

VILLAGE OF ATHENS NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED AS A SERVICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGE OF ATHENS
DECEMBER 2017

221 Caroline Street Po Box 220 Athens, WI 54411 (715) 257-9170

EMAIL: athensclerk@villageofathens.com WEBSITE: www.athenswis.com

Board meetings held on the 4th Monday of the month at 7pm in the Village Board Room

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK
.....

What a great community we have! Communities talk about being one and coming together in times of crisis, but Athens lives that every day. Our people come together every day whether it's for the family of someone who has passed away, for someone who is sick, for our schools, for our churches, for our organizations, for our sports teams, for our emergency services or for something in our community, the people are there and they live that each day. We truly are One Town, One Team, One Dream.

We have so many volunteers and people who help us out in our community, it would be truly impossible to name each and every one. Just know that you are appreciated and what you do is noticed and appreciated. And that Athens would not be the great place it is without you!

And now for the business part of this letter. We have had a lot of things going on this year as you can see from the committee reports. You have a really good Village Board. They do a good job keeping things up and going in Athens. They take pride in Athens and in what they are accomplishing to make Athens a better community- always keeping in mind the taxpayer and who they are representing.

I know that you are probably get tired of hearing me say this, but our employees are really second to none. They go above and beyond what is expected of them and what their jobs call for. Most people don't get to see what they all accomplish and don't see how involved they are with the community. You need to appreciate them and what each and every one of them does.

Finally, as I say every year, enjoy the holidays. Get out and drive around our community. It truly is a beautiful town and great place to live, work, and raise your families. It is even more beautiful this time of year because of all the lights. If you're in need of a little pick me up, just drive the streets in the evening. You can't help but to have your spirits lifted.

To each and every one of you, Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Enjoy your families and loved ones, it's a great time of year. Remember the reason for the season.

As always, I am more than willing to listen to anyone with a comment or concern. Just call me, it's how our system works.

Chuck Kornack, Village President

VILLAGE OFFICIALS PHONE GUIDE

Village President:

Chuck Kornack 715-257-7657

Trustees:

Dwight Lenhard	715-257-9922	Randy Decker	715-571-6503	Matt Witucki	715-574-7060
Chris Perkins	715-574-6435	Steve Brewster	715-257-7933	Jonathon Haines	715-470-3169



The Village has created a Facebook page...please be sure to "like us" to get up to date information on happenings around the Village!

VILLAGE OF ATHENS WINTER PARKING REGULATIONS

No person shall park any vehicle on any public street or highway in the Village of Athens between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m., Monday through Friday, and from 2:30 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday, from November 1st through April 1st inclusive, except under circumstances described in Sec. 346.50, Wis. Stats., and on New Year's Day when there shall be no restrictions.

NOTICE

Village Tax Collection Hours

ALL TAX COLLECTIONS WILL BE DONE IN THE CLERKS OFFICE DURING WEEKDAY HOURS- 7:30AM TO 11:30AM AND 12:30PM TO 4PM. THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22nd, MONDAY, DECEMBER 25th, AND MONDAY, JANUARY 1st.

You can also mail your taxes to the Village of Athens, P.O. Box 220, Athens, WI 54411 or drop it in the payment drop box at the Municipal Building.

*****Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you would like a receipt returned to you**

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WATER & SEWER COMMITTEE

Phosphorus has long been recognized as the controlling factor in plant and algae growth in Wisconsin lakes and streams. Small increases in phosphorus can fuel substantial increases in aquatic plant and algae growth.

Phosphorus entering our lakes and streams comes from "point sources" LESS THAN 5%- piped wastes such as municipal and industrial wastewater treatment plants that release liquid effluent to lakes and rivers or spread sludge on fields; and from natural sources, including past phosphorus loads that build up in Lake Bottom sediments.

Phosphorus also comes from "nonpoint" or "runoff" pollution 95%. Such pollution occurs when heavy rains and melting snow wash over farm fields and feedlots and carry fertilizer, manure and soil into lakes and streams, or carry phosphorus-containing contaminants from urban streets and parking lots.

Proposals from the firms listed below to complete and submit the Operational Evaluation Report for the waste water treatment plant. The Village must comply with the DNR's Water Quality Based Effluent Limits (WQBELs) for Total Phosphorus as our DNR waste water permit to operate is coming due.

- Becher Hoppe \$3500.00
- Cooper Engineering \$3500.00
- Davy Engineering \$3000.00
- MSA \$2000.00
- REI Engineering declined

The Water Department replaced about 800 ft. of water main on West Village Limits this summer at a cost of \$45,050.00. The partial water main replacement was completed ahead of the resurfacing road project scheduled for completion in 2018.

The Village Water & Sewer Department needs help from our residents to solve our clear water inflow problems and we are asking all residents to PLEASE check and make sure your sump pump, eave troughs, or any other source of water isn't entering the sewer system. The DNR is asking the village to find and remove the sources of clear water inflow.

