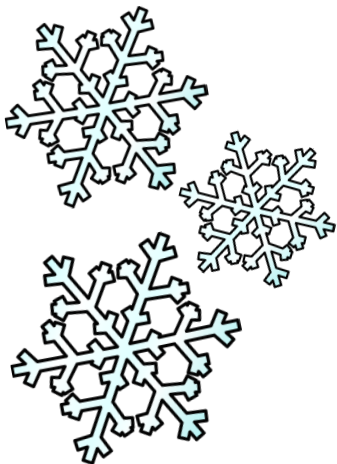


**The City of
Murphysboro
will be closed on**
January 15th
In observance of
Dr. M.L. King Jr. Day
and
February 19th
In Observance of
President's Day

St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Saturday, March 17th

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



Greetings and Happy New Year!!

Cold Temps Cause Water Main Breaks

In the early part of January our area was subject to subzero temperatures. This caused many residents to lose water service on New Years Day because of busted water mains and frozen meters. Our water department foreman Tim Lee, along with the rest of the water department did a great job responding to the problems, and restored everyone's water service within a 24 hour period of time. Thank you to our Water Department for completing a difficult task under difficult circumstances. As a reminder, when temps get below freezing it is always a good idea to leave a faucet on with a light drip.

More Hotel Progress

Dirt work continues at the site of the soon to be built Holiday Inn Express at the corner of Route 13/127. The developer, Joe Koppeis is tentatively planning a groundbreaking ceremony for the month of March. Thereafter expect to see construction crews coming and going and a hotel beginning to take shape.

Familiar Buildings to come down in 2018

I recently met with representatives from Ameren Corporation regarding the former waterworks building located south of the intersection of Route 13 and 127. This three story brick building was erected in 1914. The building has been owned by Ameren Corporation for many years, and has reached the end of it's useful life. Therefore Ameren has informed the City of Murphysboro that they will begin the tear down and removal of that building in 2018. Ameren also plans on tearing down their building at 518 Walnut Street. The removal of these buildings leaves a bitter-sweet feeling. In some sense they are eyesores and their removal will only improve the look of our City. In another sense I always hate to see such familiar landmarks go by the way side.

Joyce Cottonaro Retirement

City Clerk Joyce Cottonaro has announced that she is going to be resigning her office, effective the end of January 2018. Joyce has sold her home inside city limits and is soon going to be moving outside of town. I greatly appreciate her service to the city over the last 16 years. When I was first sworn in as Mayor her guidance helped keep many council meetings from going off the rails. I will miss her bright smile, warm personality and consistent dedication to the job of City Clerk.

Comprehensive Planning

The process of constructing a new Comprehensive Plan for the City of Murphysboro has been moving along nicely. The consultant group that we have been working with recently finished a draft phase of the downtown portion of the Comprehensive Plan. It is being reviewed by the Plan Commission Members currently, and will be amended as the Plan Commission deems necessary. There will be another community forum to garner feedback from residents once all the draft sections of the Comprehensive Plan have been reviewed by the Plan Commission. Stay tuned for an announcement of that meeting date and time in the coming months.

Sincerely,
Mayor Stephens