



~ ATHOL CITY NEWSLETTER ~
& WATER UTILITY BILL
March 1, 2017



Athol, A New Direction

**Athol Elementary
Spring Break begins March 27th!**



FREE TAX HELP

Will be available again this year every Monday beginning Feb 6, 2017 through April 10, 2017 at the Athol Community Center. **You must call first and schedule an appointment. NO WALKS-IN's.** Tax-Aide services low to moderate income taxpayers of any age. You don't have to be a member of AARP to use this service.

Please contact Janet at 208-683-2407.

What to bring: your Social Security Card (and those of children), your picture ID, your last year's (2015) income tax return, and all your 2016 income documents (W2's, 1099s, etc.)



Did you know . . . that the city's cemetery water tanks are 50 plus years old. Which means they are at the end



of their useful and productive life; they need major repairs or replacement. Also, our water rates are one of the lowest in the state.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

@ 7:00 PM

CITY HALL - 30355 3rd

208-683-2101

WINTER Hours

Clerk/Treasurer Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday 9:00-4:30pm

Fridays 8:30am- 12:30 pm

Future Council Meeting Dates:

March 21, 2017

April 18, 2017

May 16, 2017

June 20, 2017

July 18, 2017

August 15, 2017

September 19, 2017

City website:

www.cityofathol.us

Mayor:

Bob Wachter

City Council:

Mary Zichko

Bill Hill

Shane McDaniel

Josh Spencer

City Attorney:

John Cafferty

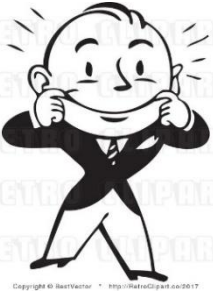
City Clerk/Treasurer:

Lori Yarbrough

Public Works/Water Operator:

Stephen Williams

Update from Mayor Wachter:



- **Community Review** – A big thanks to the great turnout at last month’s potluck. **Please join us for the next Community Minded Potluck- Tuesday March 21st at 5:00pm** for Pulled Pork Sandwiches (provided), please bring a fixin for the side!
- **Late Fee for Water Payments** – **Effective the March billing (due by April 15th) Payments received late will now be assessed a \$10.00 fee.** While many of you pay your accounts in a timely manner, too much administrative time is being spent on those who don’t. Advance payments are allowed & your bill will reflex your balance.
- **Which Application Do I Need?** – With the recent overhaul of the City Planning and Zoning Ordinance #410- we tried to make it simpler to identify when and what application form is needed for an approval to get your home or location of buildings approved by the city.

Building Location/Land Use Permit Application
Site Disturbance Permit Application
Right of Way Encroachment Permit Application

Building Location/Land Use Permit: Any land use that a structure is desired to be erected, constructed, reconstructed, set, placed, installed, enlarged, extended, moved or converted. (Exceptions: Fences under 6 feet in height; a storage shed or non-habitable structure that is less than 120 square feet area.) Refer to Athol City Code Section 7-1-2.

----- **Application and Plot Plan is required prior to the start of construction.**

Site Disturbance Permit: Construction of new driveways, parking lots, private or public roads, or infrastructure authorized through the subdivision or special use permit process; Excavation for the construction of structures, where such structure has not been issued a building location permit, if one is required for such structure; all other excavation and grading activity. (Exceptions: Cemetery graves; Installation or repair of utility lines including, but not limited to water and sanitary sewer lines, electrical lines and natural gas lines; Installation or repair of septic tanks and drain fields when properly permitted by Panhandle Health District; Road, driveway or parking lot maintenance where work is limited to the existing road surface; In any 12-month period, excavation or placement of fill less than 50 cubic yards in volume; Excavation for the construction of a structure for which a valid building location permit has been issued; Any activities undertaken or performed by a governmental entity.) Refer to Athol City Code Section 7-1-3.----- **Application and Plot Plan is required prior to the start of construction.**

Right of Way Encroachment Permit: Construction or excavation within a public right-of-way. Encroachments that are expressly permitted in conjunction with a site disturbance or building location permit and clearly delineated on the site plan as work within the public right of way are not required to obtain a permit. Refer to Athol City Code Section 6-5-1.

