

Town Newsline



Presidential Election Year!

Tuesday August 13th Is the Primary

Tuesday November 5th is the General Election

Polls are open from 7AM until 8PM

We are still looking for a few election judges. There must be election judges from both major parties.

Contact Diane Carpenter, Town Clerk

curtndi@msn.com or 763-444-5734

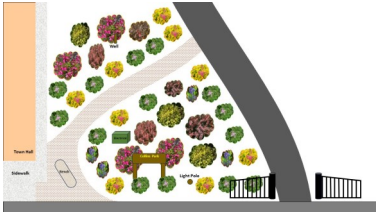
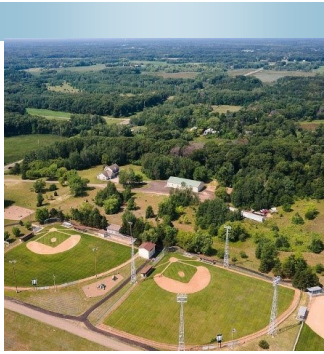
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Getting Involved!

- Be a volunteer helper
- Send us feedback:
zoning@athenstownship.com

Athens Park & Rec



Athens has 7 pieces of property designated as park land. Many of these properties were donated to Athens. The Park fund grows every year from cell tower lease payments with no cost to the residents of Athens. Collens Park is the most developed with Mann Field being the crown jewel. Mann Field was approved in 2007, was built using 100% donations, has grown to 3 fields and remains self-funded today. It has earned the reputation as one of the top Little League fields in the upper Midwest. Games are played almost every night, come check it out. www.mannfield.com

The Park & Rec committee is planning a beautification project for Collens Park to improve its appeal to visitors and local residents. The project will include new landscaping next to the townhall entrance, including a bench and walking path. A handicap swing and additional play ground equipment are included in the project. The project will begin early summer 2024.

Don't forget about the Annual Athens Township Picnic September 7, 12:00 – 3:00

Attend Meetings Online!

Are interested in attending a Town Board Meeting or want to listen in on a public hearing, but can't attend in person?

Athens Town allows for remote access via computer or phone!

Go to the Town website:
www.athenstownship.com

At the top of the page there is a link called Go-to-meeting. Click on the link and follow the instructions.

ATHENS TOWN CLEANUP PRICING

- appliances 10.00
- appliances W/ Freon 15.00
- Exercise Equipment 20.00
- Ammonia Appliance 150.00
- Mattress 25.00
- Box spring 20.00
- tires car/light truck no rim 7.00
- tires car/light truck rim 8.00
- tires semi 17.00
- tires Tractor \$45-\$60 depending on size
- monitors Flat 12.00
- monitors CRT 20.00
- Flat Screen up to 40" 20.00
- Flat Screen 41" and over 30.00
- CRT TV up to 29" 30.00
- CRT TV 30" and over 40.00
- XL TV 50.00
- electronics boom box, printer, vhs/dvd player, dish receiver, vacuum, scanner, small counter appliances/electronics, etc. 5.00
- electronics laptops, towers, cell phones, keyboard, mouse, small speakers, tablets FREE 0.00
- bulbs 4' 1.00
- bulbs 4' and over, u-shape, spiral 2.00

The Board of Appeal and Equalization

The board of what equals who?

The Board of Appeal and Equalization has statutory responsibility to review estimated market values and property classifications. Its function is to hear appeals of individual property owners and determine the correct value or classification. The Board consists of five members-at-large.

If you have questions about your property taxes, the tax value of your home, etc, this is the meeting you want to attend to address these concerns. There are different meetings set for the various entities that property taxes are put towards – county, school, township. Check your tax statement to find out where the various meetings are held and when.

The Board of Appeal and Equalization happens at the **Town level** in **April** of each year for the **next** tax year. The next meeting is coming up on April 15, 2024 at 7:00 PM.

For more information you can go to:

<https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/board-appeal-and-equalization>

Athens Town Clean up Day

Do you have things laying around that you've been wanting to get rid of? Maybe an old tire, a dead lawnmower battery, or some lumber left over from a home improvement project?

The **Athens Town Cleanup Day** is **Saturday, May 4th, 2024** at the **Athens Town Hall**. This is the perfect time for you to clean house and properly get rid of such items. Join us for cleanup day and enjoy a **free lunch**.



