

VILLAGE OF ATHENS NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED AS A SERVICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGE OF ATHENS
DECEMBER 2022

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Well folks, this is kind of my retirement letter. I have decided to not run for re-election. I have been your Village President for 20 years, I feel it is time for new blood. I feel like we need ideas, new opinions, and new perspectives. Don't get me wrong, I feel we are and have been going in the right direction. I have enjoyed my time as your Village President. I feel that every move and every decision I have made have been for the best interest of the people and the Village of Athens, but at some point it just seems like a change would be good. Someone who is interested in the direction and the state of the Village can step in with their perspective. We need new members with new perspectives. This is not to knock the current board, they have done a great job. We have some longer term members on the board to guide and continue some of the direction we are currently going. It is a challenging and rewarding job. I will miss the job, but I feel the time is right for me to step down.

I want to point out some perks of this job to you. The thing I will miss the most is the interaction I have had with the residents. I have thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it. The people in this Village are great to work for and it was rewarding to represent them. I am thankful for all of the volunteers we have. They make a lot of lives better. To all of you you can't imagine how much we appreciate you and how grateful we are for the things you do. Thank you also for the organizations who help out the Village.

I would like to recognize our Village workers. I know I say this each time but you could not find better people doing their job. I deal with them most every day and they are always willing to do what they can to make Athens a better place. They always go above and beyond what their jobs call for. They are trying to keep a lot of people happy and mostly succeed with that.

I would to recognize our Police Chief. I can't think of a better person to do the job he does. He is truly community orientated and believes in community policing and making Athens safer and better.

Lastly and certainly not least is Lisa. What a gal! She has made my job and the job of every other board member easier because of her knowledge and commitment to her job. The only complaint I could ever have is that she is "always right" but you get used to that. She is someone who really earns her pay. She not only is on the front line for the residents, she also has to deal with the Board Members and the employees.

As I wrap this up, "Tis the Season". Seems like we have people doing more Christmas decorations than ever. I hope you all realize that not only does it make our Village look great, it also brings happiness, joy and smiles to all that see these. Remember the real reason for the season- Family, friends, and loved ones. Enjoy to the fullest – Take time – Take a break!

Thank you to each and every one in this Village for the last 20 years. I have truly enjoyed the commitment, and because of this, I honestly believe we have the greatest Village and greatest people anywhere! Let's keep it that way!!

Chuck Kornack, Village President



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

To contact the Police Department

If there is no one in the office and you wish to leave a message...please call **257-7611** and we will get back to you as soon as possible.
If you wish to speak to an officer immediately, please contact the Marathon County Sheriff's Dept. @ **261-7794**

RESIDENTIAL WATER USER CROSS-CONNECTION HAZARDS – BATHROOMS AND KITCHENS

Did you know that your water can become contaminated if connections to your plumbing system are not properly protected! The purpose of the local Cross-Connection Control Program, as required by State Plumbing Code and Regulations, is to ensure that everyone in the community has safe, clean drinking water. To avoid contamination, backflow preventers are required by state plumbing codes, wherever there is an actual or potential hazard for cross-connection. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources requires all public suppliers to maintain an on-going Cross-Connection Control Program involving public education, onsite inspections and possible corrective actions by building owners if required.


What is a Cross Connection? A cross-connection is an actual or potential connection between the safe drinking water (potable) and a source of contamination or pollution. State Plumbing codes require approved backflow prevention methods to be installed at every point of potable water connection and use. Cross-connections must be properly protected or eliminated.

How does contamination occur? When you turn on your faucet, you expect the water to be as safe as when it left the treatment plant. However, certain hydraulic conditions left unprotected within your plumbing system may allow substances to contaminate your own drinking water or even the public water supply. Water normally flows in one direction. However, under certain conditions, water can actually flow backwards; this is known as Backflow. There are two situations that can cause water to flow backward: Backsiphonage and backpressure. Backsiphonage may occur due to a loss of pressure in the municipal water system during a fire fighting emergency, a water main break or system repair. This creates a siphon in your plumbing system which can draw water out of a sink or bucket and back into your water or the public water system. Backpressure may be created when a source of pressure (such as a boiler) creates a pressure greater than the pressure supplied from the public water system. This may cause contaminated water to be pushed into your plumbing system through an unprotected cross-connection.

