

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Athena Thanks Community for Strong Support of the 2026 Swimming Pool Renovation Project

Athena, OR— June 1, 2026 — The City of Athena is proud to announce the successful completion of its swimming pool renovation fundraising campaign, thanks to the overwhelming generosity and support of community donors.

"We are deeply grateful for the incredible generosity shown by our donors," said Mayor Becky Schroder. "This outpouring of support, particularly from Bob Johns who spearheaded the fundraising campaign, demonstrates our community's strong commitment to our nearly 100-year-old pool. Our donors all share a connection to Athena, and the value of providing a swimming pool for our younger generation cannot be overstated."

The City would also like to recognize and thank the many individuals, businesses, and organizations who contributed to this effort, including: Jim & Penny Whitney, Johns Ranch, Bob & Deborah Johns, AWERE Grant Program, Sam & Sara Tucker, Umatilla County Community & Economic Development Grant Program, Bank of Eastern Oregon, Nutrien Ag Solutions, The McGregor Company, Allen & Sally Thompson, Lakeside Foods, Joe & Cindy Shurtz, Anthony & Tracy Martinez, NextEra Energy Resources and Ken & Dorothy Bjorklund. The pool would not be open for the 2026 summer without these donors!

As a result of this successful effort, the City is excited to reopen the pool for the 2026 season with expanded options. The schedule will include daily open swim, family swim on Tuesday and Thursdays, and Wednesday night swim. Swim lessons will also return this summer for the first time since 2023. The tentative open date is set for June 22nd.

For more information about the City of Athena or the pool hours and swim lesson sign ups, please visit www.cityofathena.com.

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