

Construction has begun on the new aquatic center! If you happen to be in the vicinity of city hall, stop by for a look see. We had a large, enthusiastic crowd at the groundbreaking ceremony earlier in the month.

The positive trend continues on our sales tax receipts. In September, they were up 7.55 percent and the transportation tax was up 7.59 percent against September 2010. The first quarter of FY 2011-2012, the city is up 4.31 percent verses first quarter from last year when we were down 6 percent.

The bid for the first phase of the 2011 street project has been awarded to Mid Rivers Asphalt and work has already begun. The bid came in under what the estimated cost had been so, if we are as fortunate with phase two, the concrete streets, we might be in a position to add additional streets. One of the positives in a down economy is that contractors are bidding very competitively and that benefits the city.

The building department issued permits for four new housing starts and two for commercial projects. These have a total construction value of \$4.2 million.

I want to remind our citizens having garage sales (maximum two per year) that you need to pick up your signs at the end of the sale. Garage sales are a great way for people to get rid of items they no longer need and put some extra jingle in your pocket. However, the leftover signs are an eyesore and make the town look bad. So, don't forget to pick them up after your sale. Your fellow citizens would really appreciate this effort.

Speaking of getting rid of unwanted or unneeded items: On November 4 and 5, the County Highway Department on Highway H will be taking old tires. Anyone can bring old tires and drop them off to be recycled. Look around – that would be a great way to clean up!

Finally, I would like to stress the importance of shopping locally. The sales and transportation tax that is generated from shopping at area businesses help the city maintain the infrastructure that we all use. By shopping locally, it will ensure that our local businesses remain viable. In addition, you save gas by not driving so far. Who knows, maybe more businesses will come to Troy if they see that we support our local businesses.

Be safe, watch out for school buses and I will talk to you next month.