ATKINS NEWSLETTER **OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2014 CIVIC INFORMATION**

Atkins City Hall **City Clerk-Melissa Rammelsberg**

Deputy-Heather David 480 3rd Avenue

Atkins, IA 52206-0171

(319) 446-7870

(319)446-6003 (fax)

City Hall Hours

Monday to Friday

7:30 a.m.-12:00 noon 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Pavilion Rental (319) 446-7676

Connie Drahos

Department of Public Works

(319)446-7870

Atkins Public Library

Cathy Becker

(319) 446-7676

Atkins Post Office Water & Sewer (319) 446-7272

Mike Jennings

Fire Chief-Gary Lange

Fire Department (319) 446-7400

Mayor- Dave Becker

City Council- Diane Herman, Kevin Korsmo, Tim Harbach, Connie Drahos, Weston Bishop. Council meetings First and Third Monday, each month, 7:30 PM, New City Hall

Council meeting minutes available at city hall, post office and on line at www.cityofatkins.org

Akins City Hall PO Box 171 480 3rd Avenue Atkins, IA 52206

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This newsletter may contain adult type jokes. Suggest you preview first.



STKINS NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2014

Dear Folks,

It has been a long time since a newsletter came your way. What can I say? I have been gone most of the summer and out of touch. California was good but they are in a drought. Wanted you to flush your toilet once a day. If it is yellow let it mellow. If brown, flush it down. And of course, save water shower with a friend. Do not wash your cars. Do not water your lawn in the day time and only once a week at night. And a slight spark and there is a fire. But on the other side, there was a 6.0 earthquake near us that shook the house and made us feel like we were in one of those bouncy houses. Interesting to say the least. No damage to us except our nerves.

So now to catch up. The Watermelon Days celebration was another hit. Every year there is something new to learn. Thousands of hours of volunteer labor goes into making it a success and when you hear people say that they saw so and so leaving after getting packed up at 3:30 A.M.. You know there was a lot of work and time put into it. Of course, the proceeds go to various organizations that assisted. The town of course benefits throughout the year. The Christmas and Halloween Parties are thanks to the proceeds earned. There are many other recipients of the money too. Bleachers for the ball parks, contributions to the food pantry, to the Benton Band, scholarship program, are only a few of the beneficiaries of the money earned. People frequently ask what happens with all that money. I suggest ask around, take a look and see for yourselves. It all goes back into community improvements. Or come to a meeting and get involved. More volunteers are always needed and greatly appreciated.

The poultry party for the fire department is coming up pretty soon. Watch for it. They by the way receive a cut from the Cow Pie Bingo.

Dell James PO Box 116 Atkins, IA 52206



WHAT'S NEW AT THE LIBRARY?

By Cathy Becker

The book club has reunited after a summer break and are reading "Still Missing" by Chevy Stevens. The group meets at the library every second Monday of the month at 2:00 p.m. Next date is October 13 so mark the date. It is also official celebration day of Christopher Columbus. You remember him?

(library, con't)

Since school has started up again, so has the Wednesday early out program here at the library. Call us at the library (446-7676) for more information. Good way to introduce the kids to the library and what it has to offer.

Check out the grow boxes in the front of the library to see what the summer reading program was about.

NEW BOOKS

Two new authors and feedback is positive that the books are "really good"

The Butcher by Jennifer Hillier

Phantom Instinct by Meg Gardiner

<u>SkyGods</u> by Sarah Latchaw Her Last Whisper by Karen Robards

Private Down Under by James Patterson

Robert B. Parker's Damned If You Do by Michael Brandman

Personal by Lee Child

Come visit the library. It is a happening place.





CITY STUFF

Melissa Rammelsberg



WATER & SEWER RATE CHANGES



On June $16^{\rm th}$, the Council passed new ordinances to make changes to the city water, sewer, and sewer debt to take effect on July $1^{\rm st}$ 2014. The \$21 sewer debt fee was stopped. It was determined that when that debt comes due, the City will have enough funds.

The water rates have been increased from \$4.60/1000 gallons to \$5.90/1000 gallons. Water rates have not been increased since 2012, so this increase will help to cover the operating costs that increase each year. Also, with the water meter replacement project completed in June, the increase was needed to cover the costs.

