

I would first like to start this month's message by congratulating Tonya Hawkins, Deputy City Clerk, for receiving her certification as a registered city clerk through the Missouri City Clerks and Finance Officers Association. Tonya received her certificate from the Missouri City Clerks and Finance Officers Association at the Board of Alderman meeting on April 18, 2016. There are considerable hours of additional work put into attaining this designation so "way to go Tonya"!

At the same time Jodi Schneider, City Clerk, has been certified as a Continuing Missouri Registered City clerk from the Missouri City Clerks and Finance Officers Association. Congratulations Jodi.

In the April municipal election the following people were elected as Alderman; Ward I Karen Curt; Ward II Margaret Eversmeyer; Ward III Todd Walker. Congratulations to all.

Also in that election the voters approved a bond issue of \$18,887,000.00 to make improvements to the sewerage treatment facility located in the City's industrial park in the southeast part of town. In conjunction with that, the old Hwy 47 plant will be dismantled and hauled away. The ground around the old plant will be cleaned up and be available for future City uses. The voters also approved Prop. C, which is the reinstatement of the sales tax on all cars, campers, boats and trailers purchased from outside the state of Missouri or from individuals. I want to thank the voters for their confidence and support. When the improvements are completed, the southeast plant will have 4.5 million gallons capacity compared to our current 1.25 million, so we should have ample capacity for future growth.

In the Parks Department, the Troy Garden Club donated a tree that was planted near the City aquatic center. The tree was donated by Jim and Mary Blossom in memory of their granddaughter. This event took place on Arbor Day and all of this tied in with the City being awarded as a Tree City U.S.A. designation. Along with this designation, we were given a plaque to hang at City Hall. Also in parks, the board accepted a donation of just over 20 acres of ground near the Crooked Creek subdivision. With this donation, Parks Director Ryan Howell was able to apply for a grant to help us build some much needed ballfields. I will keep you posted on the results of the application. We are only a few weeks away from another swimming season and the aquatic center will be opening on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend. Individual and Family passes are now on sale at City Hall. Finally, Carol House Quick Fix Pet Clinic had two pet pick-ups in the last month, picking up dogs and cats in the aquatic center parking lot to be spayed and neutered and then they return them the next day.

The Police Department has hired two new officers, so we would like to welcome Patrolman Brandon Miers and Patrolman Philip Woolsey. We look forward to them becoming valuable members of the team that protects the City. The Police Department will be starting the BACK TO STREETS program this month. This program has the Chief of Police, Jeff Taylor, and another officer walking the streets of a neighborhood on a Friday night talking with residents, answering questions and just generally letting people know that they are there to listen. The department is working in cooperation with police departments in Moscow Mills, Wentzville, St. Charles County, Lincoln County Sherriff's Department and the MO State Highway Patrol on "Operation Crossroads 61" which is designed to slow people down and reduce the number of accidents and fatalities along Hwy 61. Finally, Major Raymond Floyd will be attending a five day program at the Command Leadership Institute of Law Enforcement Executives in Grandview, MO. This program covers leadership, credibility, ethics, and decision making. This is the first of three classes that will fulfill continuing education requirements.

On April 26th a group of citizens from Juanita St., Alden, W. Pershing, Lewis and S. Hanni met at City Hall with Chief Taylor, Alderman Eversmeyer, Alderman Detert and myself to go over the details of forming a

neighborhood watch group. There were more than thirty citizens that attended and even more than that that signed up to participate. The Chief went over details of how the program works and what would be required of them. It was a great meeting with lots of questions and answers from the citizens and the city representatives. Locations for the signs indicating the Neighborhood Watch program were discussed and they were ordered the next morning. I hope that the group maintains their enthusiasm and I am sure they will. The Chief said this was the largest group to start a watch program that he has seen in the City. If you are interested in getting more information on how to form a group please don't hesitate to contact Chief Taylor at 528-4725 or myself at City Hall at 528-4712.

I am happy to report that the City has joined with the Lincoln County Emergency Management office and other cities in the county in a cooperative effort to standardize the outdoor warning siren system activation procedures. Under the guidance of Emma Eplin-Birdsell, the Emergency Management Director, procedures and training will be uniform so that the system serves the citizens better. The training will be provided by the National Weather Service at no charge. With all of that being said, all eight of the City's sirens were tested and found to be working properly. If you would like to be notified by text, email or a phone call, you can sign up for the countywide Nixle service by texting your zip code to 888777 or by signing up at nixle.com.

In the Public Works Dept., street repairs were completed on Shellbark Dr. in the Hickory Forest and Oak Forest subdivisions and on S. Main St. at Cherry Blossom Way. Another street project is E. Cherry St.; the field survey work is complete and the design and engineering have begun. When a preliminary design is ready we will hold a public hearing so that we can get citizen input in the project. We will put out the information for that hearing as soon as the design is ready.

The Building Dept. issued nine new housing start permits during the month of March and a total of 43 permits for the fiscal year to date. Building in the City is really picking up as the economy continues to improve. In addition to new housing starts, the Bank of Old Monroe has begun construction on a new facility on N. Lincoln Dr., site plans have been approved for a new Arby's Restaurant in the Ponderosa parking lot, and a new Fastlane filling station/quick store/carwash on S. Lincoln Dr. near the round-about.

Sales tax deposits for April of 2016 were 8.34% more than deposits for April 2015. The 1% Local Sales Tax was 8.18% higher, the ½% Transportation Tax was 8.85% higher and the ½% Capital Improvement Tax was 8.18% higher than April of 2015. For the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year our sales tax deposits are up by 6.21% compared to the same period in FY2015.

The department heads have submitted their requests/budgets for the upcoming fiscal year and the board had its first budget workshop on May 2nd. Based on those discussions the department heads will revise their budgets and the board will meet again on May 19th. By state statute the City has to pass a budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016 by June 30, 2016.

That is it for this month. The last day of school is May 17th, so the kids will be playing outside during the day. Please be careful as you drive around town. Be kind to one another and God bless you all. I will see you again next month.