

City of Effingham

Newsletter

www.effinghamil.com

Take a Look Inside

- Commissioners' Comments 2
- Area News 3
- Community Development 4
- Safety First 6
- Around Town 7

Numbers to Know

- Mayor/Administrator**
217-342-5308
- Economic Development**
217-342-5304
- City Clerk's Office**
217-342-5301
- Public Works/Engineering**
217-342-5303
- Water Division**
217-342-2366
- Sewer Division**
217-342-5359
- Building Official/Street**
217-342-5300
- Tourism Department**
217-342-5310
- Helen Matthes Library**
217-342-2464
- Fire Department**
217-342-2555
- Police Department**
217-347-0774
- City Hall Hours**
- Administration Office/
Public Works**
Monday to Friday
8 am to noon
1 pm to 5 pm
- City Clerk's Office**
Monday to Friday
7 am to 5 pm
- Water Department**
Monday to Friday
7:30 am to 4:30 pm

Message from the Mayor

This month marks the end of service for this Council and my term as your Mayor. Over the last four years, we have worked hard to serve our citizens, and we thank you for allowing us the opportunity to lead our City through the largest financial crisis since the Great Depression. As your Mayor, I want to personally thank the citizens of Effingham, my Council members, the City staff, and the members of the media. Your support and assistance has allowed the City to steer through these challenging financial times. We have learned some hard lessons through these past four years, but these lessons have strengthened our community.

Over the last four years, the City of Effingham's workforce

has been dramatically reduced in size, as we have made a proactive concentrated effort to make our government service more efficient and effective for the citizens we serve. It is important to note that while our staff has been reduced, our services have not wavered. The City was not immune to the dramatic effects of the great recession; our staffing levels felt the impact throughout our organization. I appreciate the manner and method we employed to reduce our staff through early retirement incentives and the strategic restructuring of the administrative team of the City.

The City hired our City's first City Administrator and appointed him as the Chief Executive Officer of the City. The Admin-



Mayor John Lange

istrator has been given the authority to direct the day-to-day operations of the City, hire and fire personnel, and bring policy recommendations to the City Council for consideration.

The City has adopted an annual municipal budget form of

• **Continued to Page 5**

From the Administrator

On Tuesday April 5, 2011 the City voters spoke and elected the new City Council to lead the City through the next four years. The City will see the seating of a new Mayor for the second time in four years beginning May 1, 2011. Mayor John Lange did not seek re-election. The Council will also see the seating of three new Council members for the second time in four years in May, as Commissioner Gillenwater was elected Mayor, Commissioner Micenheimer was unsuccessful in his campaign for Mayor, and Commissioner Flach was narrowly defeated by three votes in her attempt for re-election.

I have enjoyed working with the members of the Council that

will be leaving the service of the City. Mayor Lange's passion for the City and desire to serve is second to none. Mayor Lange has a great personality and served during the most challenging economic times since the Great Depression. Despite this challenge, Mayor Lange's Council accomplished major community projects such as the salvation of The Rosebud Theatre, the restructuring of the local government, and the most recent project that will see the relocation of the City's Helen Matthes Library into an existing downtown facility. Commissioner Micenheimer was the positive influence on the Council. He was the mover and the shaker always striving to



Administrator James Arndt

push the community forward in a sincere effort to promote Effingham and to make Effingham a great place to raise a family. Commissioner Flach served as the conscience of the Council. Her concern for the wellbeing of

• **Continued to Page 2**

Library to move into Fifth-Third Bank building
Find out more on Page 3.

Commissioners' Comments

Looking forward to next four years as mayor

The election for the positions of commissioner and mayor is over. The turnout was not as good as hoped for and the race for mayor was tight. However, I am extremely happy to say that as of May 3, 2011, I will begin representing you in the capacity as your mayor. I want to thank everyone who turned out to vote. I especially want to thank all those who worked so hard to help get me elected. I recognize the level of confidence the voters have placed in me and will work hard the next four years to not betray that trust. Also taking office on May 3 will be those persons elected to the positions of commissioner/council member. Commissioner Alan Harris, who will be returning for his fourth term, will be joined by newcomers Matt Hirtzel, Brian Milleville and Don Althoff. I want to welcome each of them and am looking forward to working with them.

