

I hope everyone had a safe and blessed Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends. Phyllis and I had around twenty people at our house that day and everyone had a wonderful time. Lots of marvelous food and fellowship, and let me tell you that we were exhausted at the end of the day.

In the Parks Department, Director Ryan Howell was approached by a woman that wanted to purchase a memorial tree or memorial bench to be placed in one of the City's parks. The city doesn't have regulations or guidelines for that type of activity so the Park Board is going to look into how we can make that available to people that might be interested. Director Howell gave the board a final report on the aquatic center's season. Total revenue was \$99,213.21; up \$11,780.66 from 2114. Expenses were \$172,775.06; down \$27,913.92. We will continue next year to work at closing the gap.

The Troy Police Department has spent the months of October and November conducting firearms training. This included a tactical night fire course using shooting simulation equipment, the I Marksman. The officers were also trained with the new shotguns that were purchased with drug forfeiture money and these weapons are now being used by our patrol officers.

Lieutenants James Patton, Brian Walker and Dustyn Tienter attended the Incident Command System training which was held at the Lincoln County Firehouse. The training was an advanced course, which provides a standardized approach to the command, control, and coordination of emergency response, providing a common hierarchy within the responders from multiple agencies which can be very effective. The department has also received training in the use of the Taser, and they hosted a breathalyzer certification course. These courses will certify the officers in the proper use and documentation for each of these pieces of equipment.

The Troy Police Department assisted the St. Charles County Cyber Crimes unit with a search warrant in Troy. During the search, suspected child pornography was located. Additional crimes are suspected and the case remains under investigation.

The department has seen an increase in synthetic drug related cases. In the past month, Troy officers have investigated 2 overdoses related to the use of synthetic marijuana. Although these incidents did not result in a death, the subjects were in poor condition and had to be transported to the hospital for treatment. Please stay away from this stuff. No one, except the mad scientist that made the synthetic drug, knows what is in it and some of those chemicals can kill you. Parents, keep a close eye on your children and watch for strange behaviors.

Finally, the department assisted in a canine search of the parking lot of the school. Numerous canines from several agencies were deployed to perform free air sniffs near and around vehicles at the school. Several arrests were made as a result of this proactive activity.

In the Public Works Department we are prepared for inclement weather; we took delivery of the final 500 tons of salt that we ordered for this winter. The City now has a total of 1000 tons of salt readily available. Now I'm not ready for any snow any time soon, but at least I know we are ready if and when it does come. We placed 16 tons of asphalt in pothole patching and/or full depth repairs, and we also placed twelve (12) cubic yards of concrete in both repair and maintenance of our streets. During the month of November, the City picked up five (5) dogs-at-large. We returned four dogs to their owners, and we still have one in the pound.

In the Building Department we issued six permits for new housing starts, which brings our total for this fiscal year to twenty. We always budget conservatively on these types of permits, but if we have a decent month in December we could surpass our budgeted total of new housing permits within the first six months of 2015-2016. The department issued permits to Warrenton Oil Co. for a convenience store with a drive-through window, car wash, and gas station to be located on the site of the old cement factory on S. Lincoln Dr. Another permit was issued to the R-III School District to build the new safe room/fine arts center and one to the Air Evac Team for a new building near the hospital.

Sales tax deposits for November of 2015 were 3.07% lower than deposits for November of 2014. The 1% local sales tax was 3.04% lower, the ½% transportation tax was 3.07% lower and the ½% capital improvement tax was 3.05% lower. For the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year, our sales tax receipts are up by 4.52%.

Candidate filing for the April 5, 2016 General Municipal Election starts on December 15th at 8:00 am. There is one seat for the Board of Alderman from each of the three wards up for election to a two year term. You need to be 18 years old, have lived in the city of Troy at least one year, and live in the ward that you will represent. Filing continues through 5:00 pm, Tuesday January 19, 2016. Serving on the Board of Alderman can be very rewarding, as you get the opportunity to shape the City of Troy's future. There is so much to learn that affects your life every day; it's amazing. I wish I had gotten involved sooner than I did.

We hope to finalize, by the December 21st board meeting, a contract with Cochran Engineering to design the rebuild of E. Cherry St., from Main St. to Lincoln Dr. If the contract is approved by the board, planning would begin January 1, 2016 and would take about a year to complete. At this point I am estimating that the construction phase would then take another year to complete. We would be redoing the storm sewers to make sure there is sufficient drainage, and we would relocate the sanitary sewer line and the water line, that currently run under E. Cherry St., to be alongside of the street so that if we ever have to work on them we would not have to tear up the street. We are hoping to put ADA compliant sidewalks on both sides of the street, so people have a safe place to walk and make businesses along E. Cherry St. more accessible to foot traffic.

That is it for this month. I hope you all have a safe and blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. When it snows (and we all know it is going to snow) slow down, make room for the plow trucks and most of all watch out for the "other guy". Be kind to one another and God Bless you all. I will see you again in 2016.