



## From the Mayor's Desk By K.J. McDonald

**W**e are all facing economic pressure these days, including, our city government.

**A**ll small cities, like ours, are getting squeezed between the need of city services and declining revenues.

**B**udgets can only be cut just so much without eliminating core services. We know this is happening with our public and private school systems.

**A**dded to the pressure are the unfunded mandates by state and federal governments that hardly ever go away. We cannot afford to do everything we used to do or would like to do. It's not much different for families living in Watertown. This is one reason I'm grateful that the new owners of Market Place Food are making reasonable efforts to reduce their food prices and remain competitive with the big boys in the business. Local main street businesses remaining profitable is vital to community well being.

**A**nd just like in the private sector, the city must look at ongoing maintenance costs and compare these with true needs of our equipment, infrastructure and personnel.

**T**hat's the main reason I did not support, at this time, building the roundabout at the "Y". I do believe we must do a job with appropriate inspection of our infrastructure to decide what must be done now versus what can be deferred.

**B**ecause public safety is always in the forefront of our planning and expending of funds, we need the care and support of all to carry out our mission for the benefit of every citizen. Therefore, we invite your input on the issues of our day.

**S**o, because of decreasing city revenues, it's important to understand that the city's obligation is to exercise reasonable care to maintain what we have and provide the essentials.

**N**ow is the time to find new, innovative and cost effective ways to do what we must do. It's near impossible to do more with less but it's possible to learn from working with each other in order to do better with what we all have. It's too bad that the federal government can't learn to do the same.

**B**ut instead they are spending our children's future and putting them into debt without an apparent end. I hope that we the people can stop them and soon.