The next few months will be a period of transition as I become familiar with my new responsibilities and the commissioners become familiar with theirs. I am looking forward to working more closely with our city administrator, Mr. Jim Arndt, as well as all the



Merv Gillenwater

department heads, staff, and other city employees.

I believe the next four years will be exciting times for the city as we move forward. During the past several months we, the current council, have seen the beginning of several major projects including the retention and expansion of Patterson Technologies, Midland States Bank, and Sherwin Williams. We also entered into agreements which will allow for John Boos & Company and Helen Matthes Library to move to new locations within the city and upgrade their facilities. I am grateful to be allowed to continue to be involved with the progression of these projects. I also look forward to adding other projects to this list and to welcoming new businesses to town. Thank you for giving me this great opportunity.

Thanks for the four years

First of all, I would like to personally thank current Mayor John Lange. John has had a successful tenure in office that has shaped the destiny of city government for decades to follow. Under John's leadership, Effingham has restructured city government with the hiring of our first City Administrator, Jim Arndt. Thank you, John, for all the opportunities you shared with me the last four years. You were truly an inspiration to me.

I have enjoyed my term as City Commissioner. The staff at City Hall is wonderful and works very hard to make Effingham grow and prosper. The Fire Department and Police Department are true professionals that make Effingham safe and a great place to raise our families. The city workers are the best and a true asset to all residents. It has been a remarkable four



Larry Micenheimer

years for me personally and I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to serve.

Good Luck to the new council. I know you will do your best to make Effingham better. Congratulations, to the new mayor, Merv Gillenwater. I am confident he will do a great job. I will miss being a part of city government, but I know God has big plans for me to do something else to make Effingham better.

The Effingham City Council meets at 6:30 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of each month at City Hall. Meetings are open to the public.

From the Administrator -- Continued from Page 1

the entire community was readily apparent to everyone on the City staff. Karen possessed a sincere passion to serve, and I appreciated her thoughtful consideration of proposed policy changes and capital improvement projects.

I want to recognize every candidate that ran in this year's election. The character they displayed through a positive campaign was very impressive. I want to congratulate the new members of the City Council and welcome them to their new

post. Mayor Elect Gillenwater will have a great foundation to build upon and he possesses a wealth of knowledge from his four years of service. Commissioner Harris is the anchor of the Council, as he begins his fourth term behind the Council table. I look forward to working with newcomers Matt Hirtzel, Brian Milleville, and Don Althoff, as we continue our efforts to make Effingham a great place to live, work, play, and worship.

Our City outshines most

I am very grateful for the confidence shown to me by the citizens of Effingham. I will continue to work to make our City a prosperous, safe place to raise our children.

During the recent campaign, I heard some candidates saying negative things about our City. I disagree with that. We are not perfect, but we do live in an amazing City.

We outshine other cities -- always have, always will.



Alan Harris

Let's work together to build an even more amazing, positive City.

Thank you for your support.

Library to move into bank

Helen Matthes Library has found itself a new home – the Fifth-Third Bank building.

Over the past several years, the Helen Matthes Library Board and the Effingham City Council have considered several locations for a new library facility. After careful consideration, Fifth-Third Bank's 29,400-foot complex in Downtown Effingham was selected as the library's new home.

Officials from the city, library, and bank announced earlier this month that the bank will be constructing a new 5,565-square-foot facility at the corner of Third Street and Jefferson Avenue, right next to its existing facility. As part of the project, the bank will then sell its current facility to the City of Effingham, which has entered into an intergovernmental agreement with the library for it to use the facility as a library.

"Both projects will be great additions to Downtown Effingham and will complement the enhancement efforts the City and Downtown businesses have undertaken over the last 15 to 20 years," said Mayor John Lange. "I'm excited to see more positive activity in



Mayor John Lange discusses the new Helen Matthes Library facility at a news conference earlier this month. The library will be moving into the current Fifth-Third Bank facility in Downtown Effingham.

our community."

