

Everything 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

It seems impossible, but more than two months have passed since I took office as mayor. It has been a very busy and interesting time. As I anticipated, much of my time has been spent transitioning into my new position, attending meetings and getting to know our local community and business leaders. Some I already knew, and some I met for the first time. Some wanted to speak to me as follow-up to conversations they had with Mayor Lange prior to his leaving, and some have new projects or issues they wanted to discuss for the first time. I could fill this newsletter with information concerning all the meetings I have attended; however, I will focus on only a few.

On May 25, a ribbon cutting

ceremony was held at Effingham County Airport to celebrate the opening of the new terminal building. The reconstruction of Evergreen Avenue West, beginning at Outer Belt Drive, was also recently approved and is to get underway anytime. Both of these projects were made possible by collaboration between Effingham County and Effingham City. Such joint efforts are very important to our community. I believe it is good for the City and County to work together and to maintain lines of communication. On May 16, Effingham City Administrator James Arndt and I met with Effingham County Board Chairperson Carolyn Wilenburg to discuss these projects, as well as others of mutual interest.



Mayor Merv Gillenwater

I also believe it is extremely important that the City maintain communication with our state and federal senators and representatives. On May 19, Mr. Arndt and I accompanied Greater Effingham Chamber of Com-

• Continued to Page 2

From the Administrator

It has been brought to my attention that there is an interest in the community to learn the process by which items are brought before the Effingham City Council. We have been asked exactly how a particular issue came to the attention of the Council; how long has an issue been under consideration; who generated the concern; and why was it considered in a certain fashion. Quite simply - the who, what, how, when and why of how a matter flows through the process of local decision makers from the beginning to the end.

By addressing these questions, I hope to provide a better understanding of the business practice by which the Council meets its

obligations to make fair, thorough, and professional decisions.

An issue that receives Council consideration is generally one that requires Council approval due to the nature of the issue. If it requires financial funding above \$10,000, City Council approval is mandatory. Likewise, if the issue requires a written contract or agreement with the City, the issue typically necessitates City Council approval. If the issue is related to approving a project, a plan, or a proposed change in our local laws, the item must be approved by the City Council.

Topics of interest come to the attention of the City through a variety of ways. Often citizens



Administrator James Arndt

like you bring concerns to the City Administration or to our elected officials. Council members themselves or City Staff may propose topics for consideration. Regulatory authorities, such as State and or Federal Govern-

• Continued to Page 2

Mentoring pair wins newsletter naming contest.

Find out more on Page 3.

Commissioners' Comments

Group collecting names for Veterans Memorial

Members of the Effingham County Veteran's Memorial need your help.

The group is adding four columns to the present memorial, located near the cannon on the historic courthouse square. Names of all veterans who at one time lived in Effingham County will be placed on these columns.

There is no charge for this service. Names will be collected until Sept. 7, and after it is in place, names will be collected and added on an annual basis.

They need your help in gathering names of all veterans, not just war-time veterans. So, please, if you know of some-



Alan Harris

one who should have a name inscribed, let the committee know.

For more information, contact the American Legion Post 120 at 217-342-3655. Donations may be sent to: Veterans Memorial Fund-raiser, PO Box 203, Effingham, IL 62401.

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.

Mayor -- Continued from Page 1

merce and Industry President Norma Lansing and others on a trip to Springfield to meet with State Senate Minority Leader Christine Radogna, State Senator John O. Jones, House Republican Leader Tom Cross, and State Representative David Reis. The purpose of the meetings was to discuss pending legislation. Some of this legislation, if passed, could have significantly negatively impacted our City budget and the tools we use to provide incentives for companies to remain in Effingham and to recruit new businesses. The meetings were very productive, and we were able to successfully obtain commitments of opposition from these legislators.

I have also attended several meetings with local developers and business leaders, Mr. Arndt, and Effingham City Economic Development Director Todd Hull to discuss possible future business ventures and potential projects. Effingham is fortunate to have so many business leaders who are interested in not only succeeding in their businesses, but also in seeing Effingham grow and prosper.

I believe maintaining a strong working relationship with local business leaders, county board members, and state and federal legislators is essential for the well-being of our community. I intend to continue to make it one of my priorities.

Time to watch expenses

"These are the times that try men's souls." Words originally penned by Thomas Paine in 1776. Over the last couple of years, many have had the same thought as America has struggled through a weak economy. Unfortunately, Effingham has not been immune to The Great Recession.

