

Murphysboro Minute

May/June 2015

From The Desk of Mayor Stephens

In this edition of the Murphysboro Minute I will touch on a few topics that I have been asked about frequently lately. I will touch on each one in bullet point format to help dispel some rumors, promote some events, and recognize a few individuals who are doing good work in Murphysboro.

- What happened to McDonalds on Walnut Street? This is a question I have heard dozens of times, and it only makes sense because of the high visibility of the location on Walnut Street. I spoke recently with Dean Short, the franchise holder for that location. He informed me that the location on Walnut Street had become unprofitable for a number of reasons. First, there was no room for expansion. This meant that the kitchen could not be expanded to accommodate the newer product lines. Traffic flow had always been an issue, combined with the fact that McDonald's is overhauling its brand nationwide, all contributed to the closing. Many have wondered why the roof line was changed. I have learned that McDonald's alters the outside of their shuttered stores so that people do not immediately recognize them as being former McDonald's locations. They feel that shuttered stores do not help the brand image, so the work you saw going on was part of McDonald's business plan for closed locations.
- When do the Sunset Concerts start? August 6th will be the start of the Murphysboro Sunset Concert Series at Town Center Park on Walnut Street. New pathways, benches, and landscaping really have made Town Center Park look great this Spring, and I am very excited to see that park full of people and music in the air come August. The Concerts will be from 6:30—8:30 p.m. each Thursday night in August. Come out and enjoy.
- When is the City Clean-up Day? This year the City Clean-up Day will be held the last weekend in August. The date was moved, at my request, so that Murphysboro can look it's best just before Apple Festival. The Apple Festival draws the largest number of people in from out of town. So it only made sense to hold the clean-up day in advance of that great event.
- Finally, I want to thank the Alderman who were sworn in on May the 12th. John Erbes, Herby Voss, and Gloria Campos are the newly elected members. Russell Brown and Barbara Hughes retained their seats. I look forward to working with each of them over the next two years.

Until Next time,

Mayor Will Stephens