Lange also recognized the joint efforts of the bank officials and the library board.

"I want to thank all those individuals for their involvement and for all their hard work in seeing the project through," he added.

Fifth-Third Bank officials

area also pleased with the agreement.

"Fifth-Third is delighted to partner with the City of Effingham on this important community project," said Rick Silvers, senior vice president and retail executive. "Effingham is a vibrant market for us, and we're

• Continued to Page 7

New council to be seated in May

On April 5th, Election Day, a total of 2,490 voters, of the 7,847 registered City voters, showed up at the polls to cast their vote for our new City Council.

The new City Council will consist of these five citizens for the next four years. Mayor, Merv Gillenwater, a former City Commissioner, joined by returning Commissioner, Alan Harris, and newcomers Matt Hirtzel, Brian Milleville, and Don Althoff. Below is the summary totals listed for both the Mayor and Commissioner Candidates.

Mayor

Merv Gillenwater – 720
Larry Micenheimer-689
James J. Niemann- 579
Dick Deibel - 477

Commissioner

Alan Harris- 1337
Matt Hirtzel-1196
Brian T. Milleville-1025
Don Althoff-983
Karen S. Flach-980
Chelsea Allen-948
Kurt J. Buehnerkemper-945
J. Todd Stewart-672

SRP created for cell phone users

The City of Effingham has implemented the Self-Registration Portal (SRP) for residents of Effingham who have no telephone land line service.

As more people transition from land lines to wireless and VoIP phone services, the availability and accuracy provided phone data has greatly diminished, creating significant gaps in communications for the City when contacting the public to deliver important messages.

Residents now have the option to register online, if they do not have a land line.

Online registration is exclusively for citizens of Effingham where no land line exists in their home.

The emergency notification system activated by the Effingham City Dispatch Center may be used to notify citizens of any situation that threatens harm to life and/or property. This may include, but is not limited to water issues, missing persons, criminal activity,

hazardous material, or man-made disasters.

Applications for the Self-Registration Portal (SRP) now appears on the City of Effingham's website, along with detailed information to answer any questions citizens may have.

To register, log in directly at – <https://cityofeffingham.onthealert.com>.

For more information on the program, visit the City's website at www.effinghamil.com.

Call JULIE before digging

Spring marks the arrival of the digging season.

The Effingham Fire Department encourages the community to utilize a free service developed to protect homeowners and contractors from personal injury.

JULIE ensures that underground utility lines in the work area are marked. Simply call 8-1-1 or visit www.illinois1call.com to submit a locate request to JULIE at least two working days before digging.

Community Development

City approves agreements for two projects

Two large enterprises which will soon be underway in the City of Effingham are John Boos & Company and Hampton Inn & Suites projects.

John Boos and the City of Effingham have been working together to find a new location for the company for over two years.

A new location was eventually found and John Boos has agreed to remain in Effingham versus moving to an out-of-state location.

As part of the agreement between John Boos & Company and the City of Effingham, the company will be relocating all operations except the wood plant to the former Schulte Building Systems Facility located on South US 45, just north of Central School. An office expansion and additional truck docks are slated to be constructed at the Schulte Facility along with other various improvements.

Under a lease from the City, the wood plant would

remain at its current location for a period of up to six years before also being relocated. The current wood plant site would then be cleared of all structures and made available for development.

In addition, the John Boos & Company retail facility will remain open in the City of Effingham. This is a great retention project for the City of Effingham keeping not only the company in town but also the approximate 120 jobs as well. The City looks forward to another 125 year relationship with John Boos & Company.

Hampton Inn & Suites is another project which the City has been working on for over one and one-half years.

This new 80 room, four-story high hotel will house an indoor swimming pool, a large meeting room, a two-story lobby and will encompass a total of 52,560 square feet.

It is estimated that the new hotel will create close to 40



John Boos & Company will relocate its operations to the former Schulte Building Systems facility, located on South US 45 near Central Grade School.

full-time and part-time positions and will be located on the site currently occupied by Motel 6.

