

## Upcoming Events

### St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Saturday, March 19th

9 a.m.—5k

10 a.m. – Antique Tractor

Pre-Parade

11 a.m.—Parade

11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

Kid's Fest

Contact 618.684.6421 for  
more details

### Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 26th

11 a.m.—Riverside Park

Your assistance in completing  
your Cross Connection  
Control Survey is  
appreciated.

Spring is here, and in Southern Illinois that means we can expect to experience all four seasons, sometimes within the same 24 hour period. Such is life in Southern Illinois, but I would not trade it for anywhere else. This is my home, and I love it here.

In this issue of the Murphysboro Minute I will congratulate 3 athletic groups that have made Murphysboro proud, answer two frequently asked questions, and highlight some upcoming events and fundraisers that I think are worth participating in. First to the Congratulations....

Sporting Accomplishments....

1) Murphysboro High School Wrestling team is to be commended for a great season! The Red Devils finished 3rd at the IHSA Dual State Tournament in Bloomington on February 27th. They captured 3rd place with a 40 - 30 win over Vandalia. It is the best finish for a Murphysboro High School wrestling team. in the history of the program. My hats off to Shea Baker, and the entire Murphysboro Wrestling team for bringing home the hardware, and making Murphysboro proud.

2) The Murphysboro High School "Devil Dazzlers" won the I.D.T.A. class 1A State Championship on February 13th. Many of the members of the Devil Dazzlers have also been competing in other athletics, while balancing their class work and part time jobs. I continue to be impressed with their competitive spirit, and dedication to excellence.

3) Murphysboro High School's Boys Basketball team also deserves some congratulations for an 8 - 2 record in conference. Not only was it a great conference record, but it made the Red Devils Basketball team the SIRR Ohio Division Champions. Here is to wishing the Boys Basketball Team a deep run into the Playoffs.

Frequently Asked Questions...

1) What is going to happen at the former Apple Tree Inn property?

You may have seen the press coverage of the start of the demolition of the Apple Tree Inn. Even if you missed that, I am sure you have seen that process going on. Now that the Apple Tree is gone, many want to know, what's next? My best knowledge is that the developer of the property plans to build a hotel, a gas station and a third yet to be determined retail space that could include a restaurant, office space, or combination of the two. It is still a fluid situation, but I am confident that a new hotel is going to be built.

2) How is the New Waste Water Treatment Plant construction going?

I am happy to report that the project is ahead of schedule. At this point we are on schedule to get the new plant operational by August. Originally the project was projected to be completed in October of this year. So if things continue on the timeline they are on, we could complete that project 3 months earlier than expected. I thank River City Construction for their hard work on this project, I have been impressed with the job they have done to this point.

Stuff worth taking part in...

The Supporting People in Need, 10th Anniversary Fundraiser will be held on April 30th at the Murphysboro Elk's Lodge. It will include a 2016 Harley Davidson Motorcycle Raffle, as well as a "Southern Illinois Has Talent" community talent show with local celebrity judges, live auction, and a BBQ dinner followed by a cash bar and karaoke. Proceeds will help the Supporting People In Need soup kitchen and thrift store serve more families in the region who've been affected by homelessness and natural disasters.

Also, on March 24th I will host the 3rd annual Murphysboro Town Hall Meeting at the Davis McCann Center. It will kick off at 6 pm and include a presentation of the year past, the hopes for the year to come and as always a chance for people to ask me questions directly about issues they feel need addressed. I would welcome everyone to come and participate.

