

After several years of very hard and tedious work, the Historic Preservation Commission along with the City of Troy has been successful in gaining the designation for the downtown section of the City as part of the National Register of Historic Places. This is a prestigious designation and should be beneficial to bringing some tourist activity to the City of Troy and its downtown.

According to Federal and State guidelines, cities are urged/required to use less salt when treating streets. As we approach the snow season the Public Works Dept. has adjusted to meet these goals. We have talked to some other cities and they have been using beet juice. This reduces the amount of salt they have been using and works at lower temps. This year we are set up to use beet juice. When the trucks are filled with salt they will have their loads sprayed with beet juice. This will keep the streets treated longer thereby reducing the amount of salt needed. In addition, the PWD has installed ground speed controls on the trucks. What this does is spread the salt based on the speed that the truck is moving. So if the truck slows down so does the dispersal of salt. The salt co-op that the City joined several years ago has decided to rebid the salt and hauling this year. Last year we were paying \$60.10 per ton delivered, this year we will be paying \$56.69 delivered. We currently have 500 tons on hand and will be receiving 500 more tons in February. The total savings to the City is just over \$1700.00.

Many of you have asked why sections of the new sidewalk on Monroe St. are being torn up. When the final inspection was done those sections did not meet the Federal Guidelines for the Americans with Disabilities Act as required by the contract. After some discussions with the contractor he agreed to replace the non-compliant sections at no additional cost to the City. Hopefully the weather improves enough that he can get done with the repairs as soon as possible.

Sales tax deposits for November of 2013 were up nearly 1% as compared to November of 2012. The 1% Local Sales Tax was 1.49% higher, the ½% Transportation Tax was 3.12% lower and the ½% Capital Improvement Tax was 4.53% higher than November of 2012. For the Fiscal year 2013-2014 our total sales tax receipts are up by 1.67%. I would like to point out a couple of things that confuse some people about sales tax. First the City sales tax has been running ahead every month since the start of the fiscal year and for the fiscal year 2012-2013 was flat vs. the year before. That is compared to the numbers posted in the Lincoln County Journal by Lincoln County showing them being consistently down. Secondly, I hear people always talking about how they shop outside of Troy because the sales tax is too high. Every city has to collect the state's sales tax of 4.225%. Troy City's tax rate is 2.0% which is the same as O'Fallon, St. Peters and Warrenton. Wentzville has a 2.5% sales tax. The difference is in the county sales tax. Lincoln County has a 2.25% rate compared to St. Charles' rate of 1.725%. So Troy's sales tax rate is in line with surrounding communities.

For those that are interested in running for public office in the City's municipal election in April 2014 the sign up period begins at 8:00 a.m. December 17, 2013. Offices up for election in April are: Mayor (4-year term) and Aldermen (2-year term) in Wards I, II, III. The last day of candidate filing will be January 21, 2014 at 4:30 p.m. Please use the east-access-double door entrance to make declaration of candidacy.

The City will be handing out city ornaments for the Night of 1000 stars on Friday, December 6th.

An open house Public Forum will be held at Troy City Hall on Thursday December 19, 2013 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. to get public input and show the public the preliminary plans for the Cherry Blossom Way project. The Cherry Blossom Way Improvements project will encompass the removal and replacement of Cherry Blossom Way from Main St. to Third St. The improvements will widen the roadway to provide two traffic lanes, a center turn lane, curb and gutter and a sidewalk along the north side of the

road. The project will also provide improvements to the existing storm sewers in the corridor. Tentative schedules for construction will be discussed at the hearing.

The Board of Alderman approved an ordinance for the voluntary annexation of a piece of property at 132 Mennemeyer Rd. at its last meeting. The property will be zoned R-1.

The Board also authorized a Notice of Intent to renew the Management Agreement with Midwest Pools for 2014.

Several members of the Neighborhood Association from Whitetail Crossing subdivision approached the board seeking a solution to their problem of people speeding through the subdivision. They requested that the City place additional stop signs at agreed to locations along Whitetail Crossing Dr., Fawn Run, Gobbler Ln and Turkey Roost Ct. The Police Dept. has also agreed to step up patrols in the area as a deterrent. Anyone that observes speeding or needs a Police Officer for any reason should call 528-6100.

Finally, if you would be interested in ringing the bell for the Salvation Army during the holiday season you can call Phyllis at 462-2458 and she will be happy to find a place on the schedule for you.

That's it for this month. Have a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Above all be kind to one another. God bless you all.