

From the Desk of Mayor Will Stephens

I apologize if your past water bill did not contain a newsletter. I missed a deadline and dropped the ball. However, I am back on track now. This issue will be in the familiar form with answers to frequently asked questions, a few “thank you’s and announcements mixed in.

UPCOMING EVENTS

*Big Muddy Monster
Brew Fest*

Saturday, October 13th

Riverside Park

Noon—4 p.m.

Trick or Treat

Wednesday, October 31st

5—8 p.m.

One Stop Holiday Shop

Craft & Vendor Fair

Saturday, November 24th

Murphysboro Event
Center

10 a.m.—4 p.m.

- 1) When is the hotel going to be built? Recent conversations with the developer continue to be in regards to approval of new entryways and dirt work. The raising of the site is almost complete, but river levels have slowed the ability to borrow dirt from the area near the river. I am confident that the project will come to fruition, but as Tom Petty once titled a song, “The Waiting is the Hardest Part”.
- 2) What is happening at the old Lustour/Curwood site? Solar Alliance, Inc. purchased the building in June 2018. Their plans include building a solar array, housing a bitcoin mining operation and possibly solar panel assembly. Stay tuned as this development continues.
- 3) Why didn’t the median get mowed before Apple Festival? After discussions with IDOT, I have learned that they have a three phase annual mowing schedule. Unfortunately the third phase was not scheduled until after Apple Festival. I will do a better job coordinating resources in the future.
- 4) Are we getting new sidewalks in Murphysboro? Yes. The City Council is being asked to appropriate \$100,000 for new sidewalks in 2019. The appropriate would come out of our allotment of Motor Fuel Tax. Many sidewalks are in disrepair. With the help of our aldermen and residents, sidewalks in the worst shape with the most foot traffic will be identified. Those two factors will determine what sidewalks are replaced. Stay tuned for more on this topic.
- 5) Is Murphysboro getting a new website? Yes. Myself and city staff have worked with a premier Municipal website development company over the last 6 months. I am very excited to show the final product to our community.
- 6) I often hear “There isn’t enough for young people to do in Murphysboro”. I usually ask if they are aware that the Murphysboro Youth and Recreation Center has activities for our youth. Their mission is to help foster good habits in our youth that will lead to a successful future. Contact Barbara Anderson, 684-8243 Monday – Friday from 9a to 1p. They are always looking for volunteers or financial donations to support their programming.
- 7) Thank you for everyone that helps make September and October so busy in Murphysboro. From the Riverside Art Wine and Blues Festival, Apple Festival, BBQ Cookoff, Community Night Out and the Big Muddy Monster Brewfest. It takes a tremendous amount of volunteers to make these events successful and Murphysboro is full of volunteerism. A big thank you to everyone that makes our Community so vibrant during these months.
- 8) In this water bill, you will find a small magnet promoting Murphysboro Crime Stoppers. Crime Stoppers gives residents the ability to report a crime anonymously and become eligible for a reward. Communication is key to making progress toward a safer Murphysboro. Call 687-COPS if you have any information regarding a crime in Murphysboro.
- 9) Due to changing schedules, I have not been in the office much. However, anyone wishing to meet with me can do so by calling 684-4961 to request a meeting. I respond frequently to emails (mayor@murphysboro.com) and would love to hear from you.

Have a great fall!
Mayor Will Stephens

