

## From the Desk of Mayor Stephens

### August Events

#### **Sunset Concert Series**

Every Thursday  
in August  
6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.

#### **Cruise Night** August 1st

**Annual City Clean Up**  
August 28th & 29th  
8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

### September Events

#### **Cruise Night** September 5th

#### **Blues Festival** September 12th

**Murphysboro Apple Festival**  
September 16th—19th

**Murphysboro Barbecue Cook-Off**  
September 24th—26th

**Relay For Life Golf Scramble**  
**Hickory Ridge Golf Course**  
September 26th

In most editions of the Murphysboro Minute I like to answer questions that I think residents may have on their minds. This edition will be no different. There is much going on in town, so here are the questions I get asked most often and the answers.

#### **1) What's the latest on the New 13 Bridge crossing the Big Muddy River?**

As of the writing of this newsletter (June 29th, 2015) the flooding has caused the work on the bridge to come to a halt. There is still 1/2 of one pier left to be completed. I am told once the flood waters recede it will take 2-3 weeks to finish the final pier. Once this is complete the iron beams will be set. Currently the iron beams are scheduled to be delivered the first week of August. These beams should only take 5 days to set. Then the decking can be laid, roadbed formed, and the bridge can be finished. The target date for completion, barring any further flooding should be early October.

#### **2) What Happened on Tina Drive? I saw a big Sink hole on the news...**

When the remnants of Tropical Storm Bill made their way across Southern Illinois it brought with it heavy rains and several tornado's. Anytime Murphysboro experiences that kind of rainfall drainage becomes an issue, and at times infrastructure fails. That is exactly what happened on Tina Drive. A sewer main collapsed under the roadway, which in turn caused the roadway to begin to sink. When heavy equipment was brought in to excavate the roadway and fix the problem a small hole in the road quickly became a very large sinkhole. This was exacerbated by the fact that each time a pass was made trying to dig down to the sewer main, more of the dirt would collapse into the hole, and more rock had to be brought in to stabilize the area the track hoe was sitting on. Eventually after 36 hours of work the problem was corrected. I want to thank the residents of Tina drive for their patience during the period of time they were without water and sewer. We do the best we can to fix these problems as fast as we can when they occur, but it does not make it any less of a hassle for those affected. Again, thank you to all who made a bad situation feel like a neighborhood block party.

#### **3) Was it really a tornado that hit Grither Paint and Auto Body?**

The National Weather Service confirmed that a tornado did touch down near Grither Paint and Auto Body on June 19th. The tornado deposited debris over a mile away, and caused approximately a 1/3 of Grither Paint and Auto Body's roof to be torn off. An employee at Wright Do It center captured the tornado on video, which helped the N.W.S. confirm that it was a tornado that caused the damage. No one was injured, and a report on the damage will be issued by the JC Emergency Management Agency in the coming weeks.

#### **4) I heard the Apple Tree Inn was bought....what is going to be built there?**

In May, Joe Koppies, a businessman and developer from Columbia Illinois purchased the Apple Tree Inn. The property had been in bankruptcy and had fallen into a state of dis-repair over the years. At this time there is nothing certain, other than the current structure is going to be torn down to make way for a new development. I am hopeful that a new hotel can be built on the location, and am working very hard to help make that a reality.

Till Next Time....

Mayor Will Stephens