

CITY OF ATHENA NEWSLETTER

MAY/2022

CITY COUNCIL

Rebecca Schroeder, Mayor

Wayne Kostur, Commissioner
of Police

Gene Wright, Commissioner
of Public Works

Katie Zmuda,
Commissioner of Library

Sally Thompson,
Commissioner of
Administration

Jesse Bonifer,
Commissioner of Fire
Services

CITY HALL HOURS

Monday-Friday
8:00am-5:00pm

(closed all federal holidays)

CITY PHONE NUMBERS

City Hall: 541 566-3862

City Shop: 541 566-0228

Library: 541 566-2470

Emergency: 911

Non-Emergency Dispatch:

541 966-3651



MAY MEETINGS

Library Board

Monday, May 16th at 6:00pm @ Library

Planning Commission

Wednesday, May 11th at 6:00pm @ City Hall

City Council

Thursday, May 12th at 6:00pm @ City Hall

Cemetery

Tuesday, May 17th at 5:00pm @ City Hall

ATHENA CALEDONIAN GAMES

Volunteers are always needed to help with short-term projects for our Scottish festival on July 9, 2022. Call 541-566-3880 to check in. Caledonian Games has a Guardian program for donors who donate \$50. The

Guardians are protecting our precious Scottish heritage in Athena. Please mail donations to Athena Caledonian Games, PO Box 161, Athena, OR. Athena Caledonian Games will feature Celtic band, "Endalos", with Scottish and Irish music in the park!

UMATILLA COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT FOR THE CITY OF ATHENA

Total Calls for Service/Incidents (March 2022):

103



ANNUAL CITY-WIDE
YARD SALE!!
MARK YOUR
CALENDARS AND GET
ON THE MAP/LIST
NOW!



May is here and we are getting ready for our annual Yard sale day. May 21st Saturday from 8:00 am - 3:00 pm. If you are interested in having a yard sale and being put on the map, please call either City Hall (541) 566-3862 or Bee's knees (541) 566-0203 Thursday – Sunday 11:00-5:00 with your address and contact info. (Your contact info will not be on the map). We provide Maps for easy shopping. Best time of year to have a yard sale. We advertise for you in multiple newspapers. We look forward to another great year. If you have any questions contact Paula Babb (541) 969-7904.

YMCA DAY CAMP



ENTERING GRADES 1-5

DHS ELIGIBLE
+ Scholarships Available!

ATHENA CAMP

OUTDOOR EXPLORATION | JUNE 13 - 16
Discover the great outdoors! Mountains, hills, and plateaus are in the mix.

SPORTS OF ALL SORTS | JUNE 20 - 23
Everybody gets a turn this week! Let's play the games we love and games we can't wait to master! Whether it's on a board or on a field, it's time to play.

SPLISH SPLASH | JUNE 27 - 30
Dive into this week head first! Take a dip in a pool, learn about bodies of water, and have wacky fun with H₂O.

TREASURES OF UMATILLA COUNTY | JULY 5 - 7
This week is all about where you live and the surrounding areas! Discover what is -and has been- happening in Umatilla County. NO CAMP JULY 4TH

SPIRIT WEEK | JULY 11 - 14
Summer fun creates memories for a lifetime. Your child will celebrate the friends they made and the good times they shared as the summer wraps up.

FREE FOR CURRENT ATHENA-WESTON STUDENTS

FULL DAY 7:30AM - 4:00PM | \$25 per week



MONDAY - THURSDAY

- Located at the Athena Elementary School — 375 S 5th St.
- Meals provided by the Athena-Weston School District.
- Inquire about transportation!

◀ **SCAN HERE TO LEARN MORE** or visit our website: wwymca.org/camps

KIM HULING
khuling@wwymca.org

Questions about Day Camps in
Milton-Freewater and Athena?
Contact me for answers! 509.525.8863

Code Enforcement Corner:

May has arrived and summer will soon follow! The flowers and trees are blooming and lawns everywhere are growing wild. When you are outside mowing lawns, pulling weeds and raking everything up, please DO NOT forget the alley way behind your home. It is so important to NOT let grass and weeds grow tall and dry out in alley ways as they present a tremendous fire danger! Keep these areas trimmed and free of grass and weeds for everyone's safety.

Code Enforcement would like to remind everyone about the presence of inoperable and/or unlicensed vehicles on your property. According to the definition of solid waste in the city ordinances, vehicles that are inoperable and/or unlicensed constitute a code violation for your property. If you have such a vehicle and don't have the title in hand, please call Gina @ (541)278-6300 for assistance. If the inoperable and/or unlicensed vehicle is valued at \$500 or less and should be dismantled, we can provide you with a Junk Slip Form 272 that will help you get rid of it!

Don't forget our "COMMUNITY CARES" sign-up!