The sewer rates have been increased from \$2.30/1000 gallons to \$4.72/1000 gallons. Sewer rates have not been increased since 1012 so this increase will help to cover the operating costs that increase each year. Also, the City has to pursue a project to build a new Waste Water Treatment Plant by 2017 to comply with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources requirements, and the increase will help to cover the planning expenses and build up some reserves for this project. The reserve would likely help to reduce the amount of a future sewer debt fee.

If you have any questions, please call City Hall at 446-7870.

LANDFILL FEE CHANGE

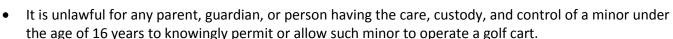
The Benton County Landfill has begun to charge a tipping fee of \$25 per ton for all garbage going into the landfill after September 1st, 2014. On August 18th, the Council passed a new ordinances to change the current landfill fee on the water bill from \$3.75 to \$5.00 to offset the costs that will be incurred with this change. You will see this take effect on your October 1st water bill. If you have any questions, please call City Hall at 446-7870.

CITY WIDE CLEAN-UP DAY – SEE FLYER LATER IN NEWSLETTER

GOLF CART ORDINANCE: DID YOU KNOW?

As you may know, Atkins offers the opportunity to operate golf carts on city streets. In order for this to continue to be available, we need everyone to comply with the rules. To help remind everyone of key rules that are often broken, please review the list below:

- Golf carts can only be operated from sunrise to sunset (this is also a state law)
- To operate a golf cart in city limits, drivers must be 16 years of age and have a valid driver's license



- Golf carts are not allowed to be driven on Parkridge Rd, 33rd Ave, or sidewalks (including the grass area along Parkridge) other than to make a direct crossing
- The number of occupants on the golf cart cannot exceed designed occupancy (bench seats are typically 3 occupants max)
- Before operating a golf cart in town, it has to be registered with City Hall. There is a \$25 annual registration fee, and insurance coverage is required.

These are the highlights, but a full copy of the ordinance can be picked up at City Hall or requested by calling 446-7870.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE: CARDINAL AVE EXTENSION, AND PARKRIDGE RD & 33RD AVE REALIGNMENT

Cardinal Avenue has been extended south past the Atkins Medical Clinic. This was completed early August in preparation for the new location for the Early Beginnings Daycare. Construction work to make modification to the Parkridge Rd & 33rd Ave curve is underway. Traffic is being routed through Circleview Drive and Pleasant Hill Drive while the work is in progress. We ask that everyone drive with caution and remind them to be alert for children playing or residents backing out of their driveways. The project is projected to be completed by September 30th pending no delays due to weather. If you have questions or would like details on the curve modifications, please stop in to City Hall on Mon - Fri from 7:30am to 12pm, 1pm to 4pm.

THINK OF YOUR OWN

We have heard of a pride of lions, a gaggle of geese but we could define our own: A brat of boys • A stitch of doctors • A whine of losers • A jerk of politicians • A giggle of girls • A stagger of drunks • A tedium of accountants

SHOW YOUR SCHOOL SPIRIT

The Atkins Elementary PTA is once again offering driveway painting. Members of the PTA will be painting your choice of Benton logos on your driveway to show your school spirit and your support of the PTA. The three available logos are listed below. The logo can be painted in the spot of your choice either on your driveway or sidewalk.

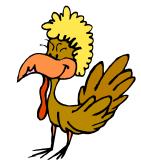
Options:	
1.Bobcat Paw Print	Pride
2.Go Cats!	Pride
3.Benton Bobcat (Face)	
Cost: \$10- Make Checks Payable to	the Atkins Elementary office by Wednesday, September 17. Atkins PTA
Name:	_ Cell and/or Home Phone:
Address:	
Email:	Logo Choice:
I have the authority to make the deci the logo I choose to be spray painted	sions regarding the above property and grant permission for on my driveway and/or sidewalk.
Signature:	
Please indicate here the location you	would like the logo (be as specific as possible):
Center- End of Driveway Center of I	Driveway Other
Thank You for Supporting the Atkin	s Elementary PTA
You can still submit your applicati	on even though you are past the due date.