Proof of residency may be needed, such as a driver's license, tax statement, or a bill with your address.

Ditch Debris



Dumping trash or debris in the ditch is **against the law**.

Don't risk being caught.

Report suspicious activity to the authorities.





ANNUAL MEETING

March 11th, 2025 at 7:00 PM

The Town Board presented recommendations to the electors at the **annual meeting** to approve the levy. The Town Board may develop the recommendations from many different sources, including:

- History of expenditures
- Current year's financial report
- Anticipated increases
- Supervisor Reports

(e.g., police, fire, road, etc.)

- Clerk and treasurer advice
- Any special project costs (blacktopping, building improvements, park changes, etc.).

At this year's annual meeting the residents approved the proposed levy for 2025. There were **NO INCREASES IN THE LEVY.**

Athens has not raised taxes at the local level for 10 years.

Athens Town monthly board meetings start at 7:00 PM and are held at the Town Hall located at 883 261st Avenue NE [County Road 56] west of highway 65.

Board Meetings

January 8, 2024

February 5, 2024

March 4, 2024

April 1, 2024

May 6, 2024

June 3, 2024

July 1, 2024

August 5, 2024

September 9, 2024

October 7, 2024

November 4, 2024

December 9, 2024

Accessory Dwelling Units Now Allowed

Here is the definition of an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU):

"Accessory dwelling unit" (ADU) means a residential living unit on the same parcel as a single-family dwelling. The ADU provides complete independent living facilities for one or more persons. It may take various forms: a detached unit; a unit that is part of an accessory structure, such as a detached garage; or a unit that is part of an expanded or remodeled primary dwelling."

We passed an ordinance to allow for these units on a homesteaded property.

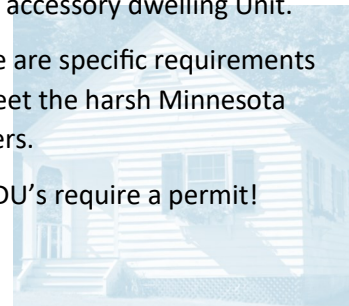
We have had many requests for people asking to take care of a loved one by having a secondary dwelling on their property.

Any ADU would need to meet all current building codes. We also adopted Tiny House codes which allow for more building options.

An RV does not meet the requirements of a Tiny House on Wheels or an accessory dwelling unit.

There are specific requirements to meet the harsh Minnesota winters.

All ADU's require a permit!



Comprehensive Plan Committee

Do you have a vision of what you would like to see in Athens? Do you have ideas on how Athens Township should expand?

Now that we are taking steps to move forward with the work of past committees, it is time to gather volunteers who want to further shape the future of Athens.

This is a volunteer opportunity that only requires one evening meeting per month.

Only by getting ahead of developmental pressures can we assure residents of the scope of future growth for Athens Town. We can actually put into ordinance the things we want in our area and the things we do not want.

If you have that vision please volunteer. For more information you can email:

zoning@athenstownship.com



Home Business Operations Need a Permit

Home occupations in an accessory building, subject to the following conditions:

1. The principal operator of the home occupation must reside on the parcel and have homestead status on the parcel.
2. Only persons who are members of the household residing on the premises may be employed in the home occupation.. There can be up to 3 employees
3. Only articles made or originating on the premises shall be sold on the premises unless the articles for sale are incidental to a permitted commercial service.
4. A separate accessory building may be devoted solely to the home occupation activities.
5. If the accessory structure contains more than one (1) home occupation, a separate interim use permit shall be required for each use.
6. All materials and vehicles, incidental to the use, shall be stored within the dwelling or the accessory building.
7. Adequate off-street parking shall be provided, but not more than three parked vehicles may be present at one time.
8. Additional accessory buildings associated with the extended home occupation may be allowed subject to Section 20-9 a.

Planning / Zoning

Planning and Zoning is where all ordinance and zoning changes start!

These meetings are all open to the public. There is an open forum time allocated at each meeting for anyone to bring up concerns or new ideas.

7PM third Thursdays
A wise person once said,
“The world is run by those who show up!”

