

The city is prepared for winter, so where is the weather? We have loaded in 1,030 tons of salt – and remember I told you we joined a co-op to save money by buying it in bulk. We ended up saving 24 percent or \$28,500 from last year's expenses. We also have 9,000 gallons of salt brine for pretreating the streets and 850 gallons of calcium.

In the last month, the Public Works Dept. has inspected 6.72 miles of sewer lines, 184 manholes and cleaned 800 feet of sewer main. We are doing this to eliminate outside water from infiltrating our sanitary sewer system. The excess water puts a strain on our sewer plants and we under a directive from the Environmental Protection Agency to eliminate this problem. Citizens should know that it is a crime to discharge your gutters, sump pumps or any other water source into the sanitary sewer system. It is a misdemeanor offense and you could be fined up to \$500.

In a somewhat related note, the city has selected HR Green Engineering to do a water study to show us how to improve the city's water and sewer system. Funds for the study are coming from a grant from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources that will cover 88 percent of the cost.

Sales tax receipts were up this month, and we are now up 1.3 percent, year to date.

The building department issued two building permits in November with a total construction value of \$140,500.

Midwest Pool Management has been selected to manage the new aquatic center when it opens in May. Fees for pool passes have been approved by the Board of Alderman and are listed below.

My wife Phyllis and I want to wish all of you a safe and very happy New Year.