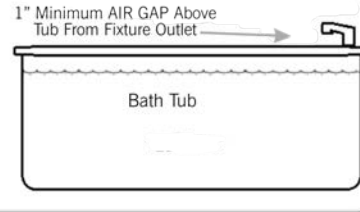
In the Bathroom - Hand Held Shower Fixture

The hand held shower fixture is compliant if:

- When shower head is hanging freely, it is at least 1" above top of the flood level rim of the receptor (tub)
- Complies with **ASSE#1014**
- Has the **ASSE code 112.18.1** stamped on the handle



1" Minimum AIR GAP Above Tub From Fixture Outlet

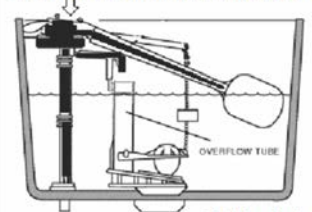


In the Bathroom - Toilet Tanks

There are many unapproved toilet tank fill valve products sold at common retailers which do not meet the state plumbing code requirements for backflow prevention.

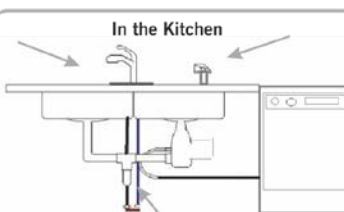
- Look for the **ASSE #1002** Standard symbol on the device and packaging
- Replace any unapproved devices with an **ASSE #1002** approved anti siphon ball-cock assembly. Average cost is typically \$12 to \$22 at home improvement stores
- Verify overflow tube is one inch below critical level (CL) marking on the device

ASSE #1002 Approved Ball Cock Assembly



Toilet water tank

In the Kitchen



Hoses and water treatment devices may create a potential backflow hazard if not properly isolated with backflow prevention methods.

To protect your drinking water: **DO's:** Keep the ends of hoses clear of all possible contaminants, Make sure dishwashers are installed with proper “air gap” devices, Verify and install a simple hose bibb vacuum breaker on all threaded faucets around your home and Make sure water treatment devices such as water softeners have the proper “air gap”, which is a minimum of one inch above any drain. **DONT'S:** Submerge hoses in buckets, pools, tubs or sinks, Use spray attachments without a backflow prevention device, Connect waste pipes from water softeners or other treatment systems directly to the sewer or submerged drain pipe. Always be sure there is a one inch “air gap” separation.

For more information, contact the websites of the WI Dept of Safety Professional Services (www.dsps.wi.gov), Wisconsin DNR (www.dnr.wi.gov), Environmental Protection Agency (www.epa.gov) or Cross-Connection Control/Backflow Prevention (www.hydrodesigninc.com/wiccc.html)

DECEMBER 2022
2022 in Review

Public Property:

- Installed 3 new doors on the south side of the Community Hall
- Trustee Westfall painted the balcony in the Community Hall and also all the doors on the east side of the Community Hall.
- The Board approved a contract to replace the original wooden bowling alley lanes with a new composite surface for longer life and reduced maintenance. Installation is scheduled for 2023 in between bowling seasons.
- Approved a 50% matching for new funds donated to Progress Athens (up to \$50,000) for the acquisition of the former US Bank building and subsequent renovation of the Municipal Building to create handicap accessible bathrooms for the Community Hall.
- Ordered 2023 Dodge Ram 1500

Water and Sewer:

