

# VILLAGE OF ATHENS NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2024

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

## PHONE GUIDE

**Village President:** Randy Decker 715-571-6503

**Trustees:**

Cody Thorson 715-573-8725 Taran Brodziski 715-370-8355 Chris Perkins 715-574-6435

Chris Guden 715-219-8825 Andy Thurs 715-297-2379 Tyler Socha 715-370-5887

**Police Department:** 715-257-7611 (if you need immediate assistance, contact Marathon County Sheriff's Dept: 715-261-7794)

**Building Permits:** Ben Brooks -715-257-7183

## RESIDENTIAL GARBAGE/RECYCLING UPDATES - PLEASE READ!!

**Effective 1/1/25, we will be switching to Harter's for our residential garbage collection. There will be several changes that you need to be aware of:**

\*We will be switching to 95 gal carts for collection. Harter's will provide each residence with one 95 gal garbage cart and one 95 gal recycling cart. These carts will be delivered sometime in December, but they are not to be used until January.

\*All garbage/recycling must fit into the cart. If you are finding that you can't fit all your garbage in one cart, you can contract with Harter's for additional carts.

\*Pickup day will remain on Friday (Holiday week collections are delayed one day the same as they currently are). Harter's will distribute a pickup calendar with the carts and it will be on the Village website as well.

\*Garbage pickup is every week but Recycling pickup will be every other week only.

\*All garbage must be bagged inside of cart

\*Recycling should not be put in plastic bags inside of cart.

\*Garbage/recycling charges will no longer be placed on your monthly water bill. It will be an annual charge on your tax bill. For the 2025, the amount will be approx. \$225.60 (this amount could go up slightly if fuel prices increase above \$4/gal as there is a fuel surcharge in their contract).

\*Changes for Spring Cleanup: Unfortunately, we will no longer have a curbside spring cleanup. Instead, Harter's will provide dumpsters (location and date to be determined) that residents can bring their excess trash to.

## 2024 IN REVIEW

### Public Property:

- Completed remodeling of the Community Hall and old Municipal Building. New bathrooms and a kitchen were created in the Community Hall as well as a storage closet for the chair racks and bar. A concession room was created for middle school sports. Changing rooms were also created on the stage. The interior got a paint color update and the beams were also painted. The old Municipal Building was renovated and the space is being leased out to Trinity Daycare. Thank you also to all of the financial donors who made these projects happen! And finally, thank you to all the contractors who kept the project on track and made the buildings look great.
- Purchased new backhoe to replace aging backhoe.

### Parks and Public Welfare

- The donated heater for the Erbach Park shelter was installed. Renters have had positive comments regarding the new addition.
- Athens Area Trail Association once again had a busy year. They created digital maps of the Odyssey Trail System and were able to secure donations to purchase and install several large trailhead maps. They continue to maintain and promote our wonderful trail system. Thank you for all of your hard work to make our parks beautiful. Please be sure to like and follow them on Facebook for the latest trail news!

- Thank you to Eugene Denk for his time served as volunteer Village Forester. Brock Guralski has graciously agreed to take over the role.
- Thank You to Jenny Lipinski and her crew for decorating the bandstand and Village square for the holidays and to Nick Peter for making the Village bandstand look beautiful with flowers during the summer.
- Thank you to our volunteer Range Master, Kenny Writz for assisting visitors and keeping a watchful eye on the range.
- Received the Tree City USA designation for the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row
- The partitions outside of the Memorial Park bathrooms were replaced and new concrete was added. Thank you to SD Ellenbecker and the Lions Club for their donation to make this happen.
- Athens Lions Club will be working with the Village to complete some projects at Athens Park to help spruce it up.
- Approved 5 year garbage and recycling contract with Harter's.
- The Village Ball Diamond was renamed to Community Diamonds.
- A new scoreboard was donated by Athens Booster Club, SD Ellenbecker and Graphic House.

### Finance & Personnel:

- 2025 Budget was finalized.
- 10+ Years of Service achieved:  
Al Belter and Lisa Czech: 22 years  
Aaron Stencil: 20 years    Dan Dunst: 10 years

### Water and Sewer:

- The DNR required lead service line inventory has been completed.
- The Wastewater Treatment plant upgrade to address DNR mandated Phosphorus levels is being bid out in December. Unfortunately, due to the cost of this required upgrade, we will have to increase sewer rates. We have applied for a DNR Clean Water Fund Loan and are hoping to qualify for a grant for a portion of that loan to help offset the costs of the project.

### Streets

- Thank you to Tracy Westfall and the Athens Area Credit Union who spearheaded a fundraiser to purchase new street pole Christmas decoration. Enough funds were raised to purchase 22 Snowflake decorations. Unfortunately, when they were delivered in November, they were the wrong size and therefore we had to hang the old ones for one more year. But, the good news is that the company provided a substantial discount as compensation for their error and we now have enough funds to purchase all 37 needed Snowflakes! We look forward to hanging them next Christmas season.
- In 2025, the 1<sup>st</sup> addition to the West View Subdivision will be created by Decker Investments. This will create 14 building lots off of Nathan Street.
- Elm Street (between Pine and Well Street) was reconstructed with new curb and gutter and Schlegel Street (between Elm and Kreutzer) was resurfaced.
- The 2025 Street project will be Maple Street (between Caroline and Schlegel Street). This will be a reconstruction project with new curb and gutter, sidewalk and new water and sewer mains.

### Police & Fire

- The new squad was purchased and the old one was sold.
- Lexipol updated the Police Procedure Manual. The cost of the updated manual was covered again by our insurance company.
- Conducted Gun Safety and Bike Safety (Bike Rodeo) to kindergarten students.
- Hired Brent Olson as Part-Time Police Officer.

## ATTENTION DOG OWNERS!!!!

Wisconsin State Law Requires All dogs to be vaccinated against rabies and to be licensed **ANNUALLY BY APRIL 1ST**. Property owners may pay for dog license in Village Clerk's Office.

### RATES For Dog Licenses Are:

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

## Village Tax Collection Hours

The Clerk's Office will be closed on Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>. 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 (203 Alfred Street) \*\*Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you would like a receipt returned to you\*\*

\*\*If your payment is being sent directly by your bank and you would like a receipt via email, please email [athensclerk@villageofathens.com](mailto:athensclerk@villageofathens.com) to request a copy be emailed after payment is received.

## \*WINTER PARKING REGULATIONS\*

From November 1<sup>st</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup>, parking on Village streets is prohibited between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m., Monday through Friday, and 2:30 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

## ATV/UTV RULES:

- \*Hours of operation are 5am to 10pm
- \*Speed limit is the posted speed limit
- \*Use is prohibited on State Hwy 97 north of Kreutzer Street and south of Plisch Street. It is also prohibited on the Alfred Street one-way, Well Street (north of Kreutzer 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

## SNOWMOBILE USAGE RULES:

- \*Speed limit is 10 MPH
- \*Residents are only allowed to travel the roads/alleys to and from their house using the most direct route only. Travel is prohibited on STH 97 (Pine St., Mueller St., and Alfred St.) except to cross 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.

## VILLAGE OF ATHENS SNOW/ICE REMOVAL POLICY

Property Owners must clear sidewalks of snow/ice within 24 hours of a snowfall. Failure to do so will result in the Village clearing the sidewalks and billing the property owner at a rate of \$75/hr (minimum charge is \$75).