The past two years have also been a difficult time for the City of Effingham as well. Perhaps a "These are the times that try City Hall's soul" sign can be displayed in the council chambers. After all, tax revenues are down, City staff has been reduced and our infrastructure continues to age. Throw in a higher than average unemployment and confusing signals from Springfield, and we can start to understand Mr. Paine's struggle a little better.

Take heart fellow citizens, businesses have begun to show interest again in Effingham, and our sales tax numbers for the first two months of the fiscal year are above last year's. This points to a brighter future for our City even if it takes a while.

Even though our revenues are increasing, now is not the



Matt Hirtzel

time for the City Council to spend unwisely. In fact, now is the time to scrutinize our spending at an even greater level than before. It is our responsibility that we spend taxpayer money wisely. Investing in upgrading our infrastructure as well as investing in our future. Each request for money needs to be viewed as to whether there is a gain for Effingham, or there is not. Sometimes that gain is monetary and sometimes it can be measured in enhanced quality of life. Working together we can turn this economic downturn from a trying time to a prosperous one.

I would like to encourage anyone to contact me at hirtzelm@ci.effingham.il.us with any questions, comments or concerns.

From the Administrator -- Continued from Page 1

ment Offices, present issues that need addressed, as well as community support groups, nonprofit organizations, and local businesses.

The time it takes for the City to thoroughly and completely analyze the pros and cons of items vary with each area of concern and depends primarily on its complexity. Preparation for some items may take a week, while other items may take several years prior to coming before the Council for final approval.

The City Council formally acts on a proposed subject by way of a simple motion, a

Council resolution indicating the Council's resolve on the issue, or an Ordinance, which is the local government's form of a law.

If you have citizen concerns or wish to speak before the City Council, please contact the City Administrator at City Hall at 342-5308, and we will be happy to assist. Effingham City Council meetings are open to the public and are conducted regularly the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, 201 East Jefferson Avenue.

Mentoring pair names newsletter

“Everything Effingham” -- that was the winning name for the City’s newsletter naming contest.

After discussions regarding the City’s newsletter, the administrative staff determined the newsletter needed a new name, rather than “City of Effingham Newsletter.”

As a result, the City asked the Effingham Unit 40 School District’s mentoring pairs to come up with a suitable name for the quarterly publication.

Seventh-grader Ann White and her mentor, Tonya Blair, submitted the winning name, “Everything Effingham.”

The pair was honored at a special lunch, which was delivered by celebrity guest Greg Sapp. Sapp spent the first part of the lunch hour talking with White about how she came up

with the idea for the newsletter and asked questions about her plans in the future. White also received tickets to Holiday World for her and her family, along with a gas card donated by a group of City employees.

The committee selected to choose a winner out of the hundreds of names submitted acknowledged the efforts the mentoring pairs put into the project.

Names that made the final list included: “Crossroads Connection,” “The Ham Town Low Down,” “The Heart Beat,” and “Ham n’ Cheese.”

The City of Effingham thanks the Unit 40 mentoring staff for its work in helping facilitate the contest, along with the mentoring teams who came up with a variety of choices for the publication.



Winners of the newsletter naming contest were seventh-grader Ann White (center) and her mentor, Tonya Blair (left). The mentoring pair were presented with lunch from celebrity guest Greg Sapp (right), during their last mentoring lunch for the 2010/11 school year.

Improper grease, oil disposal can be costly for City departments, residents

Residents and businesses disposing of floatable oils down sinks and garbage disposals have created issues with the City’s sewage treatment system.

The City’s Public Works Department asks residents and business owners to follow City codes in an effort to improve operation costs and to avoid potential damage to homes and businesses.

According to Sec. 22-270 of the Municipal Code of the City of Effingham, the definition of floatable oil is “oil, fat, or grease in a physical state such that it will separate by gravity from wastewater by treatment in an approved pretreatment facility”.

Floatable oil, even when it is treated, interferes with the City’s sewage collection system. From your home or

business, sewer may first pass through a lift station prior to reaching the sewage treatment plant. Passing oil, fat or grease from cooking through your sink or garbage disposal can clog lift stations (just like it can clog your own drain) and can eventually cause backups in the same place they originated – your home or business.

City workers do check lift stations and gravity sewer lines on a regular basis, but these floatable oils have become a major cause of concern.

