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FROM THE MAYOR

Hopefully, you have all been able to survive 2020 in a healthy manner. As of this writing we still do not know what 2021 will bring. With the different vaccines that are being delivered around our country we are hopeful for a much better 2021. I want to thank all our frontline healthcare workers for everything that they have done to help us all get to this point in our recovery. These men and women have sacrificed so much in helping get us through this pandemic so far. Please be sure to thank them when you see them. We cannot give them enough thank you's or respect for their efforts during this past year. As the year moves forward, we like you, hope to see somewhat of a more normal year.

I also want to thank all our city employees for the great job they did this past year. This pandemic was something new for all of us. We have not escaped the Covid-19 unscathed. We have had to learn how to provide our services to you in a different way in many cases. We also have had several employees become ill with this virus. Each time we were hit with something new our employees stepped up and took care of business. I am proud and appreciative on how they responded to this difficult time.

On behalf of myself, our city elected officials, and our city employees we wish you all a Happy New Year.

FROM THE WATER and WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT

Do you use a water softener at your home or business? Water softeners are commonly used to remove the "hardness" from water caused by naturally occurring minerals.

The salt that you use to help soften your water ultimately gets sent to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The wastewater treatment process cannot remove the chlorides that come from salt, so the chlorides that come into WWTP pass through and are discharged to the Pigeon Creek. This is a problem because high levels of chlorides in the receiving stream can be harmful to aquatic plants and animals.

The Angola Water Department softens its water at the water treatment plant, so water softeners may not be necessary for those using city water supplies. A water hardness test can determine whether softening is necessary. If using a water softener, make sure that the softener is set to use only enough salt to soften to your needs. Homeowners frequently use more salt than necessary to soften their water; softening more than necessary is throwing money down the drain!

Whether you are in the market to purchase a new softener or a bag of salt, please consider the following:

- Determine if a water softener is necessary: Before investing in a water softener, water hardness should be determined. The Water Department will provide free hardness testing. To schedule an appointment, please contact the City Utilities office at 665-3422.
- Use less salt: Many homeowners use at least twice as much salt to soften their water than necessary.
- Correctly set the recharge / backwash cycle: Many softeners are set to recharge or backwash too frequently. Adjusting the backwash cycle to the appropriate time period between each backwash may significantly reduce the amount of sodium and chloride discharged into the sewer system.
- Soften wisely: Toilets, outdoor hose bibs, and other sources not used for bathing, laundry or cleaning do not need to be softened.

To schedule an appointment for free water hardness testing, please contact the City Utilities office at 665-3422.

FROM THE PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The Angola Parks and Recreation are busy planning for an enjoyable 2021. We are preparing for safe programs and events that our community can enjoy. As always, we have plenty of socially distant recreational opportunities such as our 18-hole Commons Park Disc Golf Course, four playgrounds, two top of the line basketball courts and two pickleball courts. Pickleball nets will be set up from 8:30am – 4:00pm for open play during the months of May to September. Want to try disc golf but do not want to buy your own set? Come down to the office and borrow ours for the day!

If you have lost a loved one this year, please remember our Memorial Tree Program. For a minimum donation of \$75 you may honor a special person. Since 2001 there have been 476 trees planted to memorialize lost loved ones. There is no better way to celebrate the loss of life than the gift of life.

Also, your keep eye on your utility bill for information regarding the City-Wide Tree Give-Away. We will once again be giving away trees to city residents to be planted on their property.

Pavilion reservations started on October 1st for the 2021 season. As of October 2019, we have an INDOOR rental facility. Commons Hall seats 160 around 20 round, 8-foot tables! There is a full kitchen, restrooms, and an outdoor pavilion. To make a reservation for this facility or any of our other pavilions please call us at 260.665.1588. Also "like" us on Facebook for more Park information. Have a wonderful holiday season from all of us at the park!

FROM THE STREET DEPARTMENT

As you clean off your driveways this winter, remember to shovel your snow to the **right** at the end of your driveway as you are going out. This should help prevent that snow from being pushed back in front of your driveway when the snowplows go through again. Also, please remember to avoid putting any snow from your drive or sidewalks into the city streets.

FROM THE MS4/ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Winter Salt Tips Revisited

With the winter season upon us, here are a few useful tips that will help keep you safe and protect our water resources by preventing road salt and other pollutants from entering storm drains. Remember, runoff from melting snow is not treated by a treatment plant; therefore, any pollution picked up from snowmelt eventually makes its way into our lakes, rivers, and wetlands both naturally and through the storm drainage system. Experts say one teaspoon of salt can permanently pollute 5 gallons of water!!!

1. Shovel First. The more snow and ice you can shovel from your driveway and sidewalks, the less salt you will need to apply. Salt is way more effective when it can contact the actual surface.
2. Check the Temperature. Road salt only works when the temperature is 15°F or above. If it's friction you need, use sand. But remember, sand DOES NOT melt ice!!
3. Use Both Salt and Sand Sparingly! More salt DOES NOT mean more melting!! One 12-ounce cup of salt is enough to cover about 10 sidewalk squares, and really, there only needs to be about 3 inches between salt granules to be effective. Be sure to sweep up excess salt and sand. If salt or sand is visible on dry pavement, it is no longer serving a purpose and can easily be carried into storm drains by snowmelt or rain. From there, it's a direct route to local waterways.
4. Best Time to Apply Salt. Salt works best when it is applied BEFORE snow falls or RIGHT AFTER snow is removed from your driveway and sidewalks. Don't ever apply salt when sleet or freezing rain is in the forecast. It will be washed directly into a storm drain and make its way into local waterways.
5. Salt Only Sidewalks and Driveways. Salt only belongs on sidewalks and driveways, never on lawns, in flower beds or around tree bases and definitely not in local waterways!!!

By following these few simple tips, local water resources will benefit!!