

Mark Cross... from the Mayor's Desk

How quickly we are into December. Our holiday decorations are up – I hope you saw the newly donated bucket truck decorating the light poles along Main Street and beyond. It sure made the work a lot easier and faster.

The Salvation Army bell ringers are posted at Walgreens, Kroger and both Wal-Mart entrances starting the Friday after Thanksgiving. Ringers will be at these locations most evenings, weekdays and every Saturday. If you are interested in becoming a bell ringer this holiday season, contact Phyllis Cross, bell-ringer coordinator and my wife, at 636-462-2458.

As we begin to close out the year, we are happy to report that we have twice as many residential and commercial building permits this year versus 2009 (96 vs 48) with a month still to go.

More good news is that our sales tax revenue is making a comeback from a slump earlier in the year, slowly and surely. Now, for the year, our sales tax is down only 2.4 percent going into December (compared to being down 4.4 last month.) With December normally being the biggest sales month, thus producing favorable sales tax revenue, there is a good chance we will end the year on a positive note. Keep in mind that the city derives its revenue from property tax, personal property tax and sales tax.

Regarding city maintenance work, we have been conducting smoke testing in the sewer system in order to identify leaks for repair work. We certainly would want you to call the fire department if you saw smoke near a home. However, it may be the result of this testing. Again, don't hesitate to call, but I want you to be aware of the testing.

During the past month, the city has taken in six stray dogs

and returned three to their owners because they had city tags. I encourage everyone to get a city tag for your pet. The cost is less than a personalized identification tag and the tag still can get your dog back to you.



Mayor of Troy, Mark Cross

The most exciting news is that Troy is going to have an aquatic center, otherwise known as a municipal swimming facility, set to open Memorial Day 2012. We are meeting with Westport Pools from Maryland Heights to come up with a design. We still have a long way to go in the process, but it is an exciting development. We are looking into locations and are considering a piece of property adjacent to Troy City Hall as it is centrally located and has good access.

Finally, please join me in visiting the Downtown Merchants in Troy for the Night of 1,000 Stars on Friday, December 3, starting at 6 p.m. for holiday cheer and shopping. All the stores will be open and offering snacks and treats for shoppers and visitors. We look forward to lots of community participation.

Don't forget this holiday season to reach out and help a neighbor in need if you are able. Shop locally and enjoy the season. Talk to you next year!

Santa Claus is coming to town:

Santa will arrive in style in a **Hawk Point** fire engine and will be ready to hear what the kids want for Christmas on Saturday, December 11, from 9 - 11:30 a.m., at the Hawk Point Lions Club. Bring the kids with the whole family for fun, food and song. It's all free, but remember to bring a donation for the food pantry. The Missouri Community Betterment Committee of the Hawk Point Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the event.



Not sure of the mode of transportation that brings Santa to **Moscow Mills** but he'll be at the Moscow Mills Community Building on Highway C, next to the fire house, on Wednesday, December 8, from 5 - 7 p.m. Good treats, hot dogs, chips, cookies and drinks. It's all free but again, bring a canned good for the local food pantry.

Happy Holidays! Ho Ho Ho!

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