

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

MARCH 2021

Hello Everyone

I hope you have kept safe and warm. I know around February 15<sup>th</sup> I was wanting to see some of that global warming. The Old Farmer's Almanac says weather goes in cycles, but this go around is a little too cold for my liking. Before you know it, robins will be singing in the back yard and flowers will start to peek out. Yes, I am an optimist and yes, it is below 0 when I'm writing this, and, no, I don't think I'm crazy, but I have a vivid imagination and eternal hope.

Please be careful at intersections and driveways around town. There is so much snow it is hard to see down the street. That being said, give the road crew as much room as possible and remember it takes more time to move this much snow. Be patient and be glad you are not the one clearing it in the middle of the night; I know I am. Thanks, guys, and good job.

So, did my statement about COVID-19 last month have an effect on you? Did you agree or disagree? Did it make you angry or happy, or just give you something to think about? You might not believe this, but I expected to get some feedback. The response was unexpected, not because people disagreed or agreed, but that it was almost 50-50. I was expecting to get yelled at a lot more. Bigger question, why would a health crisis be a controversial subject? Why would a pandemic have so much totally contradicting information? If Dr. Fauci says you should wear two masks, why did he say in the beginning masks don't do any good? Same guy, same pandemic. Baffling! Here is something to think about. Our country is divided over many things, it always has been. Somewhere along the way our political climate, fueled by a media frenzy, has developed a self-serving, must-be-right-at-all-costs attitude... with no regard for the truth or the people. If we disagree, we must yell louder and hate each other because the other person is stupid and has no valid point. Well, that might not be the truth. "That ain't so, Mable." 😊 What happened to: We can agree to disagree and go have a beer together? We used to believe that the best interest of the country and, more importantly, the people is what would win out. Is that the case now? It doesn't seem so when our politicians use people's health, and literally their lives, to pit people against each other. For what? Coupled with a media campaign of death counts, positivity rates, and constantly changing and misleading information... It is disgusting. My brain doesn't think that way. I'm not trying to get anyone to agree or disagree with me, just to hopefully get you to think this through. Trust your own judgement and don't let anyone tell you what or how to think. After all of that, I truly believe this: Opposing views are a good thing. Getting all of your information from one place is a bad thing. Letting someone else think for you is a terrible waste. At the end of the day, remember, Iowa-nice is a real thing and Shellsburg-family is too.

Sorry for the rant, but this has been heavy on my heart. I hope you take it in the positive way it is intended. To get us to use our God-given common sense rather than blindly follow any political views.

As always, thank you for your time.

Lonnie