There are folks in our city that need help with cleaning up their yards and good communities take care of each other! If you have a few spare hours and some equipment, please sign up to help your neighbors! Call City Hall or Code Enforcement to sign up, there is need right now for your assistance.

HAPPY MAY TO YOU!!!

ATHENA PUBLIC LIBRARY:

This summer the Athena Library will be hiring a part time teen intern thanks to a grant from the State Library of Oregon. This is a great opportunity to build your resume, increase skills, and learn the scope of library work and be able to identify how their interests and skills match that work. The intern will complete 100 hours over the course of 8 weeks and will also complete a connected learning project that will benefit our library, in collaboration with the Library Director. Interested applicants must be at least 16 years of age.

Applications can be picked up at the Athena Library starting May 16, 2022. Applications close May 31, 2022.

Book club this month has been moved to Wednesday, May 25th at 6:00pm. Pick up a copy of our current read, *The Mountains Sing* by Nguyen Phan Que Mai.

Save the date for the Traveling Lantern theatre group! They will be helping us kick off Summer Reading with their "Camp Ocean" performance on June 8, 2022 at 6:00pm.

We have lots of fun events planned for Summer Reading this year so be sure to follow us on Facebook or stop in the library for updates on upcoming events. The library will be closed Thursday, May 5th and there will be no craft that day. We will also be closed Monday, May 30th in honor of Memorial Day.

Library Board will be held on Monday, May 23rd at 6:00pm

WE'RE BACK - HODAKA DAYS IS ON JUNE 23-26, 2022!

Celebrating "Fun in the Dirt Since 1964"

Four days packed with family fun returns to Athena and Weston. Join us to celebrate a unique piece of Oregon and motorcycling history.

Thursday, 6/23 – Umatilla County TT and Poker Run

A fifty-mile poker run over the winding back roads of Eastern Oregon for street legal, vintage bikes (twin shock, air cooled, drum brakes), 250cc and less (not restricted to Hodakas). We'll visit the historic towns of Adams, Helix and Holdman. Bring your camera.

Friday 6/24 – Bad Rock Reunion Trail Ride

A 50-mile course, starting in historic Weston, on some of the back country and the actual trails used during the famous Bad Rock ISDT qualifiers of the 1970's. This is where Hodaka motorcycles were designed, developed and put to the ultimate test. For any vintage bike (twin shock, air cooled, drum brakes).

Swap Meet Beginning Friday, and continuing through Saturday, in the Athena city park, the center of organization for the weekend events. Participants including commercial vendors are welcome – without fee – to display and market Hodaka and other motorcycle parts and accessories.

Saturday 6/25 – Community Breakfast, Parade, Observed Trials, Main Street Parade, Bike Show and more!

Saturday includes a full schedule of activities for participants or observers. Highlights include:

- **Community Pancake Breakfast** offered by the Athena American Legion. Pancakes, ham, scrambled eggs, coffee and orange juice
- **Observed Trials** - Novice, Intermediate, Expert and Trail Bike (stock) classes. "No stop" scoring. Hodakas only.
- **Swap Meet continues**
- **Bike Show** – People's choice. Sixteen classes for Hodaka or Yamaguchi powered motorcycles only. Special awards for the best original Hodaka, best technical engineering, and best restoration of a Hodaka powered bike. Come on by and vote for your favorites.
- **Silent Auction and Sale** - Includes Hodaka parts, sponsor services, tools, riding gear, as well as some unique historic and one-of-a-kind items.
- **Main Street Parade –12:30 PM** Approximately 100 Hodakas, of various models and modifications, parade through downtown Athena, led by a deputy sheriff riding a special Hodaka Police bike!
- **Celebration of Life for Chuck Swanson 1:30 PM.** Remembering the longtime Athena resident, former PABATCO (Hodaka) general manager, and Honorary Lifetime Hodaka Club member who passed away last December.
- **Banquet Dinner, Awards Presentation & Auction**
\$15 gets you dinner, drinks & desert, no alcohol please. Awards presentation club service awards followed by a short auction of a few selected items by our auctioneers.

Sunday 6/26 - MX Racing – Classic scrambles-style racing in downtown Athena on the world-famous Diamond Eye track designed by Harry Taylor. Hodakas only. Amateurs and experts welcome.

For the latest Hodaka Days updates, visit www.hodakaclub.org. A detailed program complete with locations and maps will be available the first week of June

A MESSAGE FROM OUR MAYOR:

First, the upsides... our town has been immensely blessed the last few years having Kristin Williams as our librarian. She has brought such great life and richness to Athena's library. We wish her well in her new paths of life, and we are so very excited that the legacy she leaves is going to be carried on in the more than capable hands of Stephanie Partida. Stephanie comes to us with such great energy, creativity, and a true passion and love for the library, as Kristin also had. I encourage you to check out what is going on at the library and stop by to meet Stephanie at the library if you have not done so yet. I'm sure you will leave with a smile! Our town has also been immensely blessed to have Kim King in our public works department. The range of skills, professionalism as a public servant, and dedication Kim has had have been great assets to Athena. Kim will be retiring at the end of this year, and we are very excited to welcome Brian Pickard on board to be learning the ropes with Kim and Kenneth until that time. Brian comes to us highly recommended and brings a wealth of skills and experience for this position. So - a thousand welcomes, Stephanie and Brian!

