



~ ATHOL CITY NEWSLETTER ~ November 1, 2018



Athol, A New Direction



VETERANS DAY 2018



COFFEE ON US

Saturday 11-10-18 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM
Careywood Coffee Company
6101 Hwy 54 Unit B Athol, ID

Veterans in the 83801-zip code



Senior Meeting and Lunch

Monday, the 5th Noon to 3pm-

Athol Community Center

Bring something to share and enjoy! We will

have two employees from SHEBA to discuss Medicare updates; Blood pressure checks will also be done by the Fire Department. This is for anyone 50 years or older.

Chamber of Commerce

2018 Community Christmas Tree Lighting Festival

Saturday, December 8, 2018 at City Hall

Tree lighting @ 5 PM in the Ball Field

FREE FAMILY DINNER

Lots of Games, Candy

And **Surprises**



CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS
@ 7:00 PM 1st & 3rd Tues.
CITY HALL - 30355 N. 3rd
208-683-2101

Clerk/Treasurer Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday 9:00-4:30pm
Fridays 8:30am- 12:30 pm

Future Council Meeting Dates:

November 6, 2018
(City Hall Closed Nov. 12th)
November 20, 2018
(City Hall Closed Nov. 22nd & 23rd)
December 4, 2018
December 18, 2018
(City Hall Closed Dec. 24th & 25th)
(City Hall Closed Jan. 1st)
January 15, 2019
(City Hall Closed Jan. 21st)
February 5, 2019
February 19, 2019

City website:

www.cityofathol.us

Mayor:

Mary J Zichko

City Council:

Bill Hill
Shane McDaniel
Josh Spencer
Cindi Denis

City Attorney:

John Cafferty

City Clerk/Treasurer:

Lori Yarbrough

Public Works/Water Operator:

Anthony Brandt

Update from your Mayor, Mary Zichko



Fall is here, and Holiday Season is fast approaching please be cognizant of children and the hustle and bustle of activities while school is out for the various upcoming vacations.

- **Code Enforcements (Athol City Code 3-1-1):** I wanted to take a minute to share the dilemma of Code Enforcement. The city receives complaints occasionally throughout the year as well as city officials may notice, various properties who may be in violation of City Ordinances. In dealing with these complaints, one of the major issues that must be addressed is the rights of the property owner -vs.- City Ordinances.

This is the role of the City Planner and or staff. They are responsible for reviewing the complaints received or noticed and taking the appropriate action. The City strives to help residents comply with the existing City Ordinances. Usually this happens with an initial contact, often via a **Friendly Reminder**, which provides the residence with the possible violation and the requirements needed to come into compliance. A more formal letter will next be sent via the City Planner giving a deadline to comply if the violation continues.

If the violation is not resolved, then a Notice of Violation will be recorded on the title for that property with the county. The goal of code enforcement is to help citizens come into compliance with the city ordinances. Once all these avenues have been exhausted, and in spite of the efforts of the City Planner and or staff to help a citizen resolve a city ordinance violation, legal action may then be initiated.



In this case, the City Council will then be made fully aware of the history of the violations and the steps attempted to resolve the violation. The council is then faced with the bigger decision of going to court. Preparing a case for legal action and the costs involved may be an enormous impact on the city budget. A decision not to be taken lightly, as court costs can range from anywhere around \$20,000.00 and up. Often the Notice of Violation is enough for the city to feel they have done their best in relation to the most cost-effective managements; but knowing when it's not and forging ahead with spending a considerable amount of the city budget to fight even one case is a tough decision.

Please share your thoughts with the council, staff or myself, attend the city budget workshops in the spring or come to a council meeting and share your thoughts on how to address such issues. We are aware that for many years only random or minimal code enforcement has occurred, but we also don't want to waste the city's time and money in court. It's most helpful when individuals just do their best to keep their properties clean and clear of city ordinance violations.

- **Council Position #3 Filled.** I want to thank those citizens that sent in resumes for the Mayor and Council seats; it is nice to see more interest in our form of government. **Please welcome Cindi Denis to the city council**, as she was appointed and confirmed by the council at the October 16th meeting. Cindi has been a resident of the city for 7 years and volunteers for the ABC Food Bank, as well has actively attended numerous city meetings over the years.
- **Bond Election November 6th:** A reminder of the City Bond Election before you this November for water infrastructure improvements. It is the citizens right to vote on the bond issue. The City hosted a Public Meeting last month, to allow citizens to get the information they needed to make an informed decision and vote in the upcoming elections on the 6th. If you have any questions, please contact City Hall or me directly at 208-683-1133.





