

State of the City Address - Edgerton, Missouri - March 2014
By Mayor James Snook, Jr.

Look around Edgerton and you can see the improvements that have been made using County Parks Grant funds. We are proceeding to finish the projects that the county approved for 2013. We have submitted a new list of projects for county approval totaling about \$60,000, using the last of our \$500,000 Park Grant funds that T.J. Atkins was able to secure for Edgerton. Please thank her since she is from Gower and has put hundreds of hours into the multi-year project for free, no pay asked or given.

We are working to complete the bid package on needed maintenance/repairs to our water tower. Some of this work is required by our friends at DNR and OSHA. The funds for this project have been set aside already. The water rates will not be affected by this work. A tip of the hat goes to city clerks Megan Davis and Jordan Keefhaver for their great work getting the water billing on computer. Jordan has worked to reduce the amount owed us to about \$20,000 from a starting amount of more than \$80,000.

Our sewer project required by DNR is proceeding. The engineering work was completed in early 2013 and is just awaiting approval by DNR to start. Funds for this project were set aside last year and will not affect sewer rates.

The budget for 2014 was completed without raising rates or your taxes.

Plattsburg is in the finishing phases of their water plant upgrade. That project should be finished near the end of 2014. Plattsburg has notified us that at the end of the project they will raise our water costs by less than \$5 per user.

The City Council authorized an agreement with Platte County to construct a new bridge over Grove Creek on Clark Street. The County Road Tax we receive will be used to pay the City's 20% of the total project cost. We expect to be repaying our share for about seven years. The remainder of the cost will be paid by a United Government program. Platte County will be the project coordinator and manager. This commitment of our road funds does mean the streets will only receive minimal treatment.

The Council has approved finding an assistant for Kelly Spiers. We are getting closer to selecting a person for this position. We will send this employee to school to become appropriately certified by DNR as a drinking water and water pollution operator (we know this as a sewer plant operator). Kelly is to be commended for his excellent work clearing snow from our roads this winter and for all of his other work.

Rebecca Sellars did a marvelous job setting up the city website at www.edgertonmo.org. She has continued working on the site as our web site administrator. Go to the site and see what we are about and then send us things to put on the site.

We are working with Boy Scout troops from Edgerton and Platte City in their need of community projects that will qualify the Eagle Scout candidates with individual projects.

We have a great need for individual citizens to step up and participate in community events and organizations. Please consider joining one or more of these groups, as they really need your help. Someone once said freedom isn't really free, "it has a cost of blood, sweat and tears."

Semper Fi
James Snook, Jr.
Mayor, City of Edgerton