Chris Perkins, Committee Chairman
Randy Decker, Committee Member
Matt Witucki, Committee Member

FINANCE & PERSONNEL

The Village Board finished the process of updating the Village Ordinances earlier this year. The "E-Code" version of the Ordinances is available as a link on the Village website. This is a quick and easy way for Village residents to access the Ordinances to answer any questions they may have. I encourage you to visit our Village website (www.athenswis.com) to see what it all has to offer. If you have a community organization or business in the Village or a community event and would like to have it listed on the website, please call the clerk's office.

Jonathon Haines, Committee Chairman
Dwight Lenhard, Committee Member
Chris Perkins, Committee Member

FIRE & POLICE COMMITTEE

It is a good thing when you think back and can't recall many Police or Fire issues since our last newsletter?

Police- Chief Stencil has both Melissa Myszka and Jesus Ibarra up to speed and operating independently. These two individuals are our newest part time village police officers. Check out the Facebook post that the village put out a couple of months ago with all of our officers. It is nice to put a face with the name. Chief also recently completed a 40 hour mental health awareness class sponsored by North Central Health Care Center. It was officially called Crisis Intervention Training. He thought this training was well worth his time and learned quite a bit. Next year we will be working toward purchasing a new squad and transitioning equipment from the old one into the new one. The police department also wants to remind residents about the winter parking regulations that went into effect on November 1st. No parking on village streets from 2am to 7am November 1 through April 1.

Fire - The fire department has been busy lately which isn't such a good thing. Our department is very well prepared for incidents and train rigorously. I recently took part in a Fire/Evacuation drill at the new Athenian Living Center. Great job by our crews. Speaking of being prepared, the Fire Department will be receiving their new engine sometime in early spring. The current unit is over 25 years old. As an EMT on the ambulance, I want to say THANK YOU! Thanks to all of the personal, business and special groups that contributed to helping replace our 12 lead EKG. The community came through in a big way!

Steve Brewster, Committee Chairman
Jonathon Haines, Committee Member
Randy Decker, Committee Member

STREET COMMITTEE

It's been a very busy year for the Street Committee. In spring, the first project was the south Caroline Street addition to service the new Assisted Living Facility, Athenian Properties. This project involved storm sewer, curb and gutter, blacktop and street lights. The 2nd layer of blacktop will be applied in Spring 2018. The Village also worked with Athenian Properties and created a Developer's Agreement with them to pay for the street improvement via taxes created by their new facility which is located in Tax Incremental District #2.

Next on the project list was the Mount View Lane, Park View Lane and Detention Pond project. Mount View Lane from Hwy 97 to Pioneer Road was totally reconstructed with a 5" blacktop applied to new sections of road including 600' on Park View Lane. Storm sewer was installed to remedy water problems that happen in front of Rib Mountain Bio. The Detention Pond was completed in November. The original plan called for the pond to be located farther north than the existing pond, but we ran into bedrock. Plans had to be modified and we had to haul in approx.. 9000 yards of fill from the north lot in the Industrial Park to build the pond. This was by far the most economical way to build the pond once rock was detected. The Detention Pond is over 1 acre in size and there is a constant stream of water going into the pond. The intent is for solids to filter out in the pond and clear water will go out into the overflow.

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The next project was the Park View Lane north extension. Because the expenditure period for TID #1 was coming to an end in 2017, it was decided that we should extend Park View Lane to north 1000 feet including the culdesac. The sewer, water and storm sewer were extended in 1998 so by finishing this project, it gives the Village more buildable land for future businesses to locate to. Unfortunately, due to the cold weather arriving early this year, the blacktop, curb and gutter and street lights will have to wait until the spring to be finished.

We will be bidding early in 2018 for new blacktop on West Village Limits from Mueller Street to Plisch Street as well as Caroline Street from Mueller St to Kreutzer St. This will include some curb repairs on these streets as well as any needed sidewalk repairs.

The committee has also developed a new 5 year street plan for future projects, as well as recommending to the Village Board that the use of golf carts on Village streets be allowed as long as they follow the same rules/routes as ATV's. In 2016, the Village crushed the big concrete pile by the dump which was used to construct Caroline Street and some of Park View which saved taxpayer money by not having to buy the road base.

With Park View Lane being completed this completes a large portion of infrastructure in the Industrial Park. A large percentage of businesses in the Industrial Park are local people which shows that Athens has some very aggressive individuals. The Park is owned by the Village so spread the word that they are parcels available for more businesses.

Randy Decker, Committee Chairman
Dwight Lenhard, Committee Member
Steve Brewster, Committee Member

PARKS & PUBLIC WELFARE

The timber harvest was postponed last winter due to the warmer conditions. The project was awarded to Thurs Logging and is currently under way. The select cutting will take place mainly in the north and west areas of the village forest. There will also be some select cutting in Athens Park. The harvest project is needed to properly manage these areas. Better growth, esthetics and safety are priority. Please be aware of this project if you utilize these trails during this time. There may also be some temporary closing of certain trails as needed during the harvest.

