

**From the Desk of Mayor Will Stephens**

**The City of  
Murphysboro  
will be closed on  
March 30th in  
observance of  
Good Friday**

**St. Patrick's Day Celebration**

**Saturday, March 17th**

For more information  
Call the Murphysboro  
Chamber of Commerce  
618-684-6421

**MBI Good Friday Fish Fry**

**Friday, March 30th**

For more information call  
Stephanie at 618-534-3694

**Annual Easter Egg Hunt**

**Saturday, March 31st**

For more information call  
MHS Key Club  
618-687-2336



The ups and downs of the weather in Illinois during March and April can be a roller coaster. Springtime flooding, allergies, and mosquitoes are the thorns on the rose of this time of year. However once a person looks past those minor obstacles there is much to celebrate in Murphysboro in the springtime. Let's take a look at some of those upcoming festivities that are sure to put a smile on many faces.

1) This year St. Patrick's day falls on a Saturday. This gives Murphysboro's annual St. Patrick's day celebration an added flare. Included in this years activities are the 31st annual St. Patrick's day walk/run and the Murphysboro Irish Stew Cookoff. Also, Murphysboro's downtown merchants will be open for business and Pat's BBQ will be serving up corned beef and cabbage from 10 am - 4 pm. The Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade will start at 11 am with antique tractors, and a multitude of floats and organizations participating. The Murphysboro Park District and Youth and Recreation Center will be hosting an Irish Kids festival, complete with arts, crafts, T-shirt making, games and prizes. Brews Brothers Taproom will be hosting a bags tournament and spirits tasting that day as well. On Sunday the 18th, the Murphysboro Bocce Courts will host the Leprechaun Classic Bocce Tournament with over 16 teams participating and room for more. It goes without saying that you should make your way to the annual Murphysboro St. Patrick's day celebration, there is plenty for everyone to enjoy.

2) The Oak Street Art Fair is quickly growing into a very special event for Murphysboro. One of the organizers of the event Dr. Rachel Ensor says "the Oak Street Art Fair will be hosted on Saturday, April 21 from 10-5. There will be a children's art tent, music by local artists, food and 25 artists. Come out for a fling into Spring at the art fair on Oak Street." I echo her sentiments. It is a wonderful event that is growing each year. Make plans to attend.

3) In case you have not heard, plans are underway to build a "splash pad" at Longfellow Park. Longfellow park is located off North 20th street, and is managed by the Murphysboro Park District. The Splash Pad will be a great addition to the community and give kids a chance to cool off during the hot summers months. Plans are on track for the Splash Pad to open by Memorial Day, and remain open daily until Labor Day each year. Big thanks to the Friends of Murphysboro organization for being the driving force behind this project. Without their events, specifically the Annual Brewfest, this project would not have happened.

4) I wish to welcome Gina Hunziker on board as the new Murphysboro City Clerk. She was recently appointed to the position when City Clerk Joyce Cottonaro moved outside of City Limits in February. Joyce will be missed, but Gina is doing a great job and looks to be almost fully up to speed already.

5) Lastly, I remain available to meet with residents to hear their concerns. To make an appointment with me contact Sandra Ripley at 618.684.4961. I am only able to do my job as well as I remain in touch with residents.

Until next time .....

Mayor Will Stephens