Public Works/Water Operator:

Stephen Williams



Update from Mayor Wachter:

**A YEAR IN REVIEW, City of Athol's
"2016" ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS**



1. In November of 2015, Rand Wichman was hired on as the city's Planner. In January 2016, the new City Attorney, John Cafferty of Hawley Troxell in Coeur d' Alene, was appointed and confirmed by the Mayor and council.

2. The city was able secure a grant with DEQ for a 50% matching funds to have a water facility plan done. Keller and Associates were selected to be the engineers and should be completed in June 2017. Since the city's water system is nearing 30 years, it is important to identify where improvements might be needed and what upgrades can or should be done to carry us into another 20 years.



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3. Athol Beautification and City-Wide Yard Sale was conducted in March. Forty-five to fifty volunteers worked doing miscellaneous tasks/clean-up that was requested by approximately 20-24 homes located inside the city limits. Yards were cleaned up, brush from fallen trees was burned and truckloads of items taken into the waste station on Ramsey.

4. The city was selected by the Idaho Rural Partnership for a Community Review which was conducted in October. This was an opportunity for the city to gain perspective and insight from several professionals from throughout the state regarding the city's roads and infrastructure, land use, and economic development. This will hopefully be a start to what is desired for the future of Athol.

5. On the heels of the community review and in efforts to bring everyone together, we have had several Community-Minded Potlucks. These potlucks are just a beginning and we hope to try to bring more people together who have similar interests to begin starting groups such as a Chamber of Commerce.



6. We have also applied for a grant to have a city transportation plan. We hope to hear back by March 2017 if we have been selected. This is a basic plan that can assist the city when trying to secure future grant funding for various projects needed in the city.

7. The city completed an electrical upgrade in the Athol City Park. The primary purpose will be to accommodate more vendors for Athol Daze and rental usage.

8. New city street signs were purchased and erected. We are still working with ITD to get the signs along Hwy 54 upgraded.



9. Fee Resolutions were updated and water rates were raised (approx. 4%) for the 1st time in over 20 years. There are many future improvements we know our water system needs.



10. The Community Center had several upgrades this year: painting of the outside of the building, painting the gym, new vanities in the restrooms, baby changing stations, and the lighting upgrades to LED throughout the building; which the city received a large rebate for the LED upgrades from Kootenai Electric. The outside front entrance of the Community Center was also updated.



11. A Budget was passed and we have plans for a new/updated comprehensive plan and a planning and zoning code so that city code enforcement may be further pursued, as well as some clarity to when a site disturbance is needed.

12. The city council approved a sprinkler system installment in the baseball and basketball field areas and did so jointly with the many Athol Baptist Church volunteers.



13. Athol Daze was another success due to the hard work of city employees, council, volunteers and attendees. Four Athol Daze banners were purchased and hung from the electric poles along Hwy 54 for the advertising of our annual city event.

14. The Council passed a Subsurface Sewage Ordinance, as agreed upon with Panhandle Health District. In addition, the city is taking the first steps in recording/tracking the pumping of septic tanks, as agreed upon in the Sewage Management Plan that was signed in 2015.




15. The city annual audit conducted by Anderson Brothers for the FY 2016 has been completed as of December 2016, happy to say with no findings or exceptions.



16. The last surprise, was the city received a restitution payment from Sally Hansen for \$8,240.00! It's only a drop in the bucket compared to the whole bill, but it's a start.



All in all, a lot has been accomplished in  and we could not have done it without the support of the devoted citizens and the countless volunteers of this community. Moving forward, we hope to have numerous opportunities to interact and engage the community and its citizens this year.

Our priority for 2017 is to identify and address both the current and future needs of the city while creating a new plan or direction in which to move the city forward to a viable future for generations to come; making Athol a destination, not just somewhere you pass through on your way to somewhere else. Thank you to everyone involved!



****PUBLIC MEETING: The U.S. Postal Service is considering a relocation in Athol and would like you're input. Please attend January 10th 2017 at 5:00pm in the Athol Community Center.****



ON THE CALENDAR THIS MONTH:

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| <p>Sunday -</p> <p>Monday – Fit n Fall Class (Mon, Wed, Fri) 10am-11am, Gym Grandmothers Club (3rd Monday each month) 10am-1pm Real Life Ministries Youth Group (every Mon) 6-8pm</p> <p>Tuesday – Food Bank (every Tues) 9am-12 noon & 1pm-3pm, Contact Charlotte Hooper at 683-3244 City Council Meeting (3rd Tues each month) 7pm Eager Beavers 4-H (2nd Tues each month) 6:30pm-7:30pm</p> | <p>Wednesday – Fit n Fall Class (Mon, Wed, Fri) 10am-11am, Gym Remington Water District (every 3rd Wed) 6:30pm</p> <p>Thursday – Lady A's (every Thurs) 9am-10am D. Dryer Dance & Drama (every Thurs) 2:30pm-6:30pm</p> <p>Friday – Fit n Fall Class (Mon, Wed, Fri) 10am-11am, Gym Heritage Health Mobile Clinic (every other) 8am-1:30pm</p> <p>Saturday – Big Book Recovery AA's (every Thurs) 5pm-6pm Farragut Flyers (2nd Sat) 12- 2pm</p> |
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Upcoming: Come watch the final review presentation given by the Idaho Rural Partnership Tuesday, January 17th, 2017. The Athol Community Review Town Hall at 5:00pm and then Regular City Council meeting and Public Hearing at 7:00pm.

WATER BILL ↓

From the Athol City Hall - January 1, 2017