This is a great example of a “classic” tax increment financing project whereby an older, underutilized structure is removed and replaced with

a new development.

Hampton Inn & Suites will be a great addition to Effingham and will help in the attraction of conferences and in the continuation of Effingham’s reputation as a top notch place to stay when travelling.

Summer Reading Program fun for all ages

With the summer months soon approaching, the Helen Matthes Library staff is in full swing with planning the 2011 Summer Reading Program.

This year’s theme is “A Midsummer Knight’s Read,” which will focus on fun and exciting activities based around the medieval times, fairies, princesses, and dragons, as well as nighttime happenings.

Main events include comedian/juggler Jason Huneke, who has performed on America’s Got Talent and for Carnival Cruiselines. Another main attraction is the Elsenpeter Production marionette show “Sleeping Beauty.” As in the

past, the library is partnering with Ballard Nature Center for great learning activities and new this year, Douglas-Hart Nature Center in Mattoon.

For the adults, the library staff is excited to offer a Meet the Author experience with Tracie Peterson, award-winning author of over 80 novels, both historical and contemporary. Peterson will make a tour stop at Helen Matthes Library in promotion of *Hope Rekindled*, the exciting conclusion to her *STRIKING A MATCH* series. Peterson will greet fans and sign books.

Plan to attend the kickoff event, held on the Historic Court House lawn, from 4 to

7 pm on Thursday, June 9. Activities include a bounce house, face painting, and more. Special guest Knight Karl Kindt from the St. Louis area will entertain guests as he is dressed in his full knight armor. You don’t want to miss it!

And as always, all library events are free. Registration for the summer reading program begins May 23. The summer reading program is for all ages, infants to adults. And a library card is not required to take part in this wonderful program.

Other upcoming events at the library, include:

- Art Attack, Ages 6+, 3:30

to 4:30 pm Tuesday, April 26.

- S.W.A.G. (Seniors with Attitude Group), 10 to 10:45 am, Thursday, May 5 and June 2.

- Matinee Movie “The Straight Story,” 1 pm Wednesday, May 11.

- Pre-planning a funeral presented by Hall Funeral Homes, 6:30 to 7:30 pm Tuesday, May 24.

- Meet the Author, Tracie Peterson, 11:30 am Tuesday, June 7.

- Teen Volunteer Training, Ages 18 to 18, 4 to 5 pm April 20, and 4 to 5:30 pm April 25, May 11, May 17, and May 19.

- Family Movie Nights, 6 pm April 14 and May 12.

Community Development

Firefighters to visit homes, inspect detectors

The Effingham Fire Department will be conducting its fourth annual community Smoke Detector Program the second week of the following months; June, July and August.

Smoke detectors save lives, but only if they are working properly.

It is the goal of the Effingham Fire Department to make sure every resident is protected by a working smoke detector.

Some residents, for whatever reason, may not have the ability to check or maintain

their detectors. The program is designed to help homeowners maintain their smoke detectors in their homes. Also it will allow the firefighters an opportunity to interact with the residents of Effingham.

The Fire Department will walk door to door in predetermined neighborhoods and ask residents if they would like their smoke detector checked. If the resident accepts the service, the Fire Department will check the detector and make sure it is working correctly.

If the detector is found to be nonfunctioning the firefighters will replace the batteries and or the complete detector free of charge. This is a completely free service to the community! All firefighters will be in uniform and will be carrying proper identification.

If the homeowner is not home, the firefighters will leave a door hanger with the information needed to request a return visit.

If you have any other questions about fire safety, feel free

Annual Smoke Detector Program

Effingham Firefighters will be visiting homes to offer complimentary in home smoke detector inspections during the months of June, July & August.

to ask the firefighters while they are in your neighborhood and they will gladly answer your questions.

Message from the Mayor-- Continued from Page 1

governmental finance in lieu of the annual appropriations. The City appointed the City Administrator as the Budget Officer and has charged him with the task of balancing the municipal budget with Council and Department Head input and approval.

