

On Wednesday, September 7, The City of Troy is hosting a ground-breaking ceremony for the new aquatic center starting at 6 pm at Troy City Hall, 800 Cap Au Gris. Everyone is welcome to attend and it will be a party with free hot dogs and soda. Please join us and bring the kids. There will be attendance prizes for kids!

Here's a little bad news/good news: Sales tax for August 2011 was down 10.6 percent vs. August 2010, which was -0.60 percent vs. 2009. For the year, we are up 2 percent and last year we were up 2.8 percent after two months. (Remember our fiscal calendar runs July to July.) The transportation sales tax is up 2 percent for this fiscal year and was up 4.2 percent after two months last year. I think those are positive signs for Troy in spite of what you hear on the news about the economy.

The city has hired Rob Hamlin to run the sewer plants. Rob has lots of experience and brings much needed expertise as the city begins directly running the plants after five years of contracting that service out to Alliance Water Resources.

The first phase of the 2011 Street Improvement Project has been put out for bid. You should start to see work on this \$600,000 project by the end of September. The first phase consists of mainly asphalt streets. The second phase will include some concrete streets.

In July, the city issued seven building permits for new housing starts. The value of those houses totals \$669,000 so we are off to another good start for this fiscal year.

Finally, a few weeks ago, on August 18, there was a ground breaking for the new Bread for Life Food Pantry on the lot adjacent to City Hall. I believe you will see construction on the building very soon.

Until next month, be safe.