----- **Application and Plot Plan is required prior to the start of construction.**

Per Resolution 2017-01, the fee for all such permits is \$50.



“Athol Chamber of Commerce” accepting members now!!

Next Meeting....

Thursday, March 16th at 7:00pm @ the Athol Community Center



The benefit of having a local Chamber of Commerce is that it becomes the collective voice of local business men and women in community growth and activities. It serves as the public directory of services available in Athol.

Contact John or Janet Ellis at 208-660-2714.

It's that time to begin thinking about Athol Daze 2017!

Next Athol Daze planning meeting Tuesday, March 7th at 3:00pm. Please join us in the many preparations for this year's annual city event. Athol Daze will be Saturday, August 12th, 2017.



Hello Athol citizens, hopefully by this newsletter we will all have endured a record breaking winter. For your Fire District a change in seasons means we start looking at significant wildland fire season challenges. Please feel free to stop by your fire station and have a visit about fire prevention, house numbering and safety.

Remember the old Boy Scout code “be prepared” Thank you and have a fire safe day. Bill Steele- Fire Chief

A few notes where you can help yourself and neighbors are:

In and around your home:

- Clear leaves and other debris from gutters, eaves, porches and decks. This prevents embers from igniting your home.
- Remove dead vegetation and other items from under your deck or porch, and within 10 feet of the house. Learn more about the basics of defensible space on the Firewise.org website.
- Screen or box-in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating.
- Remove flammable materials (firewood stacks, propane tanks) within 30 feet of your home's foundation and outbuildings, including garages and sheds. Wildfire can spread to tree tops. Prune trees so the lowest branches are 6 to 10 feet from the ground.
- Keep your lawn hydrated and maintained. If it is brown, cut it down to reduce fire intensity. Dry grass and shrubs are fuel for wildfire.
- Don't let debris and lawn cuttings linger. Dispose of these items quickly to reduce fuel for fire.
- Inspect shingles or roof tiles. Replace or repair those that are loose or missing to prevent ember penetration.
- Cover exterior attic vents with metal wire mesh no larger than 1/8 inch to prevent sparks from entering the home.

In your community:

- Contact your Fire District to find out if your home is in a high wildfire risk area, and if there are specific local or county ordinances you should be following.
- Talk to your local fire department about how to prepare, when to evacuate, and the response you and your neighbors can expect in the event of a wildfire.
- Learn about wildfire risk reduction efforts, including how land management agencies use prescribed fire to manage local landscapes.
- Learn how you can make a positive difference in your community.

ON THE CALENDAR THIS MONTH:

Sunday -

Monday –

Fit n Fall Class (Mon, Wed, Fri) 10am-11am, Gym
Grandmothers Club (3rd Monday each month) 10am-1pm
Real Life Ministries Youth Group (every Mon) 6-8pm
AARP Tax help 9am- 3pm Contact Janet at 683-2407.

Tuesday –

Food Bank (every Tues) 9am-12 noon & 1pm-3pm,
Contact Charlotte Hooper at 683-3244
City Council Meeting (3rd Tues each month) 7pm
Eager Beavers 4-H (2nd Tues each month) 6:30pm-7:30pm
ABC Farmers Market Meeting 7th 7pm
Elections the 14th from 8am-8pm



Wednesday –

Fit n Fall Class (Mon, Wed, Fri) 10am-11am, Gym
Remington Water District (every 3rd Wed) 6:30pm
DoTerra Essential Oils Class (1st & 3rd Wed) 6pm
Preparedness Meeting – 1st at 7pm

Thursday –

Lady A's (every Thurs) 9am-10am
D. Dryer Dance & Drama (each Thurs) 2:30pm-6:30pm
Athol Chamber of Commerce (3rd Thurs) 7pm

Friday –

Fit n Fall Class (Mon, Wed, Fri) 10am-11am, Gym
Heritage Health Mobile Clinic (every other) 8am-1:30pm
Saddle Club PDIA Royalty Crowning Evening of the 10th

Saturday –

Big Book Recovery AA's (every Thurs) 5pm-6pm

Upcoming: The next City Council Meeting Tuesday, March 21st at 7:00pm

WATER BILL ↓

From the Athol City Hall - March 1, 2017

