

From the Desk of Mayor Will Stephens

Spring is here and summer is on the way, and I am encouraged by a number of things that are going on in Murphysboro. First, the new and hopefully improved Farmers Market is underway starting May 3rd and every Saturday following. The market will be located between the administration building and the Courthouse on South 11th Street. I think this will be a great improvement, and will help to highlight the downtown area. I want to thank Dania Laubach, and Maggie Rose for their help in organizing the Farmers Market. They are both SIU students from the department of Agriculture and have been instrumental in making the new Farmers Market start to take shape. If you want to become a vendor log onto www.murphysboro.com and click the Farmers Market link for more details.

Also, as I am sure you have noticed, the water main project is back up and running. The barricades that have been placed along Walnut Street are for the protection of the driving public and the workers. Even with those barricades up, I would ask that everyone take extra precaution when driving through the areas where workers are present. The more we respect their space, the faster the project will move along. The projected completion date for the project is August 1st.

I would also like to mention a few things regarding lawn maintenance this spring and summer. First, please do not blow grass clippings and other lawn waste into the street. Before becoming Mayor I have to say that I was guilty of this practice at times myself. Now that I have seen for myself the problems this causes our storm drainage infrastructure I understand why there is a city ordinance against it. Also, as gum balls start to fall from Sweet Gum trees I would also request that residents be aware of the damage they can do if raked or blown into the street as well. Some members of the city council have recommended an outright ban on Sweet Gum Trees within the city limits. The council has not pursued such an action, and I am not inclined to believe we will, however there is no doubt that the byproduct of Sweet Gum Trees can cause storm water backup and flooding if someone rakes a large number of them into the street to be swept into the storm drains.

Lastly, I want to encourage residents to shop locally. Murphysboro has seen a number of new business locations open in the last several months and I want to see them continue to flourish. So when you can, support your local businesses, they are the back bone of our community in a number of different ways.

I remain, sincerely yours

Mayor Will Stephens

UPCOMING EVENTS

Art & Wine Festival ~ Riverside Park ~ Saturday, May 24th

Logan Day Centennial Celebration ~ John A. Logan Museum ~ Saturday, May 24th

Relay For Life ~ Murphysboro High School ~ Friday, June 13th

Cruise Night ~ Downtown Murphysboro ~ 1st Saturday of every month