

News for U:

Notes from Mayor Shawn Steffen

New Department of the City

I am proud to announce that we now have a new department: the Community Club has joined with the City. With the continued growth of Atkins, the Watermelon Day event has expanded. We believe in the importance of keeping this event going strong. The Community Club will keep their funding separate from the City of Atkins. They have a long record of doing great things for our community. They donate several hundreds of dollars to scholarship programs, disaster relief to families in need, as well as fruit baskets for senior citizens, donations for the Fire Department, walking trails, purchase of tables/chairs for the Atkins Memorial Hall, Atkins Public Library, baseball diamond, Women's Club, Billy Murray Band, PTA, Girls and Boys Scouts and they assist other clubs in their fund-raisers. We can thank the Community Club for holding Halloween and Christmas Parties for our community to enjoy. We hope the addition of this new department will allow the City to expand on the good works they do. Which brings us to our first need: We need volunteers from the community to help with this year's Watermelon Day. Several clubs have volunteered to help run the bigger events such as the food and beer tents and fireworks. However, several areas still need help. If we cannot find enough volunteers, we will have no choice but to scale back in the future. If you or your club/organization can help, please contact Connie Jacobsen at 446-7833, as soon as possible. Let's challenge ourselves to make the 2002 Watermelon Day Event the best ever!

Other news:

ATV's: We recently have had several ATV's traveling around town. I'd like to remind everyone that these vehicles are **not allowed** on city streets.

Planning and Zoning Committee We are in need of new members for this committee. As a member you will approve and recommend changes to new development. You will ensure that new development follows all City ordinances and codes. For additional information contact Dick Lange at City Hall: 446-7870.

City Website: Check out the city's new website for information on Watermelon Day and other interesting facts:

www.geocities.com/cityofatkins



Let's Play Ball!

submitted by Atkins Recreation Committee

Summertime is here and it is time to play ball. The ball diamond is in excellent shape!! All this is due to the installation of new tile and 170 tons of lime that was brought in. The Atkins Recreation Committee would like to thank the following people for their cooperation, use of equipment and especially all the hard work and time that made this possible!! We thank these families: Ric Huber, Harry Huber, Jayme Busta, Dean Haerther, Rob Moser, Derrick and Dean Grawet, Derrick and Zack Samson, Jerry and Justin Mottet, Jim Krug, Mark Hagen, Ed Schanbacher, Chuck Davis, Mark Todd, Dick Lange, Mike Jennings, Dan Rammelsburg, Dave Petersen, Andy Becker, Kevin and Mitch Moser; as well as Brad Rhine and the Atkins Telephone Company, Gary Lange

and the Atkins Lumber Company. We apologize if we missed anyone! If it wasn't for volunteers, the program would not be a success. Remember, it's all for the KIDS! The City of Atkins and the Benton Community Schools has expressed concern over the safety of the existing bleachers. The structure is rotted beyond repair and it is with regret that we will have to remove them at the end of the ball season. With this in mind, we would like to start fundraising for the construction of a new ball park facility! We will be selling sweet corn later this summer to help kick off this project. If you would like to place an order early, please contact Jayme or Kandi Busta at 446-7031. We would like to thank Jim Krug family for the donation of land, fertilizer and the planting of the sweet corn! The success of this program relies on volunteers, which we can always use more of!!

New Postal Rates

New postal rates went into effect June 30, raising the cost of sending a first class letter to 37 cents. Postcard rates also increased to 23 cents. The United States Postal Service explains that "these increases reflect the costs of doing business: things like fuel, transportation, labor and health care benefits for its workers. Many people do not know that postal operations are not subsidized by tax dollars."

There are many ways to purchase stamps: by fax, mail, phone (1-800-STAMP24), the Post Office, retail lobby vending equipment or using the internet (www.usps.com)





Summer Reading Program is Here!

The Atkins Public Library will hold its Summer Reading Program throughout the month of July, beginning July 3. Young people of all ages can come in for an hour of fun and learning each Wednesday of the month from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. This summer's theme is, "Exploring Science." Kids will have "hands-on" opportunities to do simple science projects. If you would like more information, please contact librarian Cathy Becker at 446-7676.

Simplify Your Life...

Atkins Savings Bank & Trust would like you to know they can save you a few steps as well as a few cents for postage, by offering one-stop bill paying service. You can drop off your bills while you do your banking or just passing through downtown. Payments can be collected for: City of Atkins Water Bill, Atkins Phone Co., Atkins Cable-TV, and Mid-American Energy Co. Garbage stickers can also be bought at Atkins Savings Bank. Bank hours are Monday - Thursday, 8 - 3 and Fridays, 8 - 6:30.

Something to think about...

"If you were another person, would you like to be a friend of yours?"
-- Author Unknown

Watermelon Day

Saturday, August 3 Schedule of Events

Morning Events:	8:00
2 Mile Run/Walk	10:30
Parade	Afternoon
and Evening:	12:00
Beer Tents; Kids games/Rides & Billy Murray Band	1:00
Co-Ed Volleyball - Bingo	1:30
Cedar Rapids Performance Co.	2:30
Balloon Toss	3:00
Seed-spitting & Watermelon Eating Contests	
Tiny Tot Trike Race	4:00
Christine Petersen's Dancers	5:00
Teen Tug of War	5:30
Watermelon Bowling	6:00
Billy Murray Band	6:30
Talent Show	7:30
Cow-Pie Bingo, Parade & Run/Walk	
Winners & Certificates, Sponsorship Certificates & Recognition, Childrens & Adults Raffle Winners	
Community Choir	8:30
Dusk - Fireworks with dance immediately following.	

New to Watermelon Day this year will be a tent set up for displays and information from clubs and businesses. If you would like to take advantage of this special opportunity to promote your organization or business, please contact Shawn Steffen at 446-7016 or bring your information to him no later than August 2.

If you can volunteer your time to making Watermelon Day a success, please contact Connie Jacobsen at 446-7833. Especially needed are a clean-up crew for the day after. Meet at the park in the morning to assist in the clean-up effort. All help is appreciated!

Name Your Park...

The City of Atkins announces a "naming" contest for the new city park. Entering the contest requires a minimum \$10,000 donation; whoever makes the highest bid wins the right to name the park. The city council

will approve the name chosen. Watch for the winner listed in an upcoming issue of the *Atkins Newsletter*, as well as on the city website. (www.geocities.com/cityofatkins)

Know News?

If

you have news pertinent to the Aug/Sept issue for the Newsletter, please contact me immediately. Any information from you or your business/organization is welcome; subject to editing.

Editor's Note: If you have a story idea or news item you'd like to submit, please contact Dolores Sebetka, P.O. Box 271, Atkins. I'm still looking for a rural person willing to submit stories pertinent on rural issues. Please contact me if you are interested.

Originally a June issue of the *Atkins Newsletter* was slated to be published. However, in late April my mother had a heart attack and in May, quadruple bypass surgery. She died May 28 from an unrelated illness. I apologize for not getting a June issue completed on time; included in it was a revision to correct an error I made on a Calendar Event for Vacation Bible School at the Atkins-Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church. The April issue mistakenly reported that VBS was scheduled for the morning hours of 9 - 12. The correct time was 5:30 - 8:30 in the evening. Again, I apologize for any inconvenience and confusion this may have caused.
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Dolores Sebetka

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