



Re: Online Form Submission #2125 for Request a Proclamation Form

From John Weidl <jweidl@whitewater-wi.gov>
Date Wed 1/7/2026 5:46 AM
To Becky Magestro <bmagestro@whitewater-wi.gov>

Becky,

Going forward, I expect proclamation requests to be handled within your office from start to finish. That includes evaluating whether a request meets our standards, coordinating any necessary follow-up, and preparing a draft for my review and signature as appropriate.

Deciding whether a proclamation should be issued and drafting the initial language should not be coming to my desk. My role should be limited to final review, edits if necessary, and execution.

For this instance, I prepared a draft to keep things moving and display the level of diligence I expect going forward, but this is not how I expect these requests to be handled in the future.

Please adjust accordingly. I also expect you will read this draft thoroughly and make any micro language adjustments that may be necessary to fit our existing proclamation format.

**CITY OF WHITEWATER PROCLAMATION
HONORING JAMES R. ATHAS**

WHEREAS, James R. Athas has served as Organist and Director of Music at the Whitewater First United Methodist Church for fifty (50) years, beginning during his college years at the University of Wisconsin–Whitewater, and during that time has provided musical leadership for thousands of worship services, weddings, memorials, and community gatherings; and

WHEREAS, throughout his tenure, Mr. Athas has demonstrated exceptional musical range and technical skill, including composing and arranging original works, performing traditional sacred and organ music, leading choirs and cantatas, and supporting larger musical productions and performances hosted in Whitewater that have drawn broad community participation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Athas has consistently shared his talents beyond his home congregation, supporting other churches when needed, providing music for senior living facilities, outdoor and seasonal services, ecumenical celebrations, and longstanding civic traditions such as the annual July 4th services at Cravath Lake, as well as participating in charitable and community fundraising efforts; and

WHEREAS, through his steady presence and quiet professionalism, Mr. Athas has contributed to the cultural life of Whitewater in ways that extend well beyond any single institution, with his

professional and personal life closely connected to the City across multiple generations of residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the City Manager of the City of Whitewater does hereby recognize and commend James R. Athas for his fifty years of dedicated service and meaningful contributions to the cultural and civic life of the community, and do hereby designate February 15, 2026, as "James R. Athas Day" in the City of Whitewater.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2026.

Best, - JSW

John S. Weidl, DBA (2027), CEcD, CPM

[City Manager, City of Whitewater](#)

312 W. Whitewater St., Whitewater, WI 53190

[262-473-0104](#) | jweidl@whitewater-wi.gov

www.whitewater-wi.gov

From: Becky Magestro <bmagestro@whitewater-wi.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 1:08:13 PM
To: John Weidl <jweidl@whitewater-wi.gov>
Subject: Fw: Online Form Submission #2125 for Request a Proclamation Form

This is an update from her previous request.

Yes or no?

Becky Magestro
Chief of Staff
City Manager's Office



312 W. Whitewater St.
Whitewater, WI 53190
Direct line- 262-473-0101
bmagestro@whitewater-wi.gov
www.whitewater-wi.gov

From: noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 11:14 AM
To: City Manager <citymanager@whitewater-wi.gov>
Subject: Online Form Submission #2125 for Request a Proclamation Form

Request a Proclamation Form

Proclamation Request

All requests for proclamations should be submitted to this office at least three weeks in advance for consideration. If you have any questions or need assistance please contact the City Manager's Office at 262.473.0104.

Name (Contact Person)	Christine Hayes
Email Address	christinecozzenshayes@gmail.com
Phone Number	262-391-0927
Date Proclamation is Needed	2/13/2026
Date to be Proclaimed	2/15/2026
Name	James R. Athas
Organization	Whitewater First United Methodist Church
Background Information on the person or organization and supporting materials, such as event details. Please be as specific as possible.	<p>The Whitewater First United Methodist Church is thrilled to be recognizing our Organist and Director of Music, James R. Athas, for 50 years of excellence in dedicated service as Organist at Whitewater FUMC. During that time, Jim has played thousands of services and celebrations at FUMC, lifting the spiritual hearts of all, in celebrations of births, weddings and lives well lived. He has written and arranged numerous musical works to be performed with other instrumentalists, vocalists and choirs. His musical gamut ranges from tradition sacred music with a mean rendition of J.S. Bach on organ, chamber music, praise music, musicals (including a 3 night sell out of Jesus Christ Super Star in our sanctuary) and Manheim Steamroller. His keyboard skills can make an organ sound like a full orchestra when accompanying a choir cantata! With hands and feet flying, he is a human octopus!</p> <p>Jim generously shares his talents throughout the community at other churches when needed, for programs at Fairhaven, and even outdoor manger scenes in the snow and sunrise services at the cemetery. He has led July 4th Ecumenical services for many years at Cravath Lake, hauling out keyboard, microphones and amps. He played for 3 choirs as part of a city/school district/ecumenical fundraiser, "Sing a Song for Haiti" to raise money for hurricane victims.</p> <p>During the dark ages of Covid, Jim recorded music weekly, sharing it on the internet and the FUMC site, to inspire all in the Whitewater community - playing organ, piano, keyboard,</p>

hammer dulcimer and pulling together family members to add a voice. He buoyed the spirits of all. Jim's talents are boundless and he shares them generously in his quiet manner.

Starting his FUMC organist career in his college years at UW-Whitewater, his life has been well documented through his musical and personal growth in the church these past 50 years. Falling in love, graduating, first job, marriage, birth of 4 children, their marriages, grandchildren, were all part of this spectacular career spanning 50 years right here in Whitewater. Jim's music and life are an inspiration to all who have experienced his music in the community. This is a most deserving celebration of an extraordinary person.

Feb. 15, 2026, the Whitewater First United Methodist Church will be celebrating Jim Athas Day at the 10 A.M. service followed by a potluck. These events are, as always, open to the community since that is how Jim has always shared his music!

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