

Upcoming Events

Annual
Thanksgiving
Dinner
Knights of
Columbus
November 26th

Holiday Shop
& Quarter
Auction

Murphysboro
American
Legion
November 28th

Annual
Christmas
Dinner
Knights of
Columbus
December 25th

HAVE A
BLESSED
HOLIDAY
SEASON!!

From The Mayor's Desk,

This edition will feature a mixture of short topics that I have had many conversation about recently, as well as a few updates about things happening around Murphysboro...

Thank you to Gillenberg Furniture.

I am sure many of you have noticed that Gillenberg Furniture is going out of business, as Joe and Shirley Summers have decided to retire. For over 60 years Gillenberg's has been a presence on Walnut Street and Joe and Shirley are to be commended for operating a locally owned business. There is perhaps nothing more challenging then being an independent business owner in today's changing retail landscape. Competition no longer just comes from large national retailers, but also from the internet, and rent to own outlets. I wish Joe, Shirley, and all the employees at Gillenberg Furniture the best. Thanks for serving Murphysboro all these years.

Apple Tree Inn Development.

Many people ask me about the Apple Tree Inn Development. At this time all I can say for sure is that a development will happen at that location. I know a gas station and Hotel are in the works, but I cannot say what type of hotel it will be. Look for demolition of the current structures to begin by the end of 2015.

New Waste Water Treatment Plant

Great progress is being made on the new Waste Water Treatment Plant. This 15 million dollar investment will assure Murphysboro is prepared to handle any waste water treatment needs that it may encounter in the years to come. As you may know, the current plant has outlived it's expected lifespan by more than 25 years. We hope to be switched over to the new plant by the end of 2016.

Office Hours

I continue to have office hours availability on Wednesday and Thursday nights from 5—7 pm. If there is an issue you would like to discuss with me please call 684-4961 and ask for my assistant Sandra Ripley. She can schedule a time for us to talk. I enjoy meeting with residents and discussing issues. Communication is the first step to solving problems, and that is what I am here for.

Thank You,

Recently my grandmother, Doris Stephens passed away. She was 91 years old and a very important part of my life. I was overwhelmed by the over 500 people that took notice of her passing on my Facebook page. I received dozens of Sympathy cards at city hall and also at my home. Thank you to everyone, including the City Council who covered the recent committee meetings during my absence, for your concern and condolences.

Volleyball, Football, Crimson Express, Robotics...

The Murphysboro High School Volleyball team had a fantastic season. They ended their season on November 3rd with a record of 33 - 5. This group of girls were a point of pride for the community, and I tip my hat to Coach Layne and everyone involved with the program for doing such a great job this season. The same goes for the Murphysboro Football team, who at the writing of this news-letter is looking to get a second playoff win at Rochester. Regardless of the outcome going forward, Murphysboro is blessed to have such great leadership in Coach Carter and we can be proud of the job those young men have displayed on and off the field. Also Crimson Express, Murphysboro's Marching band had another great season as well. Their consistent excellence is only due to the hard work that is put in by Mr. Moreland, the volunteer efforts of the band parents, and the dedication of the students. My hat's off to the Crimson Express. Last but not least, The Murphysboro Robotics Class, also known as the "MHS Red Devil Bots" have achieved great success recently. In three short years the Devil Bots have won state tournaments, and earned a spot in the VEX World Championships. It's a truly unique program, and one that makes Murphysboro High School stand out from the crowd.

We have much to be proud of in Murphysboro.

Till next time.