ATKINS FIRE EPARTMENT Poultry Party

Poultry Party

November 15
7:00 P.M
Legion Hall



Give yourself a chance to win door prizes, bingo prizes, paddle wheel and new friends. Just come to the fundraiser for your local volunteer fire department. The fire people need new shoes.

This is always a load of fun and they have a whole pile of turkeys and hams for prizes. Plus, Suttons Meat Locker in Newhall is the provider of the meat bundles that are raffled off.

Always a lot of fun. Bring your quarters!!



BUILDING

Lots of building activity going on about town. New construction on the East side of town. New preschool building going up. Last but not least there are new gas pumps at the gas station. Use that charge card now. St. Stephens is building a good sized addition. Too bad they could not work that hot tub into the budget though.

This does not even take into account the roadwork being done. Another detour in progress and project hopefully will be done before that white fluffy stuff falls from the sky.

I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find one now.

BRAIN WARM UPS

Name 10 animals spelled with only 3 letters 1._____ 5.___ 9.___ 2.___ 6. ____ 10.___

- 3._____ 7. ____
- 4. 8.



ATKINS TOWN GARAGE SALES



October 4, 2014

8:00 A.M.-2:00P.M.

Call Jen Davis 446-7410

STILL BEGGING! PLEASE SCOOP THAT POOP!!!!



ATKINS DAYS NOVEMBER 15

The annual crafting day will be held in its usual locations here in Atkins. Local craft people display their wares like Hare's Bears, jewelry, quilts, mittens, honey and lots of other stuff. The commercial items are usually at the Pavilion. That good popcorn is located in front of the school. It goes all day and then at night you play poultry bingo for the fire department. The Legion Auxiliary serves their homemade soup and desserts at the Legion Hall. It smells so good in that place.

SIAMESE TWINS

Siamese twins walk into a bar in Canada and park themselves on a bar stool. One of them says to the bartender, "Don't mind us; we're joined at the hip. I'm John, he's Jim. Two Molson beers, draft please."

The bartender, feeling slightly awkward, tries to make polite conversation while pouring the beers. "Been on holiday yet, lads?"

"Off to England next month," says John. "We go to England every year, rent a car and drive for miles. Don't we, Jim?" Jim agrees.

"Ah, England!" says the bartender. "Wonderful country... the history, the beer, the culture..."

"Nah, we don't like that British stuff," says John. "Hamburgers and Molson's beer, that's us, eh Jim? And we can't stand the English - they're so arrogant and rude."

"So why keep going to England?" asks the bartender.

"It's the only chance Jim gets to drive."

Benton Marching Band Raffle!!!

Your winning ticket could have you sending the Benton Community Marching Bobcats – conveniently placed on your lawn or your neighbor's front lawn at 7AM on Friday, October 3! All 88 of them – with instruments, percussion equipment and the Color Guard, along with their three buses and equipment trailer! YOU could win this awesome opportunity by signing up for the 2014 Homecoming BAND Raffle!

Purchase the tickets: 9/22/14 JV football

9/23/14 8th grade football, Freshman & JV &

Varsity volleyball

9/26/14 Freshman & Varsity football 9/30/14 @ Norway 7th grade volleyball

Freshman & Varsity volleyball

7th grade football

\$1 per ticket or \$5 for 6 tickets!!





Support Benton Band Boosters!

Atkins City Wide Cleanup Days

Items too large for regular weekly pickup may be brought to the old sewer plant at the north end of Northview Avenue for disposal.

Drop off times are:

Thursday – October 2nd 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM
Friday – October 3rd 9:00 AM to Noon & 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM
Saturday - October 4th 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM

DO NOT LEAVE ITEMS WHEN THE AREA IS UNATTENDED!

The following is a partial list of items accepted free of charge:

Furniture, mattress & box springs, etc	Bicycles (tires must be removed)	
Lawn mowers (tires, gasoline and oil	BBQ Grills (Gas Grills must have tank	
must be removed)	removed)	

There is a Disposal Fee for the following items:

Computer monitors (flat screen/LCD) -\$5	LCD/Flat Screen TVs - \$5
CRT/Tube Television or Monitors - \$5	Desktop printers/copiers- \$1,
for 22" & smaller; \$10 for 23" or larger	Large Printers/copiers-\$10
Large Appliances -\$5	Small Appliances (Microwaves) - \$1
Small LP Gas Tanks-\$5	Large Batteries - \$1

Payment must be made when item is delivered.

