



# EDGERTON

Built on a Foundation of Community

FOURTH QUARTER

2014

## City Receives \$2.554 Million Grant

The City of Edgerton will receive \$2,554,000 in grant funds for the upcoming wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) upgrade. The United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Services Agency (RD) has committed the grant funds as well as an additional \$8,624,000 in low interest (3.25%) loan funds. Together the loan and grant will greatly reduce the costs of the WWTP upgrade for the rate payers of Edgerton.

The City's WWTP, built in 1982, was designed to provide 20 years of service before an upgrade would be necessary. However, due to many factors, including replacement of failing sewer mains throughout the sewer system and also strategic small plant improvements over the years, the plant's life has been extended 13 years beyond its designed life, lasting 33 years instead of the 20. Now, many of the mechanical components of the plant are worn and becoming costly to maintain.

The WWTP upgrade will consist of the introduction of a new treatment process. This process can accommodate a greater variety of types of waste, which will allow more flexibility in attracting new businesses. The other major advantage of the plant will be its overall greater capacity, thus accommodating more future growth. One additional thing to note is that many of the existing plant's larger investments, made over the past dozen years or so, will be incorporated into the new plant, meaning a lower total cost for the new facility.

The construction is scheduled to begin in late 2015. The project should be finished by the end of 2016 or early 2017.

## Sewer Rate Increase

The Edgerton Utility Commission recently completed a financial forecasting exercise for the water and sewer utilities. The forecast considered components that affect utility rates such as existing debt, future projects, operating costs, and increased revenues through growth in the City to determine how to best insure quality and safe services are provided as cost effectively as possible. Before the forecasting tool was developed, the Utility and the Council chose to adjust rates with large, infrequent increases. Although this approach would still work, the forecast showed that smaller, inflationary rate increases would provide adequate utility revenue and avoid the infrequent large rate increases.

With this information, the Commission recommended that the City Council implement an inflationary adjustment in rates for the sewer utility only for 2015. This is the first rate increase for either utility since 2011. The City Council agreed with the Utility Commission's recommendation and approved a 3% rate increase for sewer utility. These rates will result in an increase in the quarterly bill for the average residential user (12,000 gallons/quarter) of \$2.52 and an increase of \$4.20 for a large residential user (20,000 gallons/quarter).

## The Browns Donate \$25,000 to the City of Edgerton

Ted and Doris Brown loved their town. In fact, they loved Edgerton so much that they bequeathed \$25,000 to it. This tremendous donation was not given for a specific purpose, such as a piece of artwork or a park improvement. Rather, it was given for "the benefit of civic projects" in the City of Edgerton. With such a wide range of possibilities that qualify as "civic projects," the City Council will have its work cut out for them. The Council will devote time in early 2015 to debate the use of this one-time gift. Mayor Christopher Lund pledges that the use of these funds will be thoughtfully considered and that it will be a priority that they be spent on something positive and long-lasting for the community. Also considered will be projects that would otherwise be unattainable if it were not for this donation.

Ted Brown grew up in Edgerton, graduating from Edgerton High School in 1938. He served in various organizations in our community, typically holding positions that required fiscal skills, which was Ted's area of expertise. Ted's commitment was recognized over the years, including awards such as *Honored Citizen* and also *Citizen of the Year*. Ted passed away in 2006, and Doris passed away in November of this year.

Members of the Brown family indicated that "Their bequest to the City of Edgerton reflects their interest in contributing to the future of the city that meant so much to them." Mayor Lund stated: "We will do our best with the use of these funds to honor the ideals by which the Browns lived."



## PUBLIC WORKS NOTICES



**Winter Parking Rules:** Winter snow parking regulations went into effect on November 1st. Parking is not allowed on any street or highway after any snowfall until snow is plowed back to the curb. Overnight parking in parking lots is restricted to the rear of the lots during any snowfall as posted in all lots.

**Sidewalks:** Please have your sidewalks cleared of snow and ice from edge to edge no later than 24 hours after a snowfall. Failure to clear walks in the appropriate time may result in a fine of \$25.00-\$200.00. Please do not shovel snow into the street.