Even throughout these difficult economic times, the City has made a diligent effort to keep up with the maintenance of our streets, sanitary sewer systems, water lines, and our sidewalks. In addition to the necessary maintenance, the City has made strides to upgrade our facilities in order to meet the citizens' needs of today as well as in the future. The City is nearing completion of the construction of Outer Belt West. Once this pivotal roadway is completed, the congestion along Keller Avenue will be reduced and new opportunities for commercial and industrial development will be created.

The City is also in the process of expanding our Water Treatment Plant through the construction of a new one million gallon clearwell at our current facility. The City has also increased our water

capacity through the creation of a raw water main that connects the City to an additional surface water source. This new line will insure the citizens of our City will have an ample supply of water for years to come.

The City has been actively working on rehabilitating our sanitary sewer lines, our sanitary sewer manholes, and pumps throughout the city. While this work is out of sight, its importance cannot be overstated.

During my term as Mayor, the City has issued 539 building permits with an estimated cost of approximately 130.5 million dollars. 83 residential permits were issued as well as 56 commercial and industrial permits.

Our City Police Department has worked hard to protect and serve our community. Through the collective efforts of our police officers and telecommunicators, along with the help of our residents and local businesses, our law enforcement team maintains a low crime rate of which the entire community can be extremely proud. Our officers and telecommunicators are

well trained and motivated to serve.

Our City Fire Department is continuing to work with commercial and industrial buildings concerning proactive fire prevention. Through public education programs, the Fire Department is aimed at protecting your properties and the health and safety of our citizens. Through these public education programs and the cooperative efforts of our local businesses and the citizens, our fire calls have been greatly reduced.

The City has expanded our efforts to attract visitors to our community through the purchase of a City-owned Visitor's Center located at the intersection of Keller Drive and I-57/I-70. Effingham is a destination for many within central Illinois for shopping, dining, entertainment, and recreation. The City continues to promote ourselves within the Midwest. We are proud of what we have here in our unique community and we invite those who surround us to come for a visit.

Our economic development efforts continue to attract retail, commercial,

and industrial businesses. We also constantly strive to work with local businesses to help them in their expansion efforts. The City recognizes the importance of jobs within our community. Our people need a place to work, and we are persistently working to insure there is an ample supply of jobs within the area, as our lower than average unemployment rates indicate, even through these challenging economic times.

With a new Council and Mayor taking their seats next month, I want to wish them well in their public service. I am confident that we have laid a good foundation for the new Council to build upon.

I want to thank Commissioner Harris, Commissioner Flach, Commissioner Micenheimer, and Commissioner Gillenwater for their assistance throughout the last four years and for all they have done for our employees and this City. I am thankful for you, the citizens, for allowing me to serve as your mayor for the last four years. It has been a challenge and a struggle at times, but mostly very rewarding

Protect City employees in work zones

Public Works employees face a variety of job exposures that can result in serious injuries and/or fatalities. One significant job workers face daily is completing work duties on streets and highways.

According to Illinois Department of Transportation, over 7,000 motor vehicle crashes occur annually in work zones. In 2009, 31 people died in work zones, 5 of which were workers. The City is committed to protecting workers through training, public awareness, enforcing work zone driving rules, and emphasizing worker protection.

Working on two-lane roads, residential streets, and in business districts presents a significant risk to Public Works employee safety. Traffic is present when completing job tasks such as: sign repair and replacement, tree and brush

removal caused by adverse weather, painting/stripping, electrical/light repair, patching of potholes, sewer work, mowing, sidewalk repairs, street maintenance and construction, and cleaning storm drains.

The City of Effingham will do our part by following these safety procedures:

1) Establish safe work zones that conform to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices-part 6 (MUTCD).

2) Utilize proper channelizing devices such as cones and barricades to divert traffic through the work zone.

3) Use flaggers who are properly trained to protect fellow workers, the public, property, and themselves while working in the right-of-way.