Another municipal code that deals with the operation of lift stations and the sewage treatment plant is Section 22-286(b) of the Municipal Code of the City of Effingham. The code states, “No person shall discharge, or cause to be

discharged, any storm water, surface water, groundwater, roof runoff, subsurface drainage, or unpolluted industrial process waters to any sanitary sewer.”

Violations of either of these provisions affects everyone in the community and can result in a written notice of the violation by the City requesting that satisfactory corrections must be made within ten days. If corrections are not made, fines will be charged from \$500 to \$1,000 for each day the offense continues.

If everyone works together, the City can reduce operation costs, extend the life of the sewage collection system throughout the City, and avoid damage to property caused by sewer backups.

Save a few bucks when filling pool

Summer is upon us, and those who own a swimming pool are surely thinking about the enjoyment of a pool on those hot, summer days. But filling a pool can be costly, especially since the sewer charges on your monthly bill are based upon your water usage.

Those additional sewer charges can be avoided if you stop by the Water Division office at 201 East Jefferson Avenue before you fill your pool for the season.

City staff will ask you to complete a simple form, and then a water meter reading will be taken. Call them for another reading after your pool has been filled. **Please remember that meter readings are only taken before 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.**

Community Development

Library welcomes new director; hosts events

New Library Director

Helen Matthes Library has a new Director. Amanda McKay took up the position of Library Director on May 1, following the departure of Jeanne Hamilton, who moved to become the Director of the Charleston Carnegie Public Library.

McKay grew up in Edgington, a very small town on the Mississippi River. Located in Rock Island County, Edgington is so small that it shares a zip code with a town 5 miles away. Starting as an undergraduate at Eastern Illinois University with a major in English, McKay went on to receive her MLIS (Masters in Library Information Services) at the University of Illinois. After working as a consultant for the Lewis & Clark Library System, McKay is looking forward to leading the Helen Matthes Library through the redevelopment of

the Fifth Third Bank Building and providing Effingham with a library which provides the space, technology and resources to meet the needs of the community.

A Midsummer Knight's Read

Summer 2011 looks like another successful year for the Helen Matthes Library Summer Reading Program. By mid June, over 900 children and over 220 adults had signed up to take part in the reading program, which this year takes the theme, "A Midsummer Knight's Read". Nearly 400 people attended the Summer Read Kick Off Event which took place on the Historic Courthouse Lawn. The rain stayed away as families came to meet Sir Karl Kindt (Knight for Hire), who arrived in a full suit of metal armor and explained the Knight's Code of Chivalry and then demonstrated how to slice watermelon

with his nearly four foot long sword. Other fun activities at the event included the dunk tank, bounce houses and face painting.

What's In Your Wallet?

Do you have a library card in your wallet? If not you are missing out on access to over 45,000 items at Helen Matthes Library: books, audio books, and DVDs, as well as access to our online digital library, Library On The Go. Library On The Go allows you to download Ebooks and Audio Books anywhere in the world with internet access.

In September, the library will be taking part in National Library Card Sign Up Month, an annual push by the American Library Association to encourage everyone to get a library card. Anyone signing up for a library card at Helen Matthes Library in September will be entered for a drawing



Children greet Sir Karl Kindt at a recent library summer reading event.

to win a Kindle. (Kindles will be compatible with Library On The Go later in the Fall on a date to be announced.)

So, make sure there's a library card in your wallet! More information will be available in the Library's September Newsletter.

Water Department reminds residents of policies

The City of Effingham Water Division would like to remind its customers of its policies and fees for water service, as well as additional fees in the unfortunate event of a disconnection.

All applications for new or existing water services should be made to the Water Division. Water meters are required, and connections can be made ONLY by the Water Division.

The following fees currently apply:

- New Service within City Limits - \$1,500 – Water Division must have a 24 hour notice before connecting.
- Existing Residential Service - \$25 connection fee
- Existing Service for Rental Property - \$25 connection fee plus a \$75 deposit
- Existing Business/Commercial Service - \$25 connection fee plus a \$125 deposit

Deposits are retained to insure all payments are made. When service is discontinued permanently, the deposit, less any amount still due for service, will be refunded without interest.

Monthly Payments/Non-payments: Water usage is billed monthly and is due and payable no later than the 25th day after the billing date. Please remember that on line banking will sometimes require seven to ten days to issue a check. Any bill not paid within the 25 day period will incur a 10% service charge. A late notice will be issued after the 25th day allowing the customer ten days to pay the bill in full or resolve any discrepancies. **On the eleventh day, service will be disconnected, and a \$25 charge will be added for the cost of the disconnection.**

Reconnection Fees:

Delinquent payments must be received at the Water Division office (Monday through Friday - 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) in order for service to be reconnected on the day of payment. Any service reconnection required after 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday or on weekends will require an additional \$125 service fee.

