



# CITY OF ATKINS NEWS

[www.cityofatkins.org](http://www.cityofatkins.org)

319.446.7870

480 3RD AVENUE, ATKINS, IA 52206



FALL, OCTOBER 2022

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**October 31, HALLOWEEN, Trick-or-Treating in Atkins**



**November 24-25, Thanksgiving Holiday (City Hall & Library closed)**

**December 11, ACC, Light the Night Parade & Fireworks**

**December 23-26, Christmas Holiday (City Hall & Library closed)**

**January 1-2, New Year's Holiday (City Hall & Library closed)**



*We are very excited to announce that our new city truck is here, labeled with "City of Atkins Public Works" and in use! If you see the guys out there working, give them a wave!!*



*Atkins Historical Photo: This undated photo is the very first Atkins Public School (located in the town of Atkins). It was located in the southwest corner of the present city park and the front entrance faced south onto what is now Parkridge Road from 1904-1936.*

## BEGGARS' NIGHT

**BY RESOLUTION, TRICK-OR-TREATING IS ON OCTOBER 31 IN ATKINS**

SOME HELPFUL SAFETY IDEAS:

- Residents may choose to participate by turning their front door light on.
- Share pictures of your kids in costume on the [Atkins Community Club](#) Facebook page!
- Adults, please accompany your children.
- Carry glow sticks or flashlights, use reflective tape on costumes & bags if you are out after dark.
- Watch for cars
- Put electronic devices down, keep heads up & walk.



## TRASH PICKUP REMINDERS

- General trash produced in households is acceptable – not commercial waste, demolition waste, hazardous waste, etc.
- Glass is considered regular trash and cannot be recycled.
- **NO PAINT OR OIL.**
- All items must be within the provided cart.
- All items must be set out by **5AM** on pick up day.
- Items must be broken down in a manner that allows the lid to shut.
- Items outside cart will not be picked up without a tag.
- Additional garbage tags can be purchased at City Hall for \$1.50 each.
- You can expect a delay in pickup on holiday weeks, stay tuned for more information as the holiday approaches.



## SIGN UP TO RECEIVE CITY NOTIFICATIONS & TO VIEW YOUR WATER BILL ONLINE

*You can sign up on your computer or your phone!*

1. Go to: [pay.waterbill.com](http://pay.waterbill.com)
2. Click REGISTER NOW
3. The system will walk you through setting up your account

### HELPFUL HINTS:

- It is helpful to have your water bill in front of you.
- You will need your account number.
- If you want to sign up for AutoPay, you will need your bank/credit card number.
- Call City Hall for help! 319-446-7870.



## GREEN/YARD WASTE PICKUP

**RUNS THROUGH NOVEMBER 25**

### YARD WASTE ACCEPTED:

- Tree trimmings/branches (must be no more than 1" in diameter and 2' in length).
- Leaves, house/garden plants.
- Brush, grass clippings, lawn edging.



### PICK-UP GUIDELINES:

- Set your yard waste out by 6:00am every Wednesday.
- Must be placed in a biodegradable PAPER yard waste bag or in a CLEARLY identified container that is no greater than 35 gallons and weighs no more than 40 pounds.
- ALL reusable containers for green waste must be labeled "Yard Waste Only."

## FROM THE ATKINS FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Atkins Fire Department has responded to 110 calls for service so far in 2022. Members recently completed Hazardous Materials training, city and rural pump operations, and vertical ventilation using our roof simulator. We recently added two new members and have two additional candidates that are interested. If you would like to consider volunteering please give us a call at 319-446-7400 and we would be happy to talk with you!

Fire Prevention week is October 9-15. The National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) has designated the theme this year as "Fire Won't Wait. Plan Your Escape". Remember to develop a home escape plan with all members of your household, and practice your plan regularly!

### FIRE SAFETY TIPS:

- Install smoke detectors in every bedroom
- Test your smoke detectors monthly
- Don't forget your fire extinguisher
- Have a fire evacuation plan & practice with your children
- When the smoke alarm sounds get out, & stay out
- Make sure that your house numbers are 4" tall and visible for emergency crews to see them in case of an emergency
- Be sure to clear the snow/ice build up from your furnace exhaust pipe this winter



## FROM THE ATKINS PUBLIC WORKS TEAM

In collaboration with the **ATKINS COMMUNITY CLUB**, the City of Atkins Public Works crew has been adding more benches and permanent trash cans around the parks! Please get out there and enjoy them while the weather is still warm!



## FROM THE ATKINS PUBLIC WATER DEPARTMENT

As part of our commitment to providing Atkins with high-quality water, our Water Department is flushing hydrants through October, to remove built-up sediment in water mains. When a nearby hydrant is being flushed, water to area homes may be temporarily discolored. This water is safe to use. We suggest that customers avoid doing laundry on days when nearby hydrants are being flushed.