**Christmas Trees:** Starting January 5, 2015 and every Monday thereafter through January, the Public Works Department will pick up Christmas trees placed at the curb.

## UTILITY NOTICES

**Winter Vacations:** Please consider shutting off your water in the basement if you will be out of town this winter. Shutting off water could prevent damage (and a large water bill) if you have plumbing problems while you are gone. Water cannot be shut off to some appliances, so make sure you review the requirements of your water-using appliances before you shut off the water.

**Snow Around Fire Hydrants:** The Edgerton Water Utility and the Edgerton Fire Protection District encourage residents to clear snow away from fire hydrants that are located near their property. Having easy access to fire hydrants will save precious time if the hydrant is needed to fight a fire. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.



### DOG AND CAT LICENSES



Dog and cat licenses expire on December 31, 2014. Please renew your pet's license before March 30, 2015 to avoid a \$5.00 late fee. Proof of rabies vaccination is **required** by the County in order to obtain a license. If you do not have a copy of the animal's vaccination record, contact your veterinarian for a duplicate copy.

## PROPERTY TAXES

Taxes for City of Edgerton Residents in Rock County can be paid in the Treasurer's Office at the Rock County Court House in Janesville. Dane County residents within the City of Edgerton can pay taxes at the Edgerton City Hall.

## Notice of Spring Election

The spring election will be held in the City of Edgerton on Tuesday, April 7, 2015. The following offices are to be elected to succeed the present incumbents listed. The term of alderperson begins on Tuesday, April 15, 2015. All terms are for two years unless otherwise indicated.

### OFFICE

Alderson District 1(1 yr term)

Alderson District 1(2 yr term)

Alderson District 2

Alderson District 3

### INCUMBENT

Lyle Maves

Matt McIntyre

Candy Davis

Mark Wellnitz

The first day to circulate nomination papers was Monday, December 1, 2014, and the final day for filing nomination papers is 5:00 pm on Tuesday, January 6, 2015 in the office of the City Clerk. Candidates can obtain papers at City Hall or at <http://gab.wi.gov>. If a primary is necessary, the primary will be held on Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at City Hall.

## NEW VOTING MACHINE

In 2015, voters will see a new voting tabulator machine. The current Optic Eagle machine was purchased in 1991 and has been extremely reliable given its age. Because of new technology, the manufacturer has stopped making replacement parts and is offering new and improved systems. The City's machine, along with all the other tabulator machines used in Rock County, are being replaced with the new DS200.

The DS200 uses the flexibility and efficiency of the latest digital image technology while still having a paper-based ballot system. The machine will not only count the paper ballots but also scan an image of each ballot creating extra security. Dane County switched to this type of machine in 2014 and the reviews have been very favorable.

## COMMUNITY GARDEN INFO

Garden plots are available for the community garden on Lyons St on a first-come, first serve basis. Plots can be reserved at the Edgerton City Hall after January 1st. Current participants have from November 1st until December 31st to request to continue using their same plot otherwise it will be available to the public on January 1st.

Only one garden plot will be allowed per household. If plots are still available as of June 1st, current users may request an additional plot. Water is available at the garden site. The hand pump located at the rear of the gardens is available for use. Gardeners must supply their own bucket or watering container.

Please stop in to City Hall for a complete list of rules and regulations or visit our website at [www.cityofedgerton.com](http://www.cityofedgerton.com)

## 911 Tower

A new 911 communications tower will soon be visible on the Edgerton skyline. Rock County is building the 185' tall tower on Artisan Drive on the west side of Edgerton to improve emergency communications. Law enforcement and fire/EMS agencies have experienced communication coverage issues utilizing the existing tower at the Fire District office. The new, taller tower will increase emergency communications coverage for northern Rock County, including Milton, and allow for additional channels to be added in the future. The one acre site provides space for the tower as well as an equipment building to house a variety of telecommunications/radio equipment. This tower site will house the new Fire Main Simulcast Addition as well as be used for the new County Main Simulcast System for law enforcement agencies.