- Used generous donations from several users of the Jensen Street Pumphouse (Miltrim Farm, River Country Cooperative and Heldt Custom Service) to help fund the replacement of the roof, doors and some windows on the Jensen Street pumphouse.
- The SCADA system was updated. This system remotely collects data and information from the water/wastewater system.
- Continued working on the WPDES permit and Phosphorus compliance options.
- Painted 9 fire hydrants to give them a fresh look
- Painting and rehab of the 150,000 gallon water tower that was built in 2003 by Caldwell Tank, the Village received 6 bids ranging from \$149,800 to \$317,750. Viking Painting was the low bidder at 149,800 for the project. James Orr Coating prepared the technical specification and bid documents, took care of the project administration, preconstruction meeting, field coating inspection and the 1 year onsite warranty inspection. The project was completed within the bid timeline taking just over 30 days. Funds from the American Rescue Act were used to help offset the project costs.
- The DNR conducted a Sanitary Survey audit in August. Based on the audit, the Village had to put a corrective action plan in place to address a significant deficiency at the water storage reservoir located on Elm Street. The Village plans to make the reservoir structure into compliance with current construction standards. The top soil and protective membrane have been removed from the top of the 240,000 gallon underground reservoir and Cory Westfall dug around the walls to expose the cold joints which were leaking. Al Belter and the Village employees grooved out the joint between the cover and the wall with a concrete saw, pressure washed and sealed all joints with two coats of Sikaflex. The reservoir was drained and inspected after with a thorough wet test. The reservoir was filled on November 7th and a water sample was taken in on the morning of the 8th with a chlorine residual of 1.89. The sample came back safe and reservoir was put back online November 9th. The water and sewer committee will be discussing a plan of action with our engineer MSA to add drainage around the walls and replace the membrane top soil on top of the reservoir in 2023.
- The committee is evaluating whether to upgrade/replace the sanitary sewer mains, water mains and laterals and storm sewer during the 2023 Elm and Schlegel Street reconstruction project.

Streets

- RC Pavers pulverized and paved Plisch Street and Switlick and Son replaced needed curb and gutter.
- Pulverized blacktop from Plisch Street was screened to create clean reclaimed material and was spread on 500 feet of Oak Street (from E. Degner St to south)
- Started engineering for 2023 Street project. We will be reconstructing Schlegel Street (between Maple and Elm) and Elm Street (from Caroline Street to Pine Street). The Village received an approx. 50% cost share grant from the State to complete project.
- James Peterson & Sons crushed the concrete pile on E. Degner St at an approx. cost of \$56,000. This resulted in approx. 9,000 yards of road base that will be used on future street projects.
- Lakes Asphalt was awarded the bid for \$5,556 to complete Cracksealing on needed streets.
- Zilisch Asphalt was awarded the bid for \$3,800 to blacktop several locations.

DECEMBER 2022

- Jensen & Sons was hired to use spray patching on the Caroline Street curb and several manholes at a cost of \$3,000
- RC Pavers paved Pine Street (between Elm and Kreutzer) due to the blacktop being worn down to gravel base.

Police & Fire

- Lexipol updated the Police Procedure Manual. The cost of the updated was covered by our insurance company.
- Ballistic helmet was purchased
- Purchased new office computer
- Received grant to fund new bullet proof vests for 3 of our part-time officers
- Conducted Gun Safety and Bike Safety (Bike Rodeo) to kindergarten students

Parks and Public Welfare

- Painted Swings at Memorial Park and Jensen St. Park. Thank you Tracy!
- Several “pet cleanup” stations were placed around the village parks by the Athens Girl Scouts.
- New walking/ biking trail between Nathan St and Hwy M was completed. An outstanding addition to our already wonderful trail system!
- Special thank you to all village employees and volunteers who keep our park’s system beautiful and growing!
- Received the Tree City USA designation for the 3rd year in a row.

Misc

- Signed Developer’s Agreement with SC Swiderski to construct multi-family housing on the south end of Caroline Street. Construction of the units is scheduled to start in the spring of 2023 and be completed by the end of 2024.
- The Comprehensive Plan was updated.

Finance & Personnel Year in Review by Chairman Tracy Westfall:

After serving my initial one year term as the Fire and Police Chairperson, I was reassigned to chair the Finance and Personnel Department. Know that I am always open to change and find the growth I gain will only benefit me in a positive way.

