

Community Matters Now



A monthly publication for Iowa leaders from Extension and Outreach Community and Economic Development

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM ISU EXTENSION AND OUTREACH COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Every year my wife begins to play holiday music at our house right after Thanksgiving. She also drags me to the tree farm to find the perfect tree and puts me on a ladder to hang a tasteful display of outdoor lighting. She accuses me of being a bah-humbugger when it comes to holiday music, holiday movies, decorating the house and such.

This fact is not in dispute; however, I'm revealing here for the first time ever that I'm glad she pushes me a bit because it does put me in the holiday spirit. She seldom reads what I write so this will remain our little secret.

Last Saturday I was in my truck running errands when John Lennon's "Nobody Told Me" played on my purposely-chosen non-holiday station. Many people know this song as Strange Days Indeed....

*Nobody told me there'd be days like these
Strange days indeed
most peculiar, Mama*

How appropriate for 2020, I thought.

Then in the house on Sunday we were listening to one of the estimated 75,000 holiday music collections found on Amazon Music (thank you Jeff Bezos?) when John Lennon's "Happy Christmas (War is Over)" started to play...

*And so this is Christmas
I hope you have fun
The near and the dear ones
The old and the young*

*Have a very merry Christmas
And a happy New Year
Let's hope it's a good one
Without any fears*

OK Lisa, you win. Pearl Jam is off the playlist until January. Messages of hope and caring are better for this time of year than what we usually choose for ourselves the other 10-plus months.

And so these are the messages we in Community and Economic Development deliver to all of you this holiday season. We have 10-plus months to talk about Extension work. For now we simply extend to you our sincere wishes for a 2021 filled with joy, hope, good health, peace and prosperity.

Please be well and cherish the time you are able to spend with those close to you.

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Community Matters Now is published monthly for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Community and Economic Development staff and their clients. Comments, questions, and suggestions regarding the content of this newsletter should be directed to:

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