



CITY OF ATKINS

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

May 1, May Day

May 14, Mother's Day

May 29, Memorial Day, City Hall & Library Offices CLOSED

July 4, Independence Day, City Hall & Library CLOSED

August 4-5, ACC **Watermelon Days**



*Atkins Historical Photo
West Side Main Street.
Look at those dirt roads!*

BROKEN TRASH CAN? CALL WASTE MANAGEMENT TO REPORT IT AT 1-800-964-8988

FOLLOW THE PROMPTS:

1. Enter your zip code 52206
2. Enter your street address
3. For all other customers. Press 3
4. For all other requests. Press 7
5. To report missing/damaged container Press 1
6. You will receive a call back



480 3RD AV
ATKINS, IA 52206
319.446.7870
www.cityofatkins.org

SPRING, MAY 2023



ATKINS HISTORICAL RAILROAD MILE MARKER 242 SIGN FOUND!

Earlier this year, one of our very own public works staff, Mike Rammelsberg was clearing some brush along a city owned piece of land (formerly owned by the Milwaukee Railroad). During this cleanup, Mike found this historical railroad mile marker 242 sign laying on the ground. This sign was left over from The Milwaukee Railroad! It appears to have suffered a few bullet wounds.

After our local railroad enthusiast and city council member, James Koehn saw the sign, he told us the significance of it to our town. Mile marker 242 is the halfway point between Chicago to Omaha on the Milwaukee Road! This was a heavily traveled route for The Milwaukee Railroad which originally purchased the land here in Atkins in 1882 to bring the railroad across the state of Iowa on the flattest route they could find. The Milwaukee Railroad built their railyard here in 1917, including a roundhouse and several buildings. The crew change points occurred here in Atkins and eventually they used a taxi to bring railroad workers to work in Atkins before homes were built in town.

We should never forget our railroad roots that created our town, or its significance!

Fun Fact: Both Mike & Jim are born and raised here in Atkins!

*Historical Credit: The Milwaukee Road Employee magazines, various files of The Chicago-Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway located at the Milwaukee Public Library & Jim Koehn, Railroad Historian.
Photo Credit: Amy Breese, taken 04.14.23*

(Pictured left to right, Mike Rammelsberg & Jim Koehn)



FROM THE WATER TOWER

WATER SOFTENERS



If you have a water softener or you're thinking about one. The Atkins water is already on the soft side. Hardness is measured two different ways; in grains and parts per million. Atkins water is around 90 PPM and/or 5 grains of hardness. It is not good for you (sodium levels) or plumbing fixtures to overly soften the water. If you have a softener make sure it is adjusted for Atkins water. Over softened water can cause corrosion in your pipes, odors and a slimy feel to your water.

DID YOUR WATER BILL INCREASE?

A small toilet leak can add up very quickly. A modern toilet uses 1-2 gallons per flush. It takes about a minute for the toilet tank to fill. If there is an internal leak in the toilet, it could be losing 1/4 gallon per minute. There are 1440 minutes per day. A quarter gallon per minute times 1440 minutes per day, times 30 days a month, could be 10,800 extra gallons on your water bill! Please check your toilets!



FIRE HYDRANT FLUSHING

We will be flushing fire hydrants soon. Keep an eye on the city website for updates on this!

WATER QUALITY

To see the current Water Quality Report for Atkins, visit our website at: <http://www.cityofatkins.org/>

CITY WATER RATE INCREASE

Will go into effect July 1, 2023 per Ordinance 226.

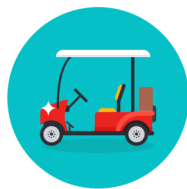
Minimum (1,500 gallons and less) \$32.15

Usage over 1,500 gallons \$6.90/1,000



GOLF CART SAFETY

Please review the City of Atkins Ordinance #185 on the City of Atkins website at <http://www.cityofatkins.org/>



Please remember to register your golf cart at City Hall and be safe driving out there.