P/Z Meetings:

January 18, 2024

February 15, 2024

March 21, 2024

April 18, 2024

May 16, 2024

June 20, 2024

July 18, 2024

August 15, 2024

September 19, 2024

October 17, 2024

November 21, 2024

December 19, 2024

Most people are not aware of the State laws and rules regarding septic systems, when they need to be pumped and when a compliance inspection is required

Onsite Septic System Pumping and Maintenance

Minnesota Rules 7080 through 7083

7080.2450 MAINTENANCE

Subpart 1. General. All ISTS must be operated under the regulatory requirements of part [7082.0600](#). ISTS and all components must be maintained in compliance with this chapter and manufacturer requirements. Subpart 2, items A and B, are intended to apply to ISTS and systems that do not qualify as an ISTS, but receives sewage such as cesspools, drywells, leaching pits, or other pits.

Subp. 2. Frequency of assessment. The owner of an ISTS or the owner's agent shall regularly, **but in no case less frequently than every three years:**

A. assess whether sewage tanks leak below the designed operating depth and whether sewage tank tops, riser joints, and riser connections leak through visual evidence of major defects; and

B. measure or remove the accumulations of scum, grease, and other floating materials at the top of each septic tank and com-

New Business Coming

There is a new commercial business set to start building at 1539 253rd Ave NE. It is called Welded Metals and does custom metal fabrication.

We are working with Bill Bune Enterprises in Anoka as they hope to relocate to Athens on the old farm site at 26355 Highway 65.

We have also been working with Sharp and associates on an RV and boat storage facility on the east side of highway 65 on 249th Ave NE.



NEWLY CREATED RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT ZONING CHANGE

NEW ORDINANCE

Article IV A : Residential District (R).

(Lot densities of more than 4 in 40. Typically, less than five acres.) And platted subdivisions.

Section 20-31. Purpose.

The Residential District (R) is intended to provide a district that will:

- (a) Allow suitable areas of the Township to be utilized for Residential use
- (b) Locate new residential areas close to major infrastructure.
- (c) Offer affordable options to large acreage parcels.
- (d) Prevent scattered, Residential development.
- (e) Protect and preserve open space; and
- (f) Enhance, encourage and protect agricultural uses in the Town.

Anyone building in the residential district must accept the rural environment as it is found, including generally accepted farming practices.

Section 20-32. Non-Permitted Uses.

The following uses shall not be permitted in the Residential (R) District:

- Conditional use permits
- Noise producing in home businesses
- Repair shops
- Retail in home businesses
- Large outdoor storage
- No shipping containers or semi-trailers used for storage.
- Outdoor lighting that shines on or affects neighboring properties.

Maximum allowed outside parking.

- 1—RV, motorhome, trailer or other style.
- 1—Enclosed trailer
- 1—Large open trailer

- 1—Small open trailer
- 1—Boat motor trailer combo
- 2—Vehicles per licensed driver in the home (All above units must be licensed and registered)

Non-licensed vehicles, parts, equipment, must be in a storage building or located behind a privacy fence, berm, trees, or sheltered from neighbor's view.

10' property line setbacks for rear and side yards on accessory buildings.

5-year moratorium on changes to a plat unless P&Z and Town Board agree on a specific replatting plan. This includes no combining of parcels unless required by ordinance.



Building Permits and Sheds/Storage

We have seen an increase in illegal storage containers. Yes, we understand they are cheap and everyone is looking for cheap storage however you still must follow the ordinances.

By ordinance and Minnesota building code, **anything over 200 Sq. ft. IS NOT A SHED. Anything over 200 Sq. ft. is an Accessory Building.** The building must be permitted and meet the building code.

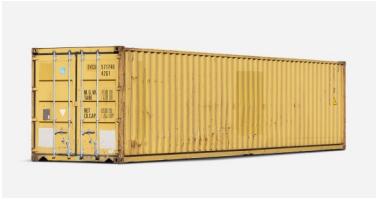
CHAPTER 20

Article IV: Rural/Residential District (R/R).

Section 20-36. **Prohibited Uses.** The following uses are prohibited in the Agricultural (A) District:

The use of semi-trailers and manufactured homes for storage purpose, This also includes not using shipping containers for storage purposes. All storage buildings over 200 square feet must meet the building code.

Recent updates have changed the zoning district names.



Town of Athens

883 261st Ave NE
Isanti, MN 55040

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Website : athenstownship.com

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

To All Residents of Athens Town