

I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving and survived the beginning of the holiday shopping season.

Just to let everyone know, the filing period for the April 2, 2013 municipal election begins on December 11 and runs through January 15, 2013. There are positions available in all three Wards, including two in Ward III.

In the Public Works Department the entire crew attended a defensive driving class held at the City Shed. By doing this the City was able to get a savings on our insurance. On November 6 the tornado sirens in the city were tested. It was discovered that the siren on Old Moscow Mills Rd. was not working and has subsequently been repaired. The Wastewater Treatment team is doing an inventory of the equipment at the city's ten lift stations. Once this is complete we will be able to determine how we can adjust our insurance so that we have exactly what we need.

The Building Department issued three new residential and one commercial permits for the month of November with a total construction value of \$428,683.00. We opened the bids for demolition of the house at 650 Cap au Gris with Mick Mehler & Sons being the low bidder at \$19,414.00. The Board of Alderman has tabled this issue until it is determined if the City wants to proceed with the demolition or sell the property.

Sales tax deposits for November were up 63% vs. last year with receipts totaling \$143,616.86. That brought the total for the year to \$870,996.49 which is up 5.44%. The transportation sales tax is also up 5.52% for the year. The City refinanced the Certificates of Participation that raised money for the MBR plant back in 2005. We were hoping for a Net Present Value Savings of at least 4%. We were pleased to receive an 8.02% savings for a total dollar savings of \$201,811.13 and a Standard and Poor's rating of A-. Standard and Poor's told us that if we continue managing our budget as we have been that the next time we get rated we will probably get an A rating.

In the Administrative Department Tonya Hawkins has been promoted to the position of Deputy City Clerk/HR/Payroll Clerk. We want to congratulate Tonya and wish her well in here new position.

The City has awarded the bid for building the sidewalk through Fairgrounds Park to Buchanan High School to Karrenbrock Construction Co. The initial estimates for construction were \$250,600.00 and the bid came in at \$155,710.55. We are waiting for a notice to proceed from MoDOT and then construction can begin when the weather is conducive. At the same time I have been notified by Robert Manzke of the Northeast Dist. office of MoDOT that they should begin design work on the pedestrian bridge over Hwy 61. We will get the official notification of approval sometime in January 2013. Hopefully we will have these two projects completed in a timely manner so that no one will need to walk across the bridge with vehicle traffic any more.

That is it for this month. I hope you all have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Be safe out there and God bless you all.