

Mark Cross... the Mayor's Desk in Troy

Greetings. I have lots of updates for you this month and exciting news for our snow-covered community. (Think spring!) We recently received a \$200,000 transportation enhancement grant through MoDOT from the federal government. This grant will provide a walking/bicycle trail from Monroe Street through Fairgrounds Park and then up Cap Au Gris to Troy Buchanan High School. This grant includes bicycle racks at the park and school as well as marked crosswalks at all intersections. This trail will be fully ADA compliant. We are excited to offer our students more options for safe travel to the high school.

The City of Troy has purchased land adjacent to City Hall and Fairgrounds Park for our new aquatic center. We have also signed an agreement with Westport Pools from Maryland Heights to develop the center. Our target date for completion is still Memorial Day 2012.

Speaking of completion, the construction at the intersection of Cherry Street and Lincoln Drive is on hold until the weather warms up. Once we get started again, you'll see rapid progress. We almost got it finished before the cold weather, but didn't quite make it.

Regarding weather conditions and our roads, our street crews have continued to battle the snow this year. Just want to mention that it would be helpful for people to park their cars in the driveway when we anticipate snow or during a snow storm. That way, we can get the streets completely clear without dodging cars. It will also give you a clear parking spot, a wider road and not

bury your car. We hope this recent snow fall is the last for the season but it is still early yet.

In our effort to plan ahead for future development, we are

working with MoDOT on a plan to have the South Lincoln Drive overpass include a modification to start a bypass road around the south of Troy to meet up with Main Street. This is a preliminary discussion, but the Board of Alderman indicated that they were interested in the project as it would be cheaper to prepare now while the overpass is being built rather than redo it five or ten years from now. If we make an investment now, it could help encourage growth in the southern portion of Troy.

Finally, I can't write a column without mentioning our sales tax receipt numbers, as it is a major stream of revenue for Troy. Our November collections were down 3 percent versus the same period from last year. For 2010, we are still down 4 percent from the previous year. However, we still have December to include for our 2010 numbers. I'm optimistic because this will include a good bit of holiday shopping and I know the stores seemed very busy this year. I'll have our final numbers for 2010 in my next column.

Until then, stay warm and have a great February.



Mayor of Troy Mark Cross

Bell Ringers bring in much needed funds despite the economy

More than 800 volunteers rang bells for approximately 2,000 hours in Lincoln County during the holiday season. The collections during the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Bell Ringing campaign, coupled with the private and corporate donations during the year, supply the Salvation Army's Lincoln County budget. This bell ringing season ended just \$1,300 shy of its \$45,000 goal, which is \$3,700 more than was raised last year.

The Salvation Army in Lincoln County provides assistance to the impoverished, disabled and homeless. They offer emergency relief for utility payment and medical needs as well as disaster relief. Other programs include back-to-school supplies, clothing, soup kitchens, shelter and food for fire victims. How much assistance they can provide depends on the funds, including those in the Red Kettle.

Hawk Point Athletic Association presents:



Baseball and softball sign-ups on
February 4 and 5

(See calendar on page 11)

An All-You-Can-Eat Breakfast
February 20, 8 am to 12:30 pm
At the Hawk Point Community Building
\$7 per person with proceeds benefiting the HPA.



The recycling trailer is being dropped off. Photo submitted by Hawk Point City Clerk Julie Rodgers.

Recycling comes to Hawk Point

The City of Hawk Point is now providing a recycling trailer, located in the parking lot between City Hall and the police department. The following items are being accepted at this time: all paper, newspaper, magazines, cardboard, plastic and aluminum. (Glass is currently not being accepted.)

Because of the location, drop-offs can be made at any time. The City asks that citizens not place other trash in the containers. The use of the recycling trailer is not exclusive to Hawk Point residents- it is open to people from the surrounding area.

The Hawk Point January police report was not ready in time for the publication deadline.