The following items WILL NOT be accepted:

Appliances Filled with Food	Tires	Yard-waste		
Large Propane Tanks	Household Garbage	Building Materials		
Hazardous Waste (Gasoline, oil, oil filters, paints, solvents etc.)				

If you need to get rid of a <u>working</u> refrigerator, freezer, or air conditioner, call Alliant Energy at 1-800-723-7635 for information on their recycling program. It is possible they will pick up/dispose of your old appliance and pay you for it. The appliance must be in running order to qualify.

Any Elderly or Handicap citizen, who would like to participate in the program but needs assistance, may call City Hall at 446-7870 before Wednesday, October 1st. Items will be picked up on Thursday October 2nd.

This service is for City of Atkins Residents ONLY!!

ATKINS WATERMELON DAYS 2014 AUGUST 1ST & 2ND

The following are the list of winners from various Watermelon Days events:

Parade Winners:

Commercial 1st place: Stein Built-Jeric Stein

2nd place: Mary Kay Cosmetics-Kim Jaster Floats- 1st place: Couch Potato Racing Association

2nd place: Presbyterian Church

Boy's Free Drawing of \$10 gift card to Target

-Morgan Schneiderman-Davenport (a grandparent)

- Will Clausen-Atkins

-Ryker Ricklefs-Atkins

- Maverik Riley-Shellsburg

-Wyatt Rinderknecht-Atkins

3rd place: Atkins Library Reading Program

Street Rods/Race Cars/Go Karts/4 Wheelers/Classic Cars:

1st - Kelly Sweet

2nd – Arlene Otto

3rd - Ervin & Cynthia Root

Animals:

1st Horse & Carriage-Chuck Davis

2nd Dog Walking-Sienna

Many beautiful Horses that were not registered

Classic Tractors:

1st Oliver 66-James Brant

2nd John Deere 4010-Ron Wilhelmi

3rd 1935 International-Linn Coop Oil Company

Cars and Trucks:

1st Mini Livestock Hauler-Don Wilhelmi

2nd 1940 Plymouth Pickup-Clint Sandburg

Girls Free Drawing of \$10 gift card to Target

- Carma Armstrong -Atkins
- Julia Biery-Atkins
- Evelyn Mahan-Newhall
- Alivia Pfiffner- Atkins
- Sophie Phillips- Atkins

Teen's Free Raffle of \$15 iTunes gift card:

- Michelle Beatty- Atkins
- Tanner Cook- Atkins
- Emma Mabry ???
- Riley Pfiffner- Atkins
- Brody Rawson- Atkins
- Matthew Voss- Atkins

Adult Raffle:

- \$500 Lowes Gift card- (donated \$250) Tom Marit Marion
- \$100 Hy-Vee Meat Bundle (donated from Johnson Ave.) -- Mike Fynn- Atkins
- \$100 Hy-Vee Gift Card- Brent Whitlock- Atkins
- \$100 Visa Gift Card –Paul David-Atkins
- \$50 G/C for Atkins Lumber Co Inc- Curt Larson-Atkins
- \$50 G/C for Bobby T's Bar & Grill Stacy Wolf
- \$50 G/C for Depot Express Vonnie Wilhelmi Atkins

Cow Pie Bingo Winners: \$1000.00

- Lori Nowachek Atkins - John Parker CR

Winners--- Seed Spitting

6-9 years: 1st Nash Brunssen 180" 2nd Jace Biery 167"

3rd Easton Pfiffner 132"

1stSophie Krueger 259"

2ndTommy Sass 236"

3rd Taylor Bauer 187"

Watermelon Eating:

6-9 years:
1st Brandon Schulte

2nd Lane Kaestner

3rd. Jace Biery

10-12 years:

1st Taylor Baue2nd Baylee Schoenfeld

3rd Morgan Bauer

Youth Watermelon Bowling: 1st- Karsyn Semelroth

2nd Lacy Stien

3rd Chloe Schultz

Adult Watermelon Bowling:

