



The City of Murphysboro

will be closed

on

April 19th

In observance of Good Friday

St. Patrick's Day
Festivities

Saturday,

March 16th

9:00 a.m.—5k Walk/Run

9:00 a.m.—Irish Stew Cook-Off

11:00 a.m.—Parade

11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.— Irish Kids' Festival

**Visit murphysborochamber.com
or call 618-684-6421 for more
information**

Let's get straight into this edition of the Newsletter.

- Many people are asking me what is happening just south of the 13/127/149 intersection. This is the site of the former Murphysboro Gas and Light Company Building. The large four story building sat at that location for over 100 years and manufactured gas which was used to light street lamps in Murphysboro from the 1880's through the 1930s. Through a series of mergers and acquisitions the property came to be owned by Common Wealth Edison. The ongoing activity on site is related to the cleanup of contaminated soil by Com-Ed supervised by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. The work is scheduled to be completed in July of this year. On a related subject, several truckloads of bricks from the Gas and Light Company building were delivered at my request to the Murphysboro City holding area on Shomaker Drive. The holding area is open on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month to the public. Murphysboro residents are welcome to come get bricks free of charge. The bricks are good for use in gardens, walkways, etc.
- What goes bump in the night? By the end of this year, not your car going down S. 20th Street. Many Murphysboro residents will be pleased to know that the City Council recently took action to replace a sewer line that runs under south 20th Street. This decaying sewer line has caused the section of 20th street between Walnut and Dewey to become very bumpy. The replacement of the line will make the resurfacing of S. 20th street possible and keep everyone's coffee from bouncing out of the cup holder.
- The Murphysboro Farmers Market is moving back to Saturday mornings from 8 am – 12 noon. The location is going to be Chestnut Street between 11th and 12th street. A new group of community volunteers are working to inject new life into the Farmers Market, and I hope they find success. The first market will likely be in late April or early May. Find them on Facebook by searching for "Murphysboro Farmers Market".
- Many residents continue to ask me about the status of the 127/13/149 Hotel project. The developer continues to say 2019 will mark the start of construction. I continue to believe that to be true. As the developer Joe Koppies recently told the City Council, "everything that could have went wrong has to this point, so hopefully it will go smooth from here on". The proposed 84 room hotel and restaurant would be a 15 million dollar development. Progress has been slowed by weather, redesign of the entryway, negotiations with IDOT, and the loss of the developers son unexpectedly last spring.
- Random positive developments; Real Church purchased the former Murphysboro American Building. Their move into that property will stabilize a historic downtown building. Oasis Skin Care Clinic recently expanded into the former VNA Tip building on Walnut Street, Whiffleboys pizza recently added onto their building, and the new Dollar Tree at Jackson Square has a tentative opening date of April 11th.
- As always, I welcome residents to meet with me to share their concerns. To set up an appointment, call 684-4961.

Until next time, Mayor Will Stephens