- **The Auditors are coming the beginning of the month** to conduct the FY2018 Audit. We look forward to the review and as always, the report will be on the city website once it has been completed. The city has finally repaid the debt the street fund owed to the water fund.
- **Comprehensive Plan:** The council has a workshop that is now scheduled for Thursday, November 1, 2018 at 4:00pm. This is open to the public.



Hello Athol Citizens,

Cold weather is coming again. Here are some tips from your Fire District that will help keep you safe and warm:



1. Replace or clean your furnace filter regularly (three to four times a year).
2. Have your heating system inspected and serviced by a qualified technician every year.
3. Ensure that combustible materials such as newspaper, kindling, cardboard, paint thinner and paint rags are stored away from the furnace or woodstove, at least three feet away.
4. Have your chimney inspected annually. Have it cleaned when necessary.
5. Use a screen in front of the fireplace to prevent embers and sparks from escaping and igniting carpets or other combustible materials.
6. When purchasing a space heater, be sure to choose one that automatically shuts off if the heater falls over.
7. Space heaters need space. Keep heaters at least three feet away from your bed, curtains and any other combustible materials.
8. Avoid using an electrical heating device on the same circuit with another high wattage appliance, such as a microwave or toaster oven.
9. Please do not overload **extension cords** or allow them to run through water or snow on the ground.
10. Do not substitute **extension cords** for permanent wiring. Please do not run cords through walls, doorways, ceilings or floors. If **cord** is covered, heat cannot escape, which may result in a **fire** hazard.
11. Check your smoke detector and CO monitor.
12. Call us or stop by the Station if you have any questions.

Quick reminder; the **International Fire Code (Idaho State Law) 304.1.2 Vegetation**, requires weeds, grass, vines or other growth (or debris) that is capable of being ignited and endangering property, shall be cut down and removed by the *owner* or occupant of the premises from property lines and within 30 feet of any structure.

Bill Steele, Fire Chief

Did you know.... CITY ORDINANCE #270, Passed in 2008, discusses the need to keep our roads and right of way clear for snow plowing. If there are 4 inches or more in a 24-hour period, the city will plow the city roads. It is the property owner's responsibility to remove any vehicle or other object in the street or right of way that may impede plowing operations. DO NOT park or leave a parked vehicle or other objects in the street or the right of way. If they are left in the street or right of way they are subject to a citation and/or removal, at the owner's expense and may be plowed in.



Hosted by the American Legion Auxiliary
 "Cocoa and Cookies w/ Santa"
 Saturday, December 1st 1-3pm, Athol Community Center



City Roads and Snow Plowing

Winter is fast approaching and along with that comes snow plowing. Just a few reminders to help make/keep winter a happier time for all of us.

- ✓ Any personal items left in the city right-of-way need to be removed.
- ✓ Mail boxes and paper boxes left out in the right-of-way, in the way of plows, are your responsibility. Items left in the right-of-way are left there at your own risk and could be struck by a snow plow during plowing. If there is damage to a snow plow or other city equipment caused by items that you have left in the right-of-way you could be subject to reimbursing the City the cost of that damage.
- ✓ Cars, trucks, boats, trailers, misc. items all need to be removed for the plowing.
- ✓ When removing snow from your driveway do not snow blow or plow snow into the street.
- ✓ The city is not liable for damage of any sort to your personal property when left in the city right-of-way.



If you have any questions, please call city hall 208-683-2101.



Athol Elementary School Events:

No school for students, Friday, November 2nd

Student Picture Retakes Thursday, November 8th

Veteran's Day Assembly Monday, November 12th at 2:00pm. This event is open to families and all veterans are welcome to attend!

STEAM Night Thursday, November 15th 4-5:00pm

THANKSGIVING Break Monday, 19th – Friday, 23rd

PTU Meeting Monday, November 26th 6:00pm



Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Box Sign-up begins Tuesday, October 31st at the Food Bank. This includes signing up for the children's sharing tree. Nov. 20th Food Box pick-up! Please call them at 208-683-3244 for questions.