1st - Ronald Pettit and Wesly Towne
 2nd - Lynae Heins & Clarence Gubbels

3rd – Rich & Aimee King

Mini Bale Toss: Boys 5yr and under Girls 5yr and under

1. Landon Furler12'1. Marissa Nolte9'2"2. Joel Hacker10'6"2. Evelyn Ireland7'11"

3. Lucas Schneider 10'3"

Boys 6yr - 10 yr old Girls 6yr - 10 yr old

 1. Isaac Cretin
 33'
 1. Alyson Brown
 22'

 2 Kaden Becker
 31'9"
 2. Miranda Nolte
 20'3"

 3. Jackson Bruns
 25'10"
 3. Ana Glawe
 20'2



ATKINS IMPROVEMENT MISSION (We're Back)

The Atkins Improvement Mission (also known as AIM), which brought to Atkins the Library/ City Hall building, is being re-invigorated to take a look at some other opportunities to improve our fair city. There has been some interest in engaging in Wellness & Recreation

projects to improve Atkins. Some of the potential projects are: bathroom & concession facilities at the soccer fields, a splash pad, a community center with a gymnasium, more and improved walking trails, and an elevator for the Memorial Hall. Anybody living in Atkins is welcome to join us. Come check out the meeting (bring your neighbor too), and see how you can help grow our city. The next meeting is scheduled on Thursday, October 16th at 7pm in the City Hall/Library.

TOM SMITH

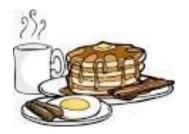
Wish on a STAR is hosting a benefit for Tom Smith of Van Horne. Two days after starting college at Iowa State University, Tom collapsed with difficulty breathing.

Test results confirmed Tom has lymphoma. Tom's prognosis includes 36 months of chemo, radiation, and repeated spinal taps. Tom and his mother, Janet, have a long road ahead of them and a lot of expenses.



Tom graduated from Benton Community this past May with honors and he was planning to study software engineering. He is a friend of various Atkins teens. Wish on a STAR invites the public to attend a benefit in Tom's honor on **Sunday**,

November 9, 2014, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the Van Horne Community Center (next to the first responder's station). A light meal, silent auction, face painting, and a raffle are just some of the things happening. Your support is welcomed and needed.



CENTRAL LUTHERAN SCHOOL BRUNCH November 2, Sunday All You Can Eat Free will offering 9:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.

Central Lutheran School, 310 Third St. W, Newhall

MENU

Pancakes, eggs, ham, sausage, rolls, muffins, fresh fruit, juice, milk, coffee.

Nimble Fingers quilting group from St. Stephens is offering a gorgeous hand quilted quilt for raffle. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Do not need to be present to win so buy those tickets.

Bring your appetite and smiling faces.

SENIORS IN A QUANDRY

Dorothy and Edna, two "senior" widows, are talking.

Dorothy: "That nice George Johnson asked me out for a date. I know you went out with him last week, and I wanted to talk with you about him before I give him my answer."

Edna: "Well, I'll tell you. He shows up at my apartment punctually at 7 pm, dressed like such a gentleman in a fine suit, and he brings me such beautiful flowers! Then he takes me outside. And what's there? A limousine, uniformed chauffeur and all. Then he takes me out for a marvelous dinner, lobster, champagne, dessert, and after-dinner drinks. Then we go see a show.

Let me tell you Dorothy, I enjoyed it so much. I never had such a lovely time. When we got back to my place though, the evening got weird. He became quite ardent and even tore my nice new dress. I am sure he did not mean to.

Dorothy: "Goodness gracious!... so you are telling me I shouldn't go?" Edna: "No, no, no... I'm just saying, wear an old dress."





The Watermelon Days celebration always uses a large amount of ice to keep things like, beer, watermelon, pop, etc. cold. The volunteers start making ice some time before the celebration but they need a place to store the ice. In comes the need for large ice chests (freezers) to hold the ice. They could use two more but need large deep chest type not the stand up kind. You know what I mean. If anyone wants to

donate or has need to get rid of a working deep freeze, please call Melissa at city hall or if you happen to see Mike Wagner talk to him.



The last newsletter listed the town's soon to open daycare center with the name "Better Beginnings." My apologies to owners, Molly Stark & Bree Hepker. The corrected name should be "Early Beginnings". If you have paid tuition to a school named "Better Beginnings", get your check back. Again, my apologies.