4) Make workers highly visible to the motoring public by wearing reflective vests or shirts, and ensure that workers

wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

5) Post advance warning signs to alert drivers that they are entering an area where workers are present.

The public can do its part by following these safety procedures:

1) Obey all traffic rules within the work zone.

2) Don't speed in the work zone. Speeding reduces the stop time available to avoid an accident.

3) Learn to anticipate situations and plan responses in advance.

4) Alcohol, drugs, and other medications affect a driver's ability to concentrate and impair reaction time.

5) Don't drive fatigued. Being sleepy behind the wheel slows reaction time, decreases awareness, and impairs judgment.

6) Don't multi-task. When driving, safety should be the driver's main priority. Statistics indicate that drivers who talk on cellular phones are four times more likely to be involved in an accident.

7) A loud radio can distract drivers and should be avoided. Avoid eating and drinking while driving as this can cause driver distraction.

8) Be a courteous driver. On Jan. 1, 2010, two new distracted driving laws went into effect. One makes it illegal to email, text, or surf the internet while driving on Illinois roadways. The other prohibits drivers from talking on a cell phone while traveling through a construction zone or school zone.

Thank you for your help in providing a safer work environment for City employees within the city's work zones.

Be prepared for severe weather hazards

Some emergencies, like February's ice storms, come with advance warning. Others like tornadoes, thunderstorms, flooding and earthquakes strike with little or no warning and can cause property damage, injury, or even death. These are just some of the severe weather hazards that affect Illinois.

The majority of tornadoes in Illinois occurs between April 1 and June 30, but don't let that fool you; they can, and have, occurred in every month of the year. Also, 30 percent of all tornadoes in Illinois occur after dark. It is important to be aware that severe thunderstorms can produce tornadoes, flooding and deadly lightning. Flooding is the number one severe weather killer nationwide.

Being prepared for these types of severe weather hazards can play a key role in your survival. Having an all hazards

alert radio in your home or business will insure that you receive watches and warnings promptly as they are issued. Also, you can prepare for severe weather by monitoring weather conditions frequently, and by conducting severe weather safety drills at home and in the workplace.

A family emergency plan should include two designated locations where family members will meet if it is impossible to return home or you have to evacuate. One location should be near your home and the other outside your neighborhood. Visit these locations so family member are familiar with them.

The plan should also designate an out-of-area contact person family members can call to report their locations, if they cannot reach each other. The contact should be far

enough away that it is unlikely he or she would be affected by the same emergency. Ensure that each family member has the contact phone number programmed into his or her cell phone or on a card in his or her wallet or bag.

It is also important to identify at least two escape routes from your home and practice using them. In addition, everyone in the home should know where the gas main and other utilities are located and how to operate them. Consider measures to flood proof residences, and have an emergency supply kit at home or in business settings.

You can take advantage of Severe Weather Preparedness by practicing severe weather safety plans and attending training on severe weather identification.

The February ice and

snow storms are just another reminder of the importance of preparedness. You should not only have a plan, but also practicing a tornado drill is a perfect opportunity for residents, business owners, and local governments to exercise their severe weather plans so everyone knows exactly what to do to stay safe during an emergency.

More tips on how to stay safe in your home, business and car are available at Helen Matthes Library or by contacting Aaron Wellbaum at 201 E. Jefferson Avenue Effingham Illinois 62401 call (217) 342-5368. Additional preparedness information is available on the Ready Illinois website at www.Ready.Illinois.gov and on the IEMA website <http://www.state.il.us/iema/disaster/disaster.htm>.

Do you know where this is?



This sculpture of two boys on a tire swing sits in front of a local business. It is seen by thousands of residents and travelers each week, but do you know where it is? If you know where, enter to win a gift basket full of hometown goodies!

Submit answers along with your contact information by emailing jansenki@ci.effingham.il.us or by mail to Effingham Tourism Office, 201 E. Jefferson Ave., Effingham, IL 62401. Correct answers will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win. Entries are due by June 15.

The winner of last issue's basket was Kathy Royse, who answered correctly that the old time filling station is at Mid America Motorworks. Congratulations Kathy!

