

Murphysboro Minute

Bi-Monthly Newsletter
March/April 2015

From the Mayor's Desk,

Even though the first day of spring is not technically until the 20th of March, it seemed like Spring would never come this year. Facebook was full of people wondering aloud if warmer temperatures would ever arrive. However as surely as the Apple Festival comes in September, spring time is on the way and summer soon to follow. This year Spring brings with it Municipal elections. There are a number of candidates running for 5 seats on the city council. I urge voters to set aside a few moments and educate yourself about the candidates in your ward. Voting is important, but educating yourself about what the candidates stand for is a critical aspect of casting your vote.

If you're not sure what ward you live in, log onto the city website and compare your residence to a map that outlines each ward. The website is www.murphysboro-il.gov. Once there, click on the "Contact A City Official" link and the map is posted in PDF format. If you would rather stop in the administration building at 1101 Walnut Street you can do so, and city staff will help identify the ward you live in. Election Day is April the 7th be sure to get out and vote.

This spring election cycle also serves as the end of an era in Murphysboro because three long serving Alderman are not seeking reelection. Mike Bastien, who has represented Ward 5 for 14 years is not seeking re-election. Alderman Bastien first served from 1989 – 1991, then from 2003 to 2015. Alderman Bastien has chaired the Public Improvement and Public Safety Committees for the last two years and served as a common sense voice for the residents in his ward. I will remember Alderman Bastien for never being afraid to state his perspective on issues, but always being able to do it in a professional manner. His experience and willingness to put people first will be missed.

Alderman Vicki Ardrey is also not seeking reelection. She has represented Ward 4 on the city council since October of 2001. Alderman Ardrey has served as the Chair of the Budget and Finance committee, Chair of the Labor committee and also served as Mayor Pro Tem for a number of years. Her willingness to take on big tasks and follow through on them have served the city well and she will be greatly missed. I want to thank her for always being willing to speak her mind and ask the questions that needed to be asked regardless of the issue.

Finally, Alderman Sandi Bullar, who has represented Ward 2 since May 1st of 2003 is not seeking reelection. Alderman Bullar is one of the most caring and kind individuals I have ever had the pleasure of serving with. The city has been well served by her common sense approach to the issues facing the city. Alderman Bullar served as a trusted sounding board on a variety of issues, and worked hard to clean up Murphysboro. She always found the time to participate in cleanup days and other outside endeavors that have contributed to the betterment of Murphysboro. After May of this year I am certain that her grandchildren will be slightly more spoiled than currently, as she will be able to spend more time with them. I wish Alderman Bullar all the best and thank her for the years of service that she has given to Murphysboro.

Till Next time,

Will Stephens
Mayor



www.murphysboro-il.gov or 618.684.4961