Maintenance of Private Water Lines: The City of Effingham Water Division does not assume maintenance responsibility for lines on the customer side of the water meter or valve and/or on private property, or on state, county or township highways without a valid longitudinal occupancy permit issued in the name of the City. Water Division personnel will check for leaks; however, repair of leaks on the customer side of the meter or

valve will be the customer's responsibility.

Non-Resident Water Usage: It is the policy of the City of Effingham to require all future private water users to either be within the City limits, petition to annex to the City (if contiguous), or sign a pre-annexation agreement to annex when the property becomes contiguous to the City, before water service is provided.

Additional Information: For additional information or a complete compilation of the City of Effingham Water Division's policies, retail rates and fees, please refer to Ordinance No. 54-2008. This may be obtained on line at www.effinghamil.com, or a copy may be requested by completing a Freedom of Information Request with the City Clerk's office.

Play it safe in summer heat

Hot summer temperatures, coupled with working, playing, or exercising outdoors can add up to dangerous consequences. In addition to causing illness to the affected individual, heat-related symptoms impair cognitive function, decrease attention span, inability to focus, and visual motor tracking all can lead to mistakes, thereby placing others at risk. Knowing the factors that increase the risk of heat illnesses and simple precautions can prevent heat-related illnesses.

Factors that can increase the risk of heat illness:

- Poor physical condition, such as being overweight or out-of-shape; starting the day in a dehydrated state.
- Heavy clothing that traps body heat.
- Fluid intake, such as drinking lots of caffeine and/or not drinking enough water.
- Other factors: Medications that interfere with the body's cooling system; Age-older individuals have less body water and lower sweat gland efficiency; Illness-Individuals with heart, lung, kidney disease, or diabetes may be at a greater risk for heat illnesses; Heat tolerance-not taking enough time to build up endurance and getting used to the heat.

Different types of heat illness:

• **Heat Cramps** — If you perform strenuous work activities in very hot temperatures, you may be susceptible to heat cramps, which are painful spasms of muscles that result from perspiration and loss of salt from the body. Treatment: Drink fluids and rest in a cool place. Drink small amounts of water every 15-20 minutes. Drink electrolyte solutions such as sports drinks during the day and eat more fruits, like bananas.



City workers take proper precautions while repairing a water line near Bliss Park.

• **Heat Exhaustion** — Heat exhaustion also results from a loss of fluids through perspiration. Symptoms include excessive sweating, muscle cramps, dizziness, headache, nausea or vomiting, fainting, weak but rapid pulse, and fast but shallow breathing. Treatment: Get to a cooler place and rest in a comfortable position. Apply cool, wet cloths and drink cool non-alcoholic and non-caffeinated beverages. Take a cool shower or bath. Wear lightweight clothes. Monitor symptoms and if symptoms are severe or worsen, get immediate medical attention.

• **Heat Stroke** — A heat stroke occurs when your body is unable to regulate its core temperature. Sweating stops and your body can no longer rid

itself of excess heat. This condition can be life-threatening. Symptoms include extreme high body temperature, red, hot and dry skin, rapid, weak pulse, throbbing headache, dizziness, nausea and vomiting, confusion, unconsciousness, rapid and shallow breathing. Treatment: Get to a cooler place and call for immediate medical attention. Cool victim immediately with wet sheets/ice packs, and use a fan to cool. Note: Do not place victim in cold water as this shock may cause cardiac arrest.

Tips to decrease the risk of heat illness:

• Individuals should gradually acclimate to the intensely hot weather over several days or weeks. Complete lighter work and take longer rest periods for the first week or so of intense

heat.

- Avoid working in hot environments for extended periods of time.
- Work at a steady pace and try not to overexert.
- Schedule hot jobs and heavier work on cooler days or during cooler parts of the day.
- Know what signs to look for, what to do in the event of a heat-related illness or emergency, and the necessary first aid steps to save lives.
- Take regular breaks in a cool place.
- Monitor temperatures, humidity, and individual's responses to heat at least hourly.
- Drink water steadily. Drink at least 16 oz before physical exertion, and 5-7 ounces of cool liquid (not alcoholic or caffeinated beverages) every 15-20 minutes or so-even if you are not thirsty. Do not take salt tablets unless directed by your physician.