Keep grass clippings out of City streets

With lawn mowing season fast approaching, the City Street Division would like to remind citizens to mow lawns in a direction that will blow grass inward instead of onto City streets. Grass clippings and other debris can not only clog the entrance to a storm sewer but also reduce the capacity of the storm sewer pipes which can create back ups and standing water. While the City does operate a street sweeper, it can not completely clear the streets and inlets of all debris.

The Municipal Code of the City of Effingham provides:

- It shall be unlawful to store or throw any refuse of any kind on any street, alley, or other public place (Section 22-2).
- It shall be unlawful to obstruct any drain in any public street or alley (Section 22-5).

Street and Sewer Department personnel continue to work during rain events and throughout the season to keep the inlets open and pipes clean. However, it would be a great help if property owners, when mowing lawns, could blow the grass inward instead of onto the streets. With your assistance, we can reduce maintenance costs and increase the efficiency of our sewer system.

Library--

Continued from Page 3

pleased to make a new investment here.

"Our commitment to the community is representative of a loyal customer base and an outstanding group of employees committed to providing the best customer experience possible," said Silvers.

Construction on the new bank facility is expected to begin in early 2012 with completion expected approximately a year later. The Helen Matthes Library would then begin renovations to its new home before moving the library.

The City will purchase the Fifth-Third Bank building for \$2.98 million, which will be funded through Tax Increment Financing funds. The bank will purchase the land for its new building from the City for approximately \$480,000.

Plans for the new library facility can be seen at the library.

Sculptures arrive downtown

The City of Effingham will kick off its 13th Annual Sculpture on the Avenues program this month to coincide with the 6th Annual Artisan Fair on April 29 and 30.

Thirteen new sculptures will join the City's current collection of 22 sculptures, which are displayed through Downtown Effingham.

Sculptures are created by some of the Midwest's best known and unknown sculptors.

As part of this year's outdoor exhibition, a special program will be held at 5 pm Friday, April 29, in Downtown Effing-

ham, as part of "Arts and Hearts" night. Sculpture Gail Chavenelle will unveil four of her sculptures, which will then be put on display as part of this year's program.

Following the unveiling, Chavenelle will do a meet and greet and provide information on her sculptures that she has for sale.

Sculpture on the Avenues is a self-guided walking tour that begins at City Hall and winds through Downtown Effingham.

The Sculpture on the Avenues program began in 1997 when the Effing-

ham Community Committee for the Arts formed and raised over \$60,000 to commission Leonardo Nierman's Flame of Hope, which stands prominently in front of the west entrance of City Hall and is the first exhibit on the walking tour.

An information guide, which facilitates the tour, is available at City Hall, the Effingham Visitor Center, and area businesses. A guide can also be downloaded at www.VisitEffinghamIL.com.

For more information or if you are interested in purchasing a sculpture, contact 217-342-5310.



EFFINGHAM ARTISAN FAIR

Downtown Effingham

Artisans

April 30, 10 am to 4 pm

- ★ Over 35 artists from across the region
- ★ Paintings, pottery, jewelry, sculptures, and more
- ★ Live demonstrations throughout the day

Wine Tasting

April 29, 5 to 10pm; April 30, 10am to 5pm

- ★ Wines from 9 regional wineries
- ★ Wine for sale by the glass or bottle
- ★ Learn about area wineries

Arts & Hearts

April 29, 5 to 8 pm

- ★ Live Art Auction
- ★ Community Information Booths
- ★ Sidewalk Chalk Art
- ★ Effingham Food Fair

www.EffinghamArtisanFair.com

Other Events

April 30, 10 am to 4 pm

- ★ Live Musical Entertainment
- ★ Effingham Food Fair
- ★ Kids Korner with arts and crafts
- CASA 5k Run/Walk and Fun Run
run will start at 9am

www.EffinghamIL.com

Presort Standard
US Postage
PAID
Effingham, IL 62401
Permit No. 541

City of Effingham
201 E. Jefferson Ave.
Effingham, IL 62401