MATCH GRANT!!

\$75,000

Congratulations to the City of Atkins on being selected for a \$75,000 grant through the Wellmark Foundation! Earlier this year, the City of Atkins applied for a grant to help with the cost of laying a sidewalk along Parkridge Road from the Library/City Hall to the new site of the Early Beginnings Daycare. The City Council strongly believes it is important to keep our children and residents safe, as well as to provide a connection from the west side of Atkins to our walking trail at the soccer fields & City Park. The cost of this project is going to be about \$300,000 due largely to the amount of fill dirt needed to build up the ditches and maintaining proper drainage ways.

Atkins needs your help to ensure we get this grant by the end of November. This grant is called a MATCH grant, and as the name suggests, Atkins needs to obtain fundraising pledges up to \$75,000 to be awarded the grant money. The City Council is partnering with AIM and area organizations to communicate how you can help meet this MATCH grant challenge.

Watch your mail and papers that your kids are bringing home in the next couple of weeks to learn how you can help obtain this grant money, as well as an opportunity to get more information on this project.



WATERMELON DAYS THANK YOU

The Atkins Community Club (ACC) wants to thank all of the people who came out to support Watermelon Days on August $1^{\rm st}$ and 2nd. This event is volunteer organized & run. Without our sponsors and volunteers, this event would not be possible. The ACC donates to the volunteer

organizations that help us out each year. The rest of the money raised goes to community projects and scholarships. This year, approximately \$26,000 was raised, and about \$6,500 of that money went to the following organizations that volunteered their time and efforts.

American Legion	Atkins Fire Department
Benton Band Boosters	Benton Cross Country
Benton Post Prom	Benton Foot Ball
Benton Wrestling	Billy Murray Band
Boy Scouts Pack 46	Helping Hands Food Pantry
St. Stephen's Lutheran Church	38 Fire Club
Atkins Elementary PTA	Fremont Lucky Clovers & Fremont Go-Getters 4H

Watermelon days thank you (con't)

This year we had donations of materials or cash from the following sponsors:

City of Atkins, Atkins Savings Bank & Trust, Linn Coop Oil Co., Snyder & Associates, Palo Savings Bank, Atkins/Blairstown Storage, Cassill Motors, Korsmo Northview Storage, D&N Fence, Ollinger Garage Doors, Dean Hearther Farms, Frontier Natural Products, Lowe's, Bloomsbury Farm, Ketelsen RV, Techno Graphics, Kubichek & Houge, P & K Midwest, Jessica Hearther & Teresa Smalley Iowa Realty, Mike Wagner Construction, M & D Mini Storage, The Depot Express, Atkins Lumber Company, Van Meter Inc, A & G Asphalt, Den-Ker Trucking / KD Ag, Atkins Telephone Company, Bobby T's, West Side Salvage, Outer Edge Screen Printing, G & H Electric Heating and Cooling, Thompson Truck and Trailer, and Ralston Construction.

Once again THANK YOU to everyone for your hard work, contributions, support, and dedication to the celebration! We had a successful year and even the cow did her thing.

Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.

AFTERTHOUGHTS

California held me captive for two months. When I got back the first thing I noticed was a detour taking me through the neighborhood and the road work. I went up to get gas and there were two new tanks going in. St. Stephens was getting a new roof and an addition. The Nimble Fingers are going to be able to quilt and see outside. What is the world coming too? We are not going to be shoulder-less on the mono rail road anymore. Early Beginnings was looking good.

Lots of city news happening too. Dick retired and Melissa and Heather are doing the job. Melissa was pregnant when I left but had a baby girl when I got back. I know I wasn't gone that long. Dave Duball is doing other things and we have a new City council member. Helping Hands food pantry is still doing its thing though. Remember them when you get that "Random Acts of Kindness Bug" bothering you.

The Community Club is busy planning the Halloween Party again this year. Remember bring cookies and bars for the kids party. Then Craft Days, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years and Super Bowl. I forgot. Somewhere there is an election day. Please remember your civic duty and vote for the candidate of your choice.

In the meantime, keep those cards and letters coming.

Three no trump to you, Irv.

Dell