• Dress appropriately. Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing, and a brimmed hat to protect your head, ears, nose, and neck from the sun. Apply sunscreen to protect yourself against sunburn.

• Watch for signs of heat stress, including heavy perspiration, fatigue, weakness, muscle and body ache, headache, dizziness, nausea, rapid heartbeat, confusion, loss of consciousness, and vomiting.

• If you do experience a heat-related illness, avoid driving as this may create a hazard for you and the general public.

REMEMBER: High Temperature + High Humidity + Physical Exertion = Heat Illness

Note: This article is for informational purposes only. In case of a severe heat-related illness, seek immediate medical attention.

Active neighbors lead to a safer community

Although Effingham has no formal neighborhood watch program, we have a great community made up of people who care for their neighbors and who work in partnership with the Effingham City Police to keep Effingham safe.

Chief Schutzbach and staff of the Effingham City Police Department would like to encourage being an active neighbor in order to have a safer community and improve quality of life.

The ice storm that happened in February is a great example of how the community cares for each other in times of need – many citizens checked on neighbors, as well as the elderly, sick and homebound. But caring for each other happens on a daily basis on a much more routine level as well.

Being actively involved as a neighbor simply means

watching out for each other during the workday, evenings, vacations or any absence. This creates an alert neighborhood and community and it is simple to do using the following common sense crime prevention methods.

1. Get to know your neighbors. The idea of a “nosey” neighbor is a positive thing when it comes to crime. Keeping your neighborhood safe depends on knowing who belongs and who might not. Having a safe neighborhood requires taking an interest in those around you. Don’t be afraid to look out your window, walk around on your property and survey the homes around you.

2. If you wake up at night for any reason, look out your window to see what’s going on. Most crimes will happen at night when criminals suspect

everyone is in bed. Don’t be worried about a false alarm if you see someone. Call early – Effingham Police Officers prefer to work with you to prevent crime even when it turns out to be nothing rather than getting a call to respond after a crime has been committed.

3. Light up the outside of your home at night. Install motion sensor lights or security lights that go on at dusk and go off at dawn.

4. Lock up your home, even if you go away for just a short period of time. Most criminals gain entrance through an unlocked door or window.

5. Don’t leave notes for service people or family members on a door. These act as a welcome mat for a burglar.

6. Make your house appear occupied at all times by using timers to switch lights and

radios on and off while you are away.

7. Trim or remove trees and shrubs located near windows. Overgrown vegetation allows a burglar to better hide from view.

The Effingham Police Department does not promote vigilantism and does not ask any citizen to put themselves in harm’s way to prevent crime. The department asks that you partner with officers by being alert and observant and calling 9-1-1 if you see any type of suspicious activity.

A good neighbor is the basis for a good neighborhood and a great community like Effingham. Everyone can be active neighbors and work with the Effingham City Police Department. Be willing to go that extra mile to improve the quality of life here and help keep Effingham safe.

Prepare for emergencies with a survival supply kit

A disaster of any kind may interfere with normal supplies of food, water, heat and day-to-day necessities. It is important to keep a stock of emergency supplies on hand sufficient to meet your family’s needs for at least a three-day period.

It is also advisable to update your kit regularly. You should replace the water supply and any food that may have reached its use-by or expiration date. An easy way to remember to update your kit is to use Daylight Savings Time. When you change your clocks, you should also change your kits.

Emergency supply kits should contain items needed to survive an emergency situation, such as: bottled drinking water, canned foods, non-elec-

For a complete list of kit supplies, visit www.Ready.Illinois.gov

tric can opener, blankets, fire extinguisher, and first-aid kit. For a complete list of items, contact Aaron Van Wellbaum at City of Effingham Emergency Management at 217-342-5367 wellbaum@ci.effingham.il.us or visit the Ready Illinois website at www.Ready.Illinois.gov and on the IEMA website <http://www.state.il.us/iema/disaster/disaster.htm>.

It is everybody’s hope that such a kit will never be needed and is a waste of time preparing, but if it is needed, it may well be the most valuable time ever spent putting an emergency kit like this one together.

Illinois alert program geared toward special needs residents

The State of Illinois has instituted the “Illinois Premise Alert Program.” Its purpose is to give a parent, guardian, family member, or caregiver of an individual with a special need or disability an opportunity to provide information to First Responders such as Police, Fire and Medical Personal that will assist them in the event of an emergency.

