

City of Atkins

480 Third Ave, P. O. Box 171
Atkins, Iowa 52206

October 1, 2014

Dear Atkins Resident or Friend,

We are excited to share that Atkins has been selected for a Matching Assets to Community Health (MATCH) grant through the Wellmark Foundation. This grant will help install a sidewalk along Parkridge Road from the Library/City Hall to the new site of the Early Beginnings Daycare. We are calling this effort the Parkridge Sidewalk Project.

We are facing a few challenges with this project. Due to the geography along Parkridge Road, which consists of significant ditches and drainage right of ways, it is costly and difficult to put a sidewalk on either the north or south roadside. In working with our city engineer, we have decided the best plan will be to install the sidewalk on the south side of the road. The estimated cost is about \$300,000. As Atkins leaders, we are committed to making this project happen by pledging up to \$150,000.

We need your help to obtain the remaining project funds to make this dream a reality. As a condition to receive the \$75,000 MATCH grant funds, Wellmark is requiring us to show a \$1 for \$1 fundraising match by November 2014. The match can be met with a combination of fund pledges or in-kind donations.

We are partnering with many groups to support the fund match effort. Some of these groups are: Atkins Improvement Mission, Early Beginnings Daycare, Virginia Gay Medical Clinic, Atkins Elementary School, Atkins Elementary PTA, Atkins Community Club, Atkins Women's Club, Atkins American Legion & Auxiliary, St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church, Atkins Savings Bank, Ralston Construction, Atkins Public Library, and local businesses. Please join us, along with these great organizations, by making a pledge today!

As a demonstration of how this match could be achieved, if a combination of 1,000 families, businesses, or organizations gave \$75 dollars, then this match would be 100% met. We are asking everyone to decide what their best amount would be, and please pledge that amount. Remember, every dollar pledged is doubled with this MATCH grant (up to \$75,000).

To give you a little background on how this project fits into the overall goals for the City of Atkins. A few years ago, we collaborated with a third party organization, East Central Iowa Council of Governments, to create a 20-year comprehensive plan for community development. As part of this plan, we are striving to provide walking trails and increase pedestrian mobility around our city to promote a healthier community. Additionally,

with the growing residential neighborhoods on the east side, it has become a priority to provide safe ways for our children to walk and bike to school, as well as safe ways for the west side children to get to our parks and library. Sidewalks would allow us to promote more children activities and programs at our parks and library without concerns about safe travel.

An opportunity to find out more information about our plans, timeline, and answer questions about this project is available through Open House sessions. These sessions will be held at the Atkins City Hall / Library on:

- Tuesday, October 14th from 6:30 – 8:30pm, and
- Monday, October 27th from 6:00 – 8:00pm.

We invite you to join us for one of the Open House opportunities, and bring a copy of the attached pledge form with you to help us meet this challenge. We also encourage you to safely check out the area planned for the Parkridge Sidewalk Project to understand the need for this sidewalk.

If you are unable to attend an Open House, you can turn in your pledge form in person at Atkins City Hall or Atkins Savings Bank, or by mail to: City of Atkins, PO Box 171, Atkins, IA 52206. We need all pledge forms returned no later than November 26th, 2014.

We thank you in advance for your contribution to make this project a success. This is another step in making our town a safe place for our residents as we continue to grow.

Sincerely,

Melissa Rammelsberg, City Clerk
Dave Becker, Mayor
Weston Bishop, City Council
Connie Drahos, City Council
Tim Harbach, City Council
Diane Herman, City Council
Kevin Korsmo, City Council