

City of Effingham

Newsletter

www.effinghamil.com

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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

With the New Year, comes hopeful resolutions and promise. Exciting times are ahead as our City government undertakes the ambitious tasks at hand. Our recently-appointed City Administrator, Mr. Jim Arndt, is knee deep in cultivating relationships, reorganization, and research – lots of research! His knowledge and expertise will enable the City to tenaciously pursue the City Council's plans for financial rebound from tough economic times. I'm confident Jim's energy and cooperative attitude will prove beneficial to us all.

Our local election is fast approaching. On April 5, you will be voting in a new Mayor and City Council. Please make the effort to educate yourself about the candidates. Take time to seek

these candidates out, ask questions, and vote for individuals who you feel will be fair to all, and who match your beliefs and political views. Our choices in civic leaders affect us all.

While the City looks to the future, I feel it is very important to acknowledge the employees who retired from the City of Effingham this past year. A tremendous amount of experience, knowledge and hard work is representative of these employees. Their loyalty and commitment to the City will not be forgotten. Thank you, and a sincere wish of continued success to Steve Austin, David Braun, Doug Dasenbrock, Randy Donsbach, Leon Fulk, Marla Geurin, Rick Goeckner, Kevin Grigg, Kevin Harder, Vicki Hoffman, Joel Holmes,



Mayor John Lange

Mike Kuhns, Paul Leppin, Jim Niemann, Mike Poynter, Phil Simmons, Gene Sligar, Betty Sudkamp, and Junior Willis.

I, along with the staff at the City of Effingham, hope you had a blessed Christmas and wish you all a safe and Happy New Year.

From the Administrator

On Nov. 15, 2010, I was honored to begin my journey with you as the City's first City Administrator. Many of you, through the past months, have probably asked yourself the question, "What is a City Administrator?" I know, as a young professional, I asked the same question many moons ago when our neighbor to the north, Mattoon, IL, hired their first Administrator. There are many misconceptions about my profession, and I wanted to share with you what I have learned through my experiences as an Administrator over the last eight years.

First and foremost, I am simply a public servant hired and appointed by the Mayor and

City Council to provide you, the citizens of Effingham, with effective public service. I have been appointed the Chief Executive Officer of the City responsible for the general supervision of the day-to-day operations of the City. I answer to you, the citizens, and report directly to the Mayor and Council. I am responsible for the creation and successful implementation of the City's annual budget, recommending the adoption of public policy to the Mayor and Council for their approval, serving as the City's personnel officer and purchasing officer, and promoting the City of Effingham.

I am excited about this opportunity to serve you in this newly



Administrator James Arndt

created position. In many states, this position is very popular and many communities both small and large have full-time appointed executives to assist the elected officials with the provision of

• Continued to Page 3

**Candidates to run for seats on City Council.
Find out more on Page 3.**

Commissioners' Comments

A special thank you to City retirees

By the time this newsletter is printed the restructuring of Effingham City's operations should be almost complete. Most of the City's key positions have been filled. Mr. James Arndt has taken over as the City's first permanent City Administrator, and Mr. Steve Miller has taken on the responsibilities of the City's first Public Works Director. Other personnel have also been assigned to serve as the operations manager and foremen within the Department of Public Works.

These changes were partially made possible by the retirement of several personnel. According to former Acting City Administrator Rick Goeckner, our workforce will have been reduced by "18 percent this year (2010) alone and approximately 30 percent in the past 10 years."

Some of the people who

retired held positions of higher responsibility, knowledge, and skill than others and their leaving may be felt by the City more than the loss of others. But all of them will be missed and all deserve to be recognized and thanked for their years of service to the city. I would like to do so in this newsletter, but fear I would leave someone out and may not have enough space to do justice to them.

However, I believe one person is worthy of special recognition and must be named. This person is Rick Goeckner. Rick began his career with the City of Effingham in May 1986 as the City Clerk. Approximately a year later he also became the Human Resource Director. Over the years, he took on several other responsibilities, including finalizing the City's combined annual budgets and

negotiating the City's union contracts. When in 2007 an anomaly occurred and four new members were elected to the city council, the responsibility for advising and educating the new members on their duties and responsibilities also fell to Rick, a responsibility he willingly accepted.

