

The Police Department is working with the contractor that is building the pedestrian bridge over Hwy 61 to take care of any traffic issues that might arise. The bridge is coming along nicely and is estimated to be complete sometime in late October. That will be the final phase of a sidewalk project that gives us a new sidewalk from Main St., down Monroe St. through the park and then over to the high school.

Over the past month the Public Works Department has picked up four dogs at large. Two were returned to their owners and two are still in the pound. I remind everyone that every year starting on July 1 you need to come to city hall and get a tag for your dog. That way if your dog should ever get loose we could contact you to come and get him or her.

The Public Works guys have been doing some smoke testing of the sewer lines in various areas of the city. This process is used to find leaks in the sanitary sewer system along with illegal hook ups that let storm water or water from other sources into the sewer system. When that happens it puts unnecessary pressure on the wastewater treatment plants. Basically the plants are treating water that doesn't need to be treated. I would like to remind everyone that ordinance 705.050 states: *Surface Water*. No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged, any storm waters, surface water, ground water, roof runoff, subsurface drainage, uncontaminated cooling water or unpolluted industrial process waters to any sanitary sewer. In the long run it will save you, the tax payers, money because it will reduce wear and tear on the plants which means less repairs. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

All eight of the tornado sirens were tested on August 6, 2014 and it was found that the siren at Hwy 47 west was not working. We have called the technician to check it out and get it fixed as soon as possible.

Sales tax deposits for August 2014 were 10.92% more than deposits for August of 2013. The 1% Local Sales Tax was 11.01% higher, the ½% transportation tax was 11.0% higher and the ½% Capital Improvement's Tax was 10.64% higher than August of 2013. Our sales tax deposits are up by 17.72% for the 2015 fiscal year.

Representatives from the accounting firm of Croghan and Croghan P.C. were in our offices on Thursday, July 24, 2014 to begin the process for the audit and preparation of financial statements for our 2013-2014 fiscal year. This happens every year and we get the results of the audit towards the end of the year.

Upon receipt of tax rate computations of the 2014 property tax rate ceilings by the State of Missouri, it was necessary to hold a public hearing and adopt the tax rates by September 1, 2014. That public hearing was held August 28, 2014. As discussed during budget workshops, the Board of Alderman voted to continue the voluntary reduction of fifteen cents (\$.15). That tax rate is \$.2105 for every \$100.00 of assessed valuation.

At the request of Aquatic Center pool patrons last year, the Aquatic Center was open 4pm-8pm Monday through Friday after school started August 14th and from noon to 8pm on Saturdays and Sundays. I hope that many of you were able to take advantage of the extended hours.

Jodi Schneider, City Clerk, has been working to scan minutes from Board of Alderman meetings into the computer. This software system was purchased during the prior year's budget and to date minutes going back to 1987 are stored. This allows for faster searches for information that is required to fill requests by citizens as well as staff.

M & H Concrete has been awarded the contract to do repairs to Judy Lane from Huntington to Huntington. The contract price was \$119,999.50 and comes with a substantial completion date of October 23, 2014 and a final completion date of November 7, 2014. The homeowners on Judy will be notified of any inconvenience while the job is underway.

The firm f3 Inc. has been awarded the contract to design improvements to Fairgrounds Park parking lot and Monroe St. through the park. The concept would be to move Monroe St. to along the trees and the parking lot adjacent to the park itself thereby eliminating park goers from having to cross the street to get to the park facilities. The city budgeted money for improvements but if the bids are too high we would just improve the current parking lot and have it restriped.

We I am a bit late with this message this month so I will stop for now. Watch out for the kids now that school has started again and be kind to one another.

God bless you all.

Mark