So, reflecting on 2022, changes have occurred and good things are happening. Nathan Heier joined the Village public works department as a full-time employee at the end of April and has proven to be a welcomed addition to the staff. As he continues to learn the ropes, he will continue to be an asset to serving the Village’s needs. Nick Belter is venturing into the water and sewer continuing education courses being offered not only to serve as a backup to Al Belter, but to transition into this position in the future. Al wears many hats. He is conducting hands-on repair work, overseeing different aspects of the Village maintenance needs, supervising and spending much of his time meticulously testing and reporting to ensure our water readings are where they should be. It is a time consuming, but very important, weekly function of his job keeping regulatory standards met. These guys work hard and I wanted to make special note and recognize them for all they do.

We are working on ways to continue with updates in making our Village a great place to live and raise our families. Any ideas are always welcome, so feel free to reach out to me. We are seeing the vision and moving in the right direction. I look forward to the possible move to the former US Bank building combined with having long overdue renovations to the Community Hall take place.

VILLAGE OFFICIALS PHONE GUIDE

Village President: Chuck Kornack 715-257-7657

Trustees:

Dwight Lenhard	715-257-9922	Randy Decker	715-571-6503	Chris Perkins	715-574-6435
Chris Guden	715-219-8825	Tami Schreiner	715-218-0329	Tracy Westfall	715-316-8883

NOTICE

Village Tax Collection Hours

Monday thru Friday: 7:30AM TO 11:30AM AND 12:30PM TO 4PM. THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23rd, MONDAY, DECEMBER 26th AND MONDAY, JANUARY 2nd. If paying with cash, please bring exact amount! 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**

RENTALS (RESERVATIONS CAN BE MADE BY CALLING/EMAILING CLERK'S OFFICE)

Athens Community Hall

Resident: \$25/hr or \$250/day + \$100 deposit.
Non-Resident: \$30/hr or \$300/day + \$100 deposit (deposit is refundable if cleaned up after use)

Athens Village Park: Resident Rate: \$80/day

Non-Resident Rate: \$100/day

Erbach Park: Resident Rate: \$100/day Non-Resident Rate: \$150/day

ATV/UTV RULES:

- *Hours of operation are 5am to 10pm
- *Speed limit is 15 MPH
- *Use is prohibited on State Hwy 97 (can cross Highway)
- *Use also prohibited on the Alfred Street one-way, Well Street (north of Kreuzer Street), on public sidewalks and in parks.
- *No person under 12 may operate ATV (age 12-15 must be accompanied by an adult)
- *No person under 16 may operate UTV
- *Must possess valid safety certificate if born after 1/1/88
- *Helmets with chin straps (not bicycle helmets) are required for anyone under the age of 18

Attention Dog Owners

Wisconsin State Law Requires All dogs to be vaccinated against rabies and to be licensed ANNUALLY. Property owners may pay for dog license in Village Clerk's Office. Licenses will be issued after the fee and proof that the dog has been vaccinated has been furnished.

RATES For Dog Licenses Are:

Neutered/Spayed Dogs \$ 5.00
Males/Females \$10.00

BUILDING PERMITS

Anyone planning on building a new house or structure, remodeling or doing alterations to existing buildings in the Village of Athens, shall apply for a permit from Ben Brooks, (257-7183) to obtain such a permit. No work should proceed until the permit has been issued. No permit is required for construction or repair work with a value of \$1,000 or less. Remember, this dollar figure is based on material and labor costs. Even if you do your own labor, you must include at least a minimum labor cost along with the material cost for permit purposes. Permits are good for 6 months, and projects not having permits displayed for public view, or without permits, can be halted by the inspector or the Police Department.



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. **Hours of Operation.** Except on a designated snowmobile trail, no person shall operate a snowmobile within the Village of Athens between the hours of 11:00pm and 7:00am, except for returning home via the most direct route.

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.

****Garbage/Recycling monthly pickup rates will be increasing to \$13.90 on December 31, 2022****

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.



2023

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December						
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	31					

* Observed holidays - Service delayed 1 day throughout remainder of week.

Village of Athens

 TRASH AND RECYCLING

WM Customer Service
1-888-960-0008

2023 HOLIDAYS - ONE DAY DELAY

Memorial Day May 29
Independence Day July 4
Labor Day Sept 4
Thanksgiving Nov 23
Christmas Day Dec 25