FROM PUBLIC WORKS

CITY PARK REMINDERS:

- Keep our parks clean by using the new trash cans
- Clean up after your pets and keep pets on a leash
- Please do not allow your pets in the Gaga Pit
- Call the Atkins Library to rent the pavilion at 319-446-7676



OTHER REMINDERS:

- Please refrain from blowing grass into the streets while mowing. Grass clippings clog storm drains.
- Burning grass/leaves on city streets is not permitted (concrete or sealcoat), burning must be done in your yard, at least 1/4 mile from neighboring properties, per ordinance 105.05



ORDINANCE NO. 227 HAS CHANGED

92.08 Temporary Suspension of Services

A property owner may request water service be suspended and water will be shut off at the curb. There is a fee associated with this service. No utility bill will be issued while service is suspended. The City will no longer pause billing without turning service off at your curb.



Atkins Historical Photo (above): This photo of the Atkins Roundhouse is estimated to have been taken around the 1920s. The photo came from the historical files of The Chicago-Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway located at the Milwaukee Public Library.

Atkins began as a railroad town in 1882 when the land was purchased by The Chicago-Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway and continued until the last of the tracks in town were removed around the 1980s. The last Milwaukee train to leave Perry on March 23, 1980 at 6pm went through Atkins to Savanna, IL.

The Roundhouse is no longer here and Benton County now owns the land. The area is closed due to Derecho damage that occurred in 2020.

YARD WASTE PICK-UP GUIDELINES:

- Set your yard waste out by 6:00am every Wednesday, alongside your trash & recycling.
- Must be placed in either a biodegradable paper yard waste bag or in a container of your own.
- Paper bag or container cannot be greater than 33 gallons or weigh more than 40 lbs.
- Reusable containers must be labeled "Yard Waste".

YARD WASTE ACCEPTED:

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

FROM ATKINS FIRE & EMS

Atkins Fire and EMS responded to 165 calls for service in 2022. This represents a 43% increase in calls over the past 5 years. In 2023, we have responded to 67 calls, 27 more calls than last year. Members have recently completed annual CPR training, Stop the Bleed program, Electrical Safety, and Trench Rescue Awareness.



We currently have four individuals in Paramedic level training, along with one member that is already certified. As our number of Paramedic level service members increase we are looking into upgrading our EMS provider license to begin offering Paramedic level services. This allows us to expand our on scene capabilities as we work alongside our transport service Area Ambulance out of Cedar Rapids. We also have three other members that are in EMT level training. We want to thank those who are putting in the time to achieve these certifications, the average EMT class is about 175 hours and Paramedic level training can be over 900 hours!

We recently added a new member in February and another in March. 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!

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

City of Atkins website <http://www.cityofatkins.org/>

Permits are required for:

- ◇ Building permits - new construction, driveway, remodels/additions, garage/shed, demolition, excavation, fence, pool, roof, etc.
- ◇ Golf carts
- ◇ Chickens

LET'S PLAY BALL!

To complete this job it took:

- Approximately 20 dump trucks of dirt & rock removed
- 157 ton of Ball Diamond Lime
- New Bases
- New Pitchers Mound

THANK YOU to our public works team for their dedication & hard work to maintain our ball diamond at the City Park!



WATERMELON DAYS AUGUST 4 & 5!

ATKINS COMMUNITY CLUB



NEEDS YOU!!!!

We need volunteers! Please reach out to help.

Atkinscommunityclub@gmail.com

PICNIC IN THE PARK!

The picnic tables are out at the park! Please enjoy them, have a picnic, and watch your kids play!!!



CITY OF ATKINS
P.O. BOX 171
ATKINS, IA 52206

VIEW YOUR UTILITY BILL & USAGE 24/7

RECEIVE CITY NOTIFICATIONS!

1. Go to cityofatkins.org.
2. Select Online Bill Pay at the top of the screen.
3. Select “Access your utility account—Pay / View.
4. Click REGISTER NOW.
5. Enter your name and account number.
6. The system will walk you through setting up your account. Click next.

HELPFUL HINTS:

- Have your water bill in front of you.
- Have your account #.
- To sign up for AutoPay, you will need your bank/ credit card number.
- Call City Hall for help! 319 -446-7870.



**ATKINS COMMUNITY
VOLUNTEER
GROUPS:**

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| * Atkins Community Club (ACC) | * American Legion Auxiliary |
| * Atkins Woman's Club | * Boy Scouts |
| * ABC Senior Group | * Girl Scouts |
| * Atkins Improvement Mission (AIM) | * 4-H Club |
| * Atkins 38 Fire Club | * PTA |
| * American Legion 217 | * Pinochle Club |