Please keep a safe distance from city crews when they are working. For more information, please visit our website:

<http://www.cityofatkins.org/water-system-flushing-begins.../>

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

### DO YOU STILL RUN A WATER SOFTNER?

Water hardness is measured in two ways, "Grains of Hardness" and in Milligrams per Liter (mg/l). Atkins water (after treatment) is 4.6 grains or 80mg/l. The water industry considers 3.5 grains or 60mg/l as soft water. If you use a water softener, have it at the proper settings to make sure you aren't over softening your water. Over softening water can cause problems with the taste of the water, odor, and corrosion in your home. It is recommended that you bypass the water softener for a few weeks and see if you notice a difference in your water. You can also contact your water softener provider for settings, adjustments, or to have your water hardness tested. Feel free to contact the city water department with any questions regarding Atkins water supply at 319-446-7870.



### CITY PARK REMINDERS:

- Help to keep our parks clean by using the new trash cans at the City Parks.
- Please clean up after your pets and keep pets on a leash.
- Call the Atkins Library for pavilion reservations at 319-446-7676.

### OTHER REMINDERS:

- Please refrain from blowing grass into the streets while mowing. We don't want to clog any storm drains.
- We ask that you do not burn leaves on city streets (concrete or sealcoat), burning must be done in your yard per ordinance 105.05
- If you are planning to dig in your yard, you need a building permit.
- Please mow the ditch around your property if you have one.
- SNOW is around the corner! Please do not blow, push or dump SNOW into city streets or alleys. We need to be able to plow the streets as wide as possible so that cars can get through.
- Remember to keep your vehicles off city streets during a SNOW/ICE events until the street is fully plowed and open for use.
- When SNOW comes, please be sure to shovel a 3' path around fire hydrants if you have one in your yard.
- Removal of SNOW and ice from sidewalks is the responsibility of the abutting property owners. Should the city be required to remove the ice/SNOW, city will bill property owners for the service at a rate of \$25 per man hour and \$30 per equipment hour. Minimum of one hour will be charged.



FROM THE ATKINS PUBLIC LIBRARY

October 5  
Wee Ones Story Time (Ages 0-4) 10:30am

October 9  
TAB (Teen Advisory Board) Mtg 5pm  
October 10  
Make and Take Halloween Craft 2-4pm

October 10  
Adult Pumpkin Craft 6pm  
(bring scissors and/or x-acto knife)

October 11  
Friends of the Library Meeting 6pm  
(Everyone Welcome!)

October 13  
Friends With Books Adult Book Club  
2pm  
(Everyone Welcome!)

October 19  
Wee Ones Story Time (Ages 0-4)  
10:30am

October 20  
Bring in your craft project to work on while enjoying  
friendship together 6-8pm

October 26  
Coffee Talk- Guest Speaker Sherita Jenkins 10:30am  
(Topic-Healthy Living for Your Brain & Body)

October 26  
Halloween Movie (TBD) 1:30pm  
(Early out)

October 31  
Adult Coloring and Conversations 1:30-  
2:30 pm

COME IN TO TRICK-OR-TREAT ON  
HALLOWEEN!!!!

FROM THE ATKINS CITY ADMINISTRATOR

CELEBRATING SUCCESS!

Atkins has a lot to celebrate! The last two years have brought about many challenges through COVID and the Derecho. Either one of these challenges could have been devastating to any small town's economy. Atkins has managed to keep all businesses, see continued construction of new housing, see existing businesses grow, and establish new businesses.

- Atkins Lumber in existence since 1927, more than doubled its size.
- Atkins Savings Bank expanded, adding an elevator.
- 76 Main Avenue, through the assistance of a State Catalyst Grant, was converted from an eye sore to the Tap Haus, and two new apartments.
- Stone Ridge Development completed the 3rd and 4th Additions, establishing 7 commercial lots.
- Stone Ridge Development constructed 20 plus new housing units.

The City has been updating its aging equipment and has purchased a new pumper truck, a jaws of life, public works truck and snow plow and is now leasing an excavator and skid loader. It is important for crews to have the reliable equipment to successfully complete their tasks. The City has successfully upgraded to an online billing system with 59% of our residents participating. The system gives citizens 24/7 access to view and pay city utility billing and provides an additional way for the city to notify citizens.

Atkins, take time to celebrate! Atkins has come through a pandemic and a natural disaster while continuing to move forward. Recovery continues with the rebuilding of the fire station, designed to serve the community now and in the future. The city is establishing plans to create a guide to the future in a fiscally responsible way.



ATKINS COMMUNITY CLUB  
LIGHT THE NIGHT  
PARADE & FIREWORKS  
DECEMBER 11, 5:30 PM

PARADE STARTS AT NORTH END OF MAIN AV & GOES  
SOUTH TO THE SOCCER PARK

\*LINE UP AT NORTH END OF MAIN, 5:15PM\*

\*COOKIES, HOT CHOCOLATE, SILENT AUCTION &  
RAFFLE DRAWING AT ATKINS LIBRARY, AFTER THE  
PARADE\*

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# Let's get back to the basics of recycling.

## Remember these three rules each time you recycle:



**Recycle all empty plastic bottles, cans, paper and cardboard.**



**Keep food and liquids out of the recycling.**



**Empty recyclables directly into your cart - NO bagged recyclables.**



**RECYCLE OFTEN.  
RECYCLE RIGHT.**

**#RORR**

**To Learn More Visit [RecycleOftenRecycleRight.com](http://RecycleOftenRecycleRight.com)**

