

~ **ATHOL CITY NEWSLETTER** ~  
**& WATER UTILITY BILL**  
**October 1, 2016**



Athol, A New Direction

### **Athol Community Review**

All the preliminary elements of the Athol Community Review are underway. Over 800 surveys have been mailed out, the Home Team Training is complete, and the 3 focus areas and teams have been established. There is a visiting team made up of 12-15 professionals in a number of areas, and the home team has 9-12 people with focus areas in Economic Development, Land Use Planning, and Infrastructure/Transportation. Most of the Listening Sessions have been conducted, with Social Services and First Responder's session happening in October. The official Community Review begins **Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.** **It will be the first Town Hall Meeting held at the Community Center and is an additional opportunity for residents to offer input.** All day Wednesday, the home team and the visiting team will break off into their respective groups, then the final day of the review, **Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm,** the visiting team will make their presentations to the community. Later, a written report will be completed and made available.

### **From the Athol Water Department-**

The City is seeking volunteers to try out some new water meters, these new meters will allow customers to access their meter information electronically. You must have internet and be willing to give feedback to the city. If you are interested, contact City Hall at 208-683-2101 by October 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm.



#### **CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS**

**@ 7:00 PM**

**CITY HALL - 30355 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**208-683-2101**

**(New/Temporary Hours are)**  
**Clerk/Treasurer Office Hours:**  
**Monday - Thursday 9:30-4:30pm**  
**Fridays 8:30am- 12:30 pm**

#### **Future Council Meeting Dates:**

*(New Fiscal Year)*

**October 18, 2016**

**November 15, 2016**

**December 20, 2016**

**January 17, 2017**

**February 21, 2017**

**March 21, 2017**

City website:

**[www.cityofathol.us](http://www.cityofathol.us)**

Mayor:

**Bob Wachter**

City Council:

**Mary Zichko**

**Bill Hill**

**Shane McDaniel**

**Josh Spencer**

City Attorney:

**John Cafferty**

City Clerk/Treasurer:

**Lori Yarbrough**

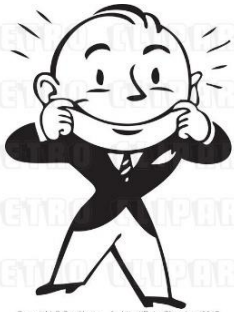
Public Works/Water Operator:

**Stephen Williams**

**Did you know . . . . .** that the City is under agreement with Panhandle Health District to require proof of your septic tanks being pumped at least once every 5 years? While this is not new, the city is now actively taking steps to track this and ensure this requirement is being followed.



**Update from Mayor Wachter:**



- **Protecting against water leaks** - In order to avoid a high water bill in the Spring here are a few preventive steps you can take. First, cover and insulate your outside fixtures on your house and in the yard. If you have an isolation valve for your fixtures in the yard, you can shut off and blow out the line with an air hose. Second, if you have a below-ground sprinkler system, make sure you schedule a blow out or blow it out yourself. And lastly, insulate the lines under your house with either foam insulation or heat tape. It should only take you a few hours and costs pennies compared to a high water bill.

- **An update on the Athol Community Review** - Listening Sessions went well, we have had over a 30% return rate on the survey, and your final opportunity to **give your input and participate will begin with the Town Hall Meeting on Tuesday Oct 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the community center. Then join us again on Thursday Oct 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm where observations, recommendations, survey results, and next steps will be presented.** Ideally, this Review will help our city to be better prepared, to build on shared strengths and work together to achieve common goals. Please try to be a part in these opportunities, receiving input from as many of you as possible will help ensure the most success for the future planning of Athol.

- **Review of fee schedules** - The City Council will be doing its annual review of the city fees in November. If there are changes to that amount to more than a 5% increase, there will be a public hearing. This notice will be posted on the city's website and posted in the glass case in the front of the community center building doors, as well as the city post office.

- **Septic Pumping** - Later this month or early next month, you will be receiving a letter from the city requesting your submission of when you last had your septic tank pumped. This is a requirement from the Sewage Management Plan the city has with Panhandle Health District. Every septic tank is required to be pumped once every 5 years. It is possible that if the tank is not full enough, it might not need to be pumped. Any certified company can provide you with proof that can be submitted to the city. This requirement is for aquifer protection, as well as saving you the expense of replacing a plugged drain field.



## ON THE CALENDAR THIS MONTH:

<p><b>Sunday -</b></p> <p><b>Monday -</b> Fit n Fall Class (Mon, Wed, Fri) 10am-11am, Gym Grandmothers Club (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday each month) 10am-1pm Real Life Ministries Youth Group (every Mon) 6-8pm</p> <p><b>Tuesday -</b> Food Bank (every Tues) 9am-12 noon &amp; 1pm-3pm, Contact Charlotte Hooper at 683-3244 City Council Meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> Tues each month) 7pm Eager Beavers 4-H (2<sup>nd</sup> Tues each month) 6:30pm-7:30pm</p>	<p><b>Wednesday -</b> Fit n Fall Class (Mon, Wed, Fri) 10am-11am, Gym Remington Water District (every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed) 6:30pm</p> <p><b>Thursday -</b> Lady A's (every Thurs) 9am-10am D. Dryer Dance &amp; Drama (every Thurs) 2:30pm-6:30pm</p> <p><b>Friday -</b> Fit n Fall Class (Mon, Wed, Fri) 10am-11am, Gym Heritage Health Mobile Clinic (every other 8am-1:30pm)</p> <p><b>Saturday -</b> Big Book Recovery AA's (every Thurs) 5pm-6pm</p>
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**Upcoming:** Athol Community Review's "Town Hall Meeting," October 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm

### Athol Library Activities: ...

**Teen "Open-Space" every Monday at 3-5pm at the Library for 7-12 grades**

**Real Life Ministries Youth Group** has started again, every **Monday night from 6:00-8:00pm**. It's free and offered at the Athol Community Center for Middle School teens in 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades.

**PLEASE NOTE:** In order to accommodate staffing needs, Athol City Hall hours have temporarily changed. Hours will be as follows: **Monday-Thursday 9:30am-4:30pm and Fridays 8:30-12:30.**

## ↓ WATER BILL ↓

From the Athol City Hall - October 1, 2016

