



City of Ketchum

For Immediate Release
September 26, 2017

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Take Me Out to the New Ball Field: City Hosts Event Celebrating Improvements, Scoreboard at Little League Field

KETCHUM, IDAHO – More than four decades ago, a group of Ketchum leaders got together to raise money and support to turn a dusty tract near the Ernest Hemingway School into a new baseball field for the city's young little leaguers.

The project, spearheaded by entrepreneur Chuck Atkinson, for the first time provided the city's young baseball players and teams with a state-of-the art ball diamond and facility.

On Saturday Sept. 30, the City of Ketchum will celebrate the next phase of development at the Little League Field at Atkinson Park. The opening ceremony, getting underway at 11 a.m., will highlight the new field and unveiling of a new electronic scoreboard. Hot dogs, ice cream and other prizes will be provided, courtesy of the city.

"This is an exciting new chapter in the rich history of the Little League Field," said Mayor Nina Jonas, who is scheduled to throw out the ceremonial first pitch. "I am very happy to be able to support the parents, kids, the Atkinson family and all the users of the park in the community tradition of coming together to support ways to enhance and improve our city's recreational resources."

The makeover included a complete reconstruction of the field to meet current little league ballfield standards. The Atkinson family made a generous donation to cover the costs of a new electronic scoreboard.

Don Atkinson, the son of Chuck Atkinson, said his father would be thrilled to see the evolution and improvements at the field he helped create from scratch.

"I know he'd be proud to see that the scoreboard is one of the finishing touches on this great resource," Don said. "Our family is proud of it, happy to do this, and proud of Ketchum and all the good things that are happening here."

Mayor Jonas is also encouraging attendees to take part in the inaugural game on the new field. Interested players should come dressed to play, with helmet, gloves and bats. The city will also provide equipment to those without.

For more information, visit: ketchumidaho.org.

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About the City of Ketchum

The City of Ketchum is located in the Wood River Valley in south central Idaho. Founded in 1880 during the mining boom, Ketchum is now regarded as one of the most popular destinations for winter and summer visitors due to its world-class skiing, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, restaurants, art galleries, and shopping. The city of Ketchum hosts the famous annual Wagon Days Parade, held on Labor Day weekend, and numerous other year-round attractions. Ketchum is home to more than 10,000 full- and part-time residents. For more information about the city of Ketchum, visit www.ketchumidaho.org.