

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

**H**appy New Year! I hope you and your family had safe and pleasant holidays. I want to update you on the sales tax and building permits, two numbers we have been watching closely here at City Hall.

Sales tax numbers were back down by 12.26 percent, which puts us down (or minus) 4.2 percent for the year to date. (Keep in mind that the city derives revenue from sales tax.) However, these are not final numbers and do not include November or December. Retail sales for those two months should be higher. Stay tuned.

On a more positive note, the franchise tax, which is collected by Ameren on utility bills, was up 16 percent against the same month a year ago. The City of Troy receives this payment every six months. I attribute the increase in electricity usage to the fact that last year, Toyota was not building any cars. This meant that Bodine Aluminum was not manufacturing any engine blocks. This year, Toyota is building again, so Bodine is busy using more energy, which increases the tax payment.

In the month of November, we issued seven building permits for construction valued at \$647,500. That brings our total permits issued so far in this fiscal year to 37. We anticipated issuing 50 permits from July 1, 2010, to June 30, 2011, so we are already close to the mark. I feel pretty good about that.

I also feel pretty good about the road crews getting out and keeping the streets drivable during our two most recent weather

events. So far, our road crew has spread 125 tons of salt on city streets.

Regarding city streets, we are making great progress at the intersection of South Lincoln Drive and Cherry. Weather permitting, we should get an asphalt overlay on the corner. However, if the weather stays cold, the asphalt plant will have to shut down for the winter and it will be March before we can do the overlay. Keep your fingers crossed that the weather will allow us to wrap this project up ahead of schedule.

Finally, I want to thank our citizens for their cooperation during the smoke testing in the sewer system. I mentioned the testing was going on last month in my column. The results of those tests lead to some significant repairs that should ease our problems at the sewer plant. Thanks for your patience and understanding.

Once again, my best wishes to you in the new year: May 2011 be a prosperous and productive one for you and your family.



Mayor of Troy Mark Cross

## Robert Henebry... the Mayor's Desk in Hawk Point

**S**ince this is my first column in Around Town and the start of the New Year, I wanted to highlight some Hawk Point achievements in 2010 as we step into 2011.

Hawk Point now has an early warning system that alerts citizens to emergencies, like tornadoes. The system is activated by me, the police or fire department and can be set off remotely. The system extends 1.5 miles out, which means it is within earshot of all of Hawk Point and a little bit beyond.

City Hall moved next door to the old Reinhold Electric building in May and the police department now resides in the building formerly housing City Hall. The new City Hall offices are spacious. The building has plenty of storage and a garage in the back to house the city's backup generator, tractor, snow plow and other maintenance equipment.

The police department has a new car, which was purchased in 2010. A USDA grant provided 35 percent of the car's purchase price and \$9,900 in police car equipment (like a light bar and other specialty equipment). The police department building has its own garage to house the car when it's not in use. As you may already know, Robert Bone is the new Hawk Point police chief, appointed in October. He has been a member of the department since last January. (See related story.)

In the next issue of Around Town, I look forward to talking to you about our public water and waste water system. This has been a huge priority for our community and holds the key to our quality of life and future expansion. I plan to share details and good news! In the meantime, happy New Year.



Hawk Point  
Police Chief Bob  
Bone

### Hawk Police Police Chief Bob Bone gives update

**B**ob Bone was appointed as the Hawk Point police chief in October. He replaced Paul Fricke who died August 27, when his police cruiser crashed.

"Hawk Point is a pretty quiet community. We do mostly traffic stops and an occasional broken window," said Bone. "For 2011, we'd like to add more hours with a more set schedule and better coverage."

"Our officers know a lot of the kids in the community and we'd also love to find more things for them to do, which will keep them out of trouble," said Bone.

The Hawk Point Police Department has eight officers and an office manager. All work part time, collectively working 75 hours a week, including Bone.

#### HP Police activity for Dec.

Assisted citizen	35
Extra patrol/business check	135
Foot patrol	2
Juvenile issue	2
Recovered property	2
Extra patrol/residential	3
Stolen property	1
Summons ord. violation	1
Traffic control	1
Traffic patrol	2
Traffic summons	35
Traffic warning	12