

The last month has been something. I was hoping that we were past most of the bad weather but that didn't happen and it appears that we are not done yet, this is like the winter that will never end. Through February 20<sup>th</sup> the street department has exceeded their overtime budget by 21.5% so we will have to take money from another line item in the budget in order to cover that shortage. Over the last couple of winters we have not used the entire overtime budget so I guess we were due.

In the past month the Troy Police Dept. has been working on a scam where a local gentleman was contacted by email, offering him a job as a secret shopper at one of our local businesses. After filling out some paperwork, they advised him he had qualified and sent him a check for \$2,270.00 asking him to go to Dollar Tree, spend a little time in their shopping. He was to observe the employees, the condition of the store and then they mentioned they would like him to purchase four \$500.00 gift cards with the money from the check they had sent him. They wanted him to scratch off the back and give them the codes to each gift card. He was told to keep the rest of the money from the check. Of course the check was fraudulent, which is a crime itself. The gentleman did not follow through but after receiving the check he contacted the Troy Police Department. If you are contacted by someone you don't know to do something that seems too good to be true, please contact the police.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of February there was a ceremony for raising the new flag at the S. Lincoln Dr. overpass round a bout. The ceremony was attended by many military veterans who came over after their weekly coffee talk at LACOA. The local chapter of the Masons as well as members of nearby chapters conducted the ceremony. All in all there were about sixty people that attended and now Old Glory flies triumphantly at the southern entrance to the City of Troy. I want to thank all of the people that had a part in getting this project done; Jim Ditter of the Mason's; Kerry Klump, Troy CVB; Ameren Missouri, Gerstner Electric; Troy Public Works Dept. and last but not least 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Alderman Dennis Detert who had the idea to put up the flag in the first place. I could name others that were involved but there are too many to mention but it truly was a group effort.

The Board of Alderman awarded the bid for the city's new well (#13) to Drury Contracting Inc. in the amount of \$677,531 which was the low bid. While this bid was slightly higher than what was budgeted for this project due to requirement changes from MoDNR we feel that the final cost will come in right on budget.

We continue to have a situation where people's dogs get loose and have to be picked up and they don't have a city tag. The tags are just \$1.00 and they will have your contact information on them so that if we pick up your dog we will be able to let you know that we have your family member. Just come to City Hall and talk to Becky and she will be happy to take care of your needs. In the last month the city has picked up four dogs, two were returned to their owners, one was turned over to an adoption agency and at last check one was at the city pound. Call 528-4646 for more info.

Sales Tax deposits for February 2014 were up by 2.56% as compared to February of 2013. The 1% Local Sales Tax was 2.59% higher, the ½% transportation Tax was 2.33% higher and the ½% Capital Improvement tax was 2.74% higher than February of 2013. February's deposits would be for December's collections. Our sales tax receipts for Fiscal Year 2014 are up by \$70,875 or 2.52%

In the Building Dept., the Board approved the site plan subdividing and commercial building permit for Tyke Town Development Center located at the corner of Prospect Circle and Market Place Street as submitted by Bart Berneking. Tyke Town is currently located in the Rhodes Building behind Community State Bank. The new location is directly behind Auto Zone and across the street from Coose Title

Co. Also approved was a permit for an expansion of F & S Collision located at 20 Travis Court just off of S. Lincoln Dr. Finally, on February 27<sup>th</sup> there was a Public Hearing/meeting of the P & Z Commission authorizing a conditional use permit for a new Chrysler Dealership that will be located on Turnbull Trail across the street from the Family Services Building. This new business will bring approximately 30 new jobs to the city.

The Board of Alderman approved the use of Fairgrounds Park for the start of the annual Resources 4 Autism Walk, April 26, 2014. The walk will start in the park and walk down Monroe St. to Main St. and go north to Main Street Elementary School. Also approved was use of Avery Family Playground for the First Baptist Church Walk for Missions on April 4, 2014.

I know it seems that we are in the winter that will never end but surely spring can't be too far away, after all Cardinal pitchers and catchers have reported to spring training which means baseball season isn't too far away.

Be careful out there and God bless you all.