The Premise Alert Program is strictly voluntary. The information collected is maintained at 911 Centers such as Effingham City Police Department’s location, 206 E Section. When emergency personnel are dispatched to a Premise Alert address, the special needs information provided would be available to the Telecommunicator. The Telecommunicator would then relay that

information to the responding units giving them guidance and direction which can be crucial in an emergency.

To submit a request, the Premise Alert Submissions Form can be obtained from the Effingham City Police Department or downloaded from the City of Effingham’s Website (www.effinghamil.com) located in the police section. The completed form can be mailed to 206 E. Section, faxed to: 217-347-0798 or emailed to epd_dispatch@consolidated.net.

All information collected is kept confidential and only used to provide assistance to emergency responders with Police, Fire or EMS. All Premise Alert information must be updated at a minimum of every two years or as any information changes.

Do you know where this is?



She stands quietly in the community where she receives regular visitors. 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 September 15.

The winner of last issue's basket was Anna Marie Thies, who answered correctly that the statute of the two boys is in front of the Hilton Garden Inn on Avenue of Mid America. Congratulations Anna Marie!

Looking for information on Effingham?

Find information on the web at www.effinghamil.com

Looking for information on things to do in Effingham?

Find information on the web at www.visiteffinghamil.com

Fire Department provides a variety of services

The Effingham Fire Department provides a number of services to the community.

Did you know, the fire department:

- Employs fifteen full-time firefighters, nineteen paid-on-call firefighters and one photographer.
- Responds to approximately 560 calls per year.
- Responds to but not limited to fires, overpressure ruptures, rescue/motor vehicle accident/extrication, hazardous materials, downed power lines and MABAS assist.
- Is a member of the MABAS division 54 (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System).
- Maintains two staffed stations. 1) *Central Fire Station* located at 505 W Fayette built in 2004; houses administra-

tion, training room and living quarters for on duty personnel. Squad 561, Tower Ladder 551, Engine 575 and Engine 573 are all housed at Central Fire Station. 2) *Station 3* located at 1301 South Banker and is comprised of living quarters for on duty personnel and a small office. Truck 552, Engine 576 and Car 591 are all housed at Station 3.

- Participated in over 5,400 training hours covering almost 1,200 classes last year.
- Conducts annual inspections of the 1,345 businesses within the city limits. The department conducts approximately 50 general inspections a month, in addition to re-inspections or follow-ups from previous inspections. On average, staff visits 89 busi-

nesses each month.

- Provides public education materials, funded by donations from community businesses in cooperation with the National Fire Safety Council.
- Conducts an annual open house each year in October. Last year, the department welcomed approximately 1,000 visitors into the station in a four hour period.
- Conducts ten timed school fire drills in area schools representing over 3,900 students.
- Conducts an annual Safety Essay contest with the area schools with the winners name and school (one from each school) placed on the side of one of the three engines. The name remains on the apparatus for a one-year period.
- Conducts an annual color-

ing contest in area schools with one winner from each school. The winners are picked up at home on a school day, brought to Central Fire Station for breakfast with the on duty firefighters and then taken to school in a fire engine.

- Came in contact with over 5,300 children and parents in the month of October (Fire Prevention Month) last year.
- Came in contact with over 7,000 children and adults through public appearances, station tours and/or safety demonstrations last year.
- Conducts an annual Smoke Detector program. Smoke detectors and batteries are installed at no cost to the public thanks to gracious donations from Effingham Wal-Mart and the State Fire Marshal's Office.

Frequently Asked Questions -- Services and Numbers

It can be very confusing for many to distinguish between the different services offered between the City Clerk's Office, County Clerk's Office, Circuit Clerk's Office, County Treasurer's Office, etc. Here are the appropriate contact numbers and services you may need, which are not affiliated with the City Clerk's office:

Marriage License: County Clerk, (217) 342-6535
Birth Certificate: County Clerk, (217) 342-6535
Death Certificate: County Clerk, (217) 342-6535
Court Hearings or Trials: Circuit Clerk, (217) 342-4065
Speeding Tickets: Circuit Clerk, (217) 342-4065
Child Support: Circuit Clerk, (217) 342-4065
Taxes: County Treasurer, (217) 342-6844

County of Effingham County Clerk: Kerry J. Hirtzel
Effingham County Building

County of Effingham Circuit Clerk: Becky Jansen
Effingham Government Center/ Effingham Courthouse

County of Effingham Treasurer: Steven W. Dasenbrock
Effingham County Building

www.EffinghamIL.com

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