

# MURPHYSBORO MINUTE

JANUARY—FEBRUARY 2016

**The City Administration Office &  
Public Works Office**  
**will be closed in observance of ...**  
**Martin Luther King Jr. Day**  
January 18th  
**President's Day**  
February 15th

## DID YOU KNOW?

When temperatures drop, it is common for water meters to freeze up. What should you do if you wake up to no water? During normal office hours call 618.684.2431, after hours call 618.684.2121. Tips to prevent freeze-ups .... Let your faucet drip. This keeps water moving in your pipes or open doors to expose plumbing. This allows the heat from your house to get inside the cabinet.



## From the Desk of Mayor Will Stephens

Happy New Year!

Let's get straight to business.

### **Budget: 2015 / 2016**

I am pleased that for 2016 the City of Murphysboro for the 3rd year in a row has passed a balanced budget. Of course this does not mean that the budget will be balanced at the end of the year, but it certainly is where we always hope we can start from. Lingering issues in Springfield concerning the state budget, as well as fluid revenue numbers from sales taxes can make keeping Murphysboro's fiscal house in order a challenge. However, with the help of Budget Officer Scott Evans, Administrative Assistant Sandra Ripley, the City Council and the rest of the staff we were just slightly under budget in 2015. I thank them all for their diligence in 2015 and hope we can maintain a solid financial footing in 2016.

### **Waste Water Treatment Plant**

As of the writing of this newsletter on January 6th, 2016 the new Waste Water Treatment Plant is about 30% complete. The New Year's flood delayed construction for about 10 days, but the project has been running slightly ahead of schedule due to warmer than usual winter temperatures, so in essence we are still on schedule. Speaking of the New Year's flood, it was heart warming to see the city of Murphysboro government, residents, business, and non-profit community come together to help those impacted by flood waters. Emergency Management officer Brian Manwaring did an outstanding job helping coordinate efforts between the city and county EMA, my hats off to him and everyone that lent a helping hand to the efforts.

### **Apple Tree Inn Demo**

Many people have been asking me when the project at the corner of Route 13 and 127 will be getting underway. The answer is very soon. Expect to see the Apple Tree Inn demolition begin in January. More news on that as the development moves forward.

### **BBQ Capital of Illinois**

A quick note on the BBQ Capital of Illinois designation that was given by the State of Illinois in May of 2015. The Illinois Department of Transportation is in the process of making signs to hang under the population signs on the East and West ends of town. I expect that those will be placed by February. This designation is just one part of what brands our town as a destination. I am looking forward to seeing those put up, so that we can officially declare it to everyone entering our town.

Till next time,

Mayor Will Stephens

OFFICE HOURS—MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY— 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

[www.murphysboro-il.gov](http://www.murphysboro-il.gov) or 618.684.4961