Rick's true personality and loyalty to the City became most apparent during the last few months of his employment. Though he knew that he would be retiring from City employment at the end of 2010, Rick continued to work to improve City operations as much as possible prior to his retirement. He, assisted by others, worked diligently to reduce manpower by combining three City utility departments into one public works department. He arranged for the City to purchase new



Merv Gillenwater

computer hardware and accompanying software which will greatly improve our efficiency and effectiveness in almost all areas of billing, budgeting, and finance, as well as linking together some department functions. Rick also continued to fulfill all the other duties of his office until the responsibility for those duties was assumed by Mr. Arndt.

To Rick and all the personnel who retired during the past three and a half years I would just like to say, "Thank you."

A belated greeting for this holiday season

Happy New Year!

With this newsletter coming out just after our holiday season, I hope all of you enjoyed a very Merry Christmas, and may God's blessings continue to be abundant in our lives in 2011.

During our holidays, when we find ourselves celebrating His birth and His sacrifice for us, I find myself reflecting on how His love has blessed my life.

My prayer is that we all



Karen Flach

continue to keep God a focus in our lives and that we all share in His love. Perhaps, through His love, we can enjoy "Peace on Earth."

Hospital is one of the City's greatest assets, blessings

This time of year is a great opportunity to reflect on the many blessings of life, especially those at home in Effingham. One of Effingham's greatest assets is St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital, and its medical professionals. Few communities our size are blessed with such a first-class health care facility as St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital.

St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital is Effingham's largest employer with over 900 employees and an annual payroll exceeding \$40 million. In addition to the obvious economic impact, the hospital provides quality health care to our region and has saved countless miles of travel for area residents.

It is obvious that St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital



Larry Micenheimer

has lived up to its motto "A Tradition of Caring... Since 1875." St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital has made a huge commitment to expand and grow to meet the health care needs of our community.

Thank you St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital for helping to make Effingham a wonderful place to call home.

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.

Candidates to run for council

Four running for mayor; eight running for four commissioner seats

An election to determine the make up of the City Council is just a few months away, and candidates for the April 2011 election have been announced.

Candidates for the office of Mayor are: Richard (Dick) Diebel, Larry Micenheimer, Merv Gillenwater, and James J. Niemann.

Candidates for the office of Commissioner are: Brian T. Milleville, Matt Hirtzel, Karen S. Flach, Kurt J. Buehnerkemper, J. Todd Stewart, Don Althoff, Alan Harris, and Chelsea Allen.

The City of Effingham is a Commission form of municipal government with an elected City Council consisting of a mayor and four commissioners, whose terms expire every four years.

On Sept. 21, packets were available in the City Clerk's office to those interested in running for a seat who meet Illinois State Statute (65 ILCS 5/3.1 -10-5) qualifications for the elective office.

Residents who picked up a packet were then required to follow the various procedures, including collecting

Candidate Debates

Date: March 31

Time: 6:30 to 8 pm

Location: Auditorium
@ Effingham Junior
High School

the required City of Effingham residents' signatures for their petitions and executing the necessary documentation. Then, each petition was filed in the City Clerk's office during the filing period from Dec. 13 to Dec. 20.

Following the filing period, a public lottery was held at City Hall for the five candidates running for Commissioner, who filed simultaneously at 7 a.m. on Dec. 13. The purpose of the lottery was to determine the order of the placement of names on the election ballot for the office of Commissioner.

Based on the number of candidates who filed for the position of Mayor and Commissioner, the City is not required to hold a primary election, according to Illinois

State Statutes.

The change in Illinois State Statute 65(ILCS 5/3.1-20-45) states: "Nonpartisan primary elections; uncontested office. A city incorporated under this Code that elects municipal officers at non-partisan primary and general elections shall conduct the elections as provided in the Election Code, except that no office for which nomination is uncontested shall be included on the primary ballot and no primary shall be held for that office. For the purposes of this Section, an office is uncontested when not more than four persons to be nominated for each office have timely filed valid nominating papers seeking nomination for the election to that office."