The park committee is planning some improvements to the shelter at Erbach Park for 2018. Some of the updates include new windows and doors, insulating the building and a remodeled kitchen. Thank you to the Erbach family for the donated funds for this project.

With the help of the Athens Area Trail Association, we were able to replace another walking bridge in Erbach Park located on the west side of the trail system. In Athens Park, 2 more walking bridges were also replaced. Thanks to Mason Knab for his work on the bridges as part of his Eagle Scout project. A big thank you to our village employees for all their work on the trails, bridges and other park improvements.

Matt Witucki, Committee Chairman
Jonathon Haines, Committee Member
Steve Brewster, Committee Member

PUBLIC PROPERTY COMMITTEE

It was a long time coming, but the village was finally able to finance the refinishing of the bowling alley lanes in the 11th Frame. The last time the lanes were refinished was 2000. The process is quite involved, and required the help of the village employees to get the sanding equipment down and back up the stairways. The bowling surface is actually a clear plastic film which is adhered to the wooden lane. The old film had to be removed allowing for the lane to be sanded to critical specifications. Following the sanding process, a water based sealer was applied. Once the sealer dried, a new film layer was rolled out and adhered. The life expectancy of the product is about ten to twelve years, depending on the amount of usage. Hopefully the new surface produces many high scores for the 11th Frame bowling patrons.

The largest 2017 purchase will be a new Mack snowplow truck which should be delivered very soon. The chassis was bought from Scaffiti Motors. A stainless steel box, sanding unit, plow and other equipment is being installed by Truck and Equipment.

The clerk's office received new carpeting this summer and matches the carpet which was installed in the board room last year. The shop took delivery of a new metal band saw. The new saw allows the employees to cut larger pieces of steel than the old chop saw. The saw was very useful in building supports for the park trail bridges.

The final budgeted purchase was for a containment system of large concrete blocks which are stacked together, (similar to Legos). Three separate areas were created to hold black dirt, granite, and reclaimed road material. The blocks are manufactured by Black Rock Ready Mix.

The 2018 Public Property budget will be somewhat skimpy due to the plow purchase this year and some aggressive street work planned for next year. The ten year old white ford pickup will be replaced and a quick hitch attachment and back blade for the compact tractor are included in the new budget.

Overall, the village's equipment and buildings are in pretty good shape. The board continues to strive to repair and replace equipment as prudently as possible. Thanks to our employees for their diligence to care and maintain the village's assets. Looking forward to a year of productive changes.

Dwight Lenhard, Public Property Chairman
Chris Perkins, Committee Member
Matt Witucki, Committee Member

GARBAGE BILLING CHANGES

~~Effective with the 12/31/17 billing, Advanced Disposal has increased the garbage/recycling costs to \$12.15/month.

*****HUNTING ORDINANCE*****

No hunting of any kind (INCLUDING PURSUING, DRIVING OR CHASING ANIMALS) shall be allowed on Village owned property.

VILLAGE OF ATHENS SNOW & ICE REMOVAL POLICY

Within 24 hours after the cessation of any fall of sleet or snow, it shall be the duty of the owners and/or the occupants of any lot or parcel of land to remove the snow or sleet from any and all sidewalks adjacent to the premises of such owner or occupant, and to keep the same free and clear of snow and ice for the **FULL** width of the sidewalk. If the owner/occupant fails to remove the snow or sleet (ice) from the sidewalks, Village employees shall remove the snow/ice and assess a fee of **\$75/hr with minimum charge of \$75** against the owner for the cost of removing the ice/snow.



Snowmobile Trail Access

As in the past, residents will be allowed to travel the roads and alleys to and from their houses, using the most direct route to the trail. The speed limit will be 10 mph and the snowmobiles must yield the right-of-way to other vehicles using the streets and alleys. Snowmobiles are prohibited from traveling on STH 97 (Pine St., Mueller St., and Alfred St.); however, snowmobiles are allowed to cross the highway. It should be noted that access to the trails does not apply to ATVs and ATVs will not be allowed to travel the roads and alleys.

Please realize it only takes one problem snowmobile rider to ruin this privilege for the residents. Therefore, it is important that if you see violations/abuse of this privilege, that you collect what information you can and report it to the Athens Police Department.

Attention Dog Owners

Wisconsin State Law Requires All dogs to be vaccinated against rabies and to be licensed by April 1, 2018. Property owners may pay for dog license when paying property taxes or in Village Clerk's Office. Licenses will be issued after the fee and proof that the dog has been vaccinated has been furnished.

2018 Village of Athens Garbage & Recycling Service Schedule

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	25	26	27	28				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
28	29	30	31																	
APRIL							MAY							JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
29	30																			
JULY							AUGUST							SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
29	30	31												30						
OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
28	29	30	31											30	31					

Garbage & Recycling Pick-Up Day
 NOTE pick-up during a holiday week is a day late



For questions about service please call
 (800) 262-3101