Sorry to say, but we also have a downside this month. In recent months there have been some characters passing through our town who have not had the best interests of Athena or its citizens at heart. We know we do not live in a perfect world and there is simply no way to prevent all of this. I heard a great training from a law-enforcement officer once who stated that police, fire, and ambulance workers are not technically the "first responders" to any situation. It is the actual people who are there when the thing happens... Those who dial 911... Those are the actual "first responders". This is why it is so important for all of us in our small community to keep our eyes and ears open. If you see something going on that does not seem right, say something! I think social media can be a good place to communicate and network in ways that can help keep our community safer, but it is only one tool. Please do report things to the sheriff's office so they can be even more informed and will have a record to use when they need it for documentation. Talk to your neighbors, but please make sure your conversations are not just hearsay or gossip as these can be more destructive than helpful. Also be aware that often times our law enforcement and code enforcement officers are doing much more behind the scenes than you are aware of to correct situations. You are always welcome to contact them and ask questions if you feel you need to.

THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ATHENA CITY COUNCIL

April 14, 2022

Attendance: Mayor Schroeder called the regular meeting of the Athena City Council to order at 6:00 pm. Roll was taken with Councilors Katie Zmuda, Sally Thompson, Wayne Kostur, Jesse Bonifer and Gene Wright present. City Recorder, Michelle Fox, and 3 guests were also present. Mayor Schroeder led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Business from the Public:

Athena Mainstreet Association (AMA): April Makenna reported for the Mainstreet Association. April reported the AMA had new board members and Katie Zmuda was elected as the new President. April reminded everyone the date for the Athena Clean Sweep which will be held April 30 from 9:00-12:00, which also coincides with Humbert's Free Dump Day. Volunteers are always welcome. April asked the Council if they would donate \$200.00 again this year for the clean sweep. A motion was made and seconded to donate \$200.00 to AMA for the Clean Sweep.

Brad Baird from Anderson Perry addressed the Council concerning a new Waste Water Facilities Plan. This was last done is 2006. Due to the age of our wastewater plant, it is necessary to begin looking at a new plan. Improvements are going to need to be done in the near future and the DEQ requires this study before proceeding on any improvements. The cost for this study is approximately \$50,000. Brad submitted a joint agreement between Anderson Perry and the City for the council's review.

Consent Agenda: A motion was made and seconded to approve the council meeting minutes of the 3/10/22 meeting, the financial statements, and bills. Motion carried 5-0.

Actionable Items: A motion was made and seconded to approve new visa cards from the Bank of Eastern Oregon for Stephanie Partida and Karrah King with a spending limit of \$3,000 each. Kristin Williams card will be cancelled. Motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the contract with the YMCA for swimming pool services for the 2022 season. Motion carried 5-0.

Committee Reports

Planning Commission: Mayor Schroeder appointed Ken Davenport and Eugene Ezell to the Planning Commission.

New Business: Cliff Taylor, teacher at Weston-McEwen High School, is looking for city volunteers to listen to student presentations. Gene Wright, Katie Vorhauer, and April McKenna volunteered. Michelle will contact Cliff Taylor and get date and time for volunteers.

Old Business: Humbert Property - Michelle updated the council on the Humbert Property. The abatement process will start as soon as legal counsel has reviewed all documents.

Michelle reminded council to make sure their SEI Reports were submitted by April 15.

The city received 10 applications for the Public Works position. The interview committee will review applications the week 18-22. Interviews will be held the week of April 25-29.

Business from the Departments & Councilors:

Library: Stephanie has hit the ground running. Library has been busy. Report was submitted.

Parks & Rec: Playground equipment has been installed. Mulch will be ordered for underneath.

Public Works: They are waiting for permits to continue work on the snack shed.

Fire: None

Sheriff: Report in packet. Council Kostur will ask about the transients who have been seen in town.

Administration: The reader board is functioning. Policy needs to be written on what content can and cannot be put on sign.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm. The next regular council meeting will be **May 12, 2022 @ 6:00 pm.**

HOLIDAY CLOSURE

City Hall, Public Works and the Library will all be closed Monday, May 30th in observance of Memorial Day.



Remember -
our fallen heros.
They are the reason
that we are free.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Editors: Michelle Fox: michelle@cityofathena.com and Karrah King: karrah@cityofathena.com reserve the right to edit for content and space.

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