



News Release

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For Immediate Release

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**The City of Altus and the AWWA encourage
'getting to know and love' tap water during Drinking Water Week**

(ALTUS, OKLAHOMA):

The American Water Works Association (AWWA) and water professionals across North America are kicking off Drinking Water Week today with the theme "Your Water – To Know It Is To Love It". The City of Altus is kicking off Drinking Water Week by recognizing the vital role water plays in our daily lives.

To commemorate the week, water utilities, government entities, environmental advocates, schools, and others will celebrate drinking water through public presentations, staff events, and community festivals, and provide information on how water consumers can understand and appreciate their water. "This year's Drinking Water Week will motivate water consumers to be actively aware of how they personally connect with water," said AWWA Chief Executive Officer David LaFrance. "We should all know how to find and fix leaks, care for our home's pipes, and support our utility's investment in water infrastructure."

The time for Altusans to know our water has never been better. After substantial system improvements, the City is producing the highest quality water in our history. Mayor Jack Smiley, recently signed a proclamation calling upon each citizen of our city to help protect our water sources from pollution, to practice water conservation, and to get involved in local water issues.

Mayor Smiley said, "It is impossible to overestimate the value of clean drinking water for our community. Clean water supports industry and commerce to fuel our local economy. Clean water is a vital aspect of mission support for the Altus Air Force Base and essential for healthy living of residents and visitors. Clean water is invaluable."

The City of Altus has operated the public water system for over 100 years. The earliest known water project for Altus was a federal loan in 1916 obtained for the purpose of construction a public well in Blair, OK. The first water treatment plant in Altus was constructed in 1927 and the current water treatment plant was built in 1975.

Established in 1881, the American Water Works Association is the largest nonprofit, scientific and educational association dedicated to managing and treating water, the

world's most important resource. With approximately 50,000 members, AWWA provides solutions to improve public health, protect the environment, strengthen the economy and enhance our quality of life. Additional information about Drinking Water Week, including free materials for download and celebration ideas, is available on the Drinking Water Week webpage:

<https://www.awwa.org/resources-tools/public-affairs/public-affairs-events/drinking-water-week/dww-materials.aspx>

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