FOOD BANK hours: every Tuesday from 9am- 12 noon and 1pm- 3pm;

Condolences go out to the families of Arnold Bakie and Genevieve "Gen" Twete. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.



In Our Thoughts and Prayers



Election Day Tuesday, November 6th, 2018.
Polling at the Athol Community Center 8:00am-8:00pm.

Water Improvement Bond ORD #419

If the Bond is Approved:

- ✓ It sets the ceiling on funding packages, authorizes a maximum amount that the city can commit to.
- ✓ It allows the city to accept grants and loans needed to pay for improvements.
- ✓ Limits the city to what improvements can be made, only those listed in the Ordinance.

If the Bond Fails:

- ✓ The city will still not have enough fire protection.
- ✓ Risk the Cemetery tanks failing any day.
- ✓ A moratorium could be imposed by the City, preventing any future connections of homes or businesses.
- ✓ Increased frequency of disruption of service; potential boil orders.



Notice of the Regular City Council Meetings for 2018-19 Fiscal Year

Pursuant to Ordinance No. 415, 9-25-2017 (Municipal Code 1.6.3), the City of Athol City Council regularly held meetings will be the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:00pm. The meetings are held in the downstairs conference room of the Athol Community Center located at 30355 N Third St. Athol, Idaho.

From time to time a regular meeting may be continued to another date or location due to capacity or unforeseen circumstances. If a regular meeting day of the month is a holiday, the meeting shall be held on the following day at the regular hour. The agenda for each meeting shall be posted at City Hall and the Athol Post Office on the Fridays preceding the first and third Tuesdays of each month. It will also be posted on the city's website: www.cityofathol.us

Lori Yarbrough, Athol City Clerk/Treasurer

Month	1 st Tuesday	3 rd Tuesday
October	2 nd	16 th
November	6 th	20 th
December	4 th	18 th
January	Cancelled	15 th
February	5 th	19 th
March	5 th	19 th
April	2 nd	16 th
May	7 th	21 st
June	4 th	18 th
July	2 nd	16 th
August	6 th	20 th
September	3 rd	17 th



A Discussion on the Un-Manned Clothing Donation Room at Athol City Hall.

We believe our community appreciates having a location to drop off your slightly used clothing and books, but we are having far too many people taking advantage of the site. This is NOT a garbage, nor a junk drop off site. Please have the common courtesy to clean and sort through your stuff. No heavily soiled, filthy-dirty, or broken items will be accepted. Take it to the dump!

We only accept clothes, shoes, some small kids' toys and books. No other household items. The old exercise machines and weights, bikes, TV's, and pots and pans unfortunately are not to be brought here.

Please only drop off a bag or 2 at a time. 10+ bags, 4 or 5 boxes of books, at a time is too much for this small space; we do not have the room! If you are donating, please be courteous enough to drop off only during city hall hours and bring your items into the room yourselves. **Please DO NOT LEAVE outside of the building, before or after hours.** If you are interested in volunteering your time to help keep the room up, please let the ladies in city hall know. Thank you.



Sunday - Compulsive Eaters Anonymous – Openness, honesty, and willingness (Every Sun) 4pm

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) 6pm
Senior Meeting (1st Monday of each month) 12 noon-3pm

Tuesday –

Food Bank (every Tues) 9am-12 noon & 1pm-3pm
(**Contact Charlotte Hooper at 683-3244**)
City Council Meeting (1st & 3rd Tues each month) 7pm
Eager Beavers 4-H (2nd Tues each month) 6:30pm-7:30pm

Wednesday –

Fit n Fall Class (Mon, Wed, Fri) 10am-11am, Gym
Remington Water District (every 3rd Wed) 6:30pm

Thursday –

Lady A's (every Thurs) 9am-10am
Athol Chamber of Commerce (3rd Thurs) 7pm

Friday –

Fit n Fall Class (Mon, Wed, Fri) 10am-11am, Gym
ABC FARMERS MARKET 2pm-6pm

Saturday –

Big Book Recovery AA's (every Sat) 5pm-6pm

Upcoming: The next City Council Meetings for November 2018 are: Tuesday the 6th and again on Tuesday the 20th, both at 7:00pm. **Water bills are due upon receipt and considered late if not received by Thursday, the 15th.**



WATER BILL ↓

From the Athol City Hall - November 1, 2018



ATTN: Water payments due this month by Thursday the 15th to avoid a late fee.