Therefore, the City of Effingham will not have a 2011 Consolidate Primary. Thus, the listed candidates will appear on the election ballot for the 2011 Consolidated Election.

The polls for the Effingham City Council election will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday, April 5.

Winter snow removal may cause hazards

With winter weather anticipated in January and February, the City would like to remind residents of potential safety hazards that may result when removing snow from private property.

Many residents, business owners, and snow removal contractors push the snow from entryways and parking lots onto the roadway. The build up of snow on the roadways can harden and potentially become a safety hazard, causing accidents or damage to passing vehicles.

Other safety hazards include:

- Piling snow in a way that causes poor visibility at an intersection;
- Covering fire hydrants with snow or piling snow around a fire hydrant which limits access by the Fire Department in the event of a fire or other emergency;
- Packing snow in front of mail boxes, creating delivery problems for mail carriers;
- Piling snow over a storm drain which can cause standing water when snow starts to melt.

The City's snow removal policy is to first clear all collector streets, around schools and bus routes, hospitals and the three fire stations.

When heavy or back to back snow storms occur, the City's crews are generally working around the clock to make the streets as safe as possible.

They pay particular attention to intersections, fire hydrants, mail boxes and storm drains, but this can become more difficult as the snow accumulates.

So, please cooperate and make the best effort possible to avoid some of the above hazards, and spring will be here before we know it!

From the Administrator -- Continued from Page 1

local government services. The title of the appointed executives seems interchangeable, but no matter what they are called the Administrator is not hired to replace your Mayor and Council members. I was simply hired to assist the Mayor and Council with the full-time day-to-day management and direction of the City. I like to reference a federal hierarchy that exists in our blessed country. I am referring to the relationship between the President, Congress, and the Chief of Staff.

The Mayor serves the role as the President, as the executive branch of government, the City Council serves the role as Congress within the City, as the local legislators, and the City Administrator serves the role as the Chief of Staff making sure the ordinances, resolutions, policies, and rules imposed by the Council and Mayor are put into action.

As the City's first City Administrator, I look forward to the challenges and opportunities that are laid out be-

fore me. My family and I are very excited about becoming very involved in the community. My wife, Kim, recently accepted a position with a local business; my daughter, Katie, goes to Effingham High School and is now employed at a local restaurant; and my son, Billy, attends Effingham Junior High and is playing for the Mustangs' basketball team. We are excited to call Effingham our home and to call each of you our new neighbors.

Community Development

Spotlight: St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital

St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital has always had a significant role in the Effingham community, but that role has grown even more since it has become the City's largest employer.

The Hospital has steadily grown over the years, not only by increasing employment but also by improving and expanding the Hospital complex. St. Anthony's currently employs 900 employees, which is equivalent to 700 full-time workers, and the Hospital expends close to \$45 million a year on payroll. According to a study conducted by the Illinois Hospital Association, St. Anthony's employment and impact on the community results in 450 additional jobs and generates a total annual impact of over \$182 million on the local economy.

The Hospital spends close to \$42 million per year on the goods and services it needs to provide health care. In 2010, St. Anthony's invested \$7 million in capital improvements and for major medical equipment. Current projects underway include: renovating and reorganizing the prior nuclear medicine space and

existing radiology department, the construction of a wound healing center which includes two hyperbaric oxygen chambers, and the removal of two residential units to allow for future expansion of the hospital complex. The Hospital just recently opened the new Center for Advanced Imaging which houses state-of-the-art equipment including a 64-Slice CT Scanner, a 16-Channel MRI Unit, and a nuclear medicine suite. Dollars spent by St. Anthony's generates over \$81 million for the local economy.

St. Anthony's provides very significant benefits to the community in several different ways. In fiscal year 2009/2010, the Hospital made underpayments for Medicaid patients in the amount of \$5,054,049, made available \$1,839,169 for Christian/charity care for those who cannot afford to pay for their health care, \$596,267 for community services and outreach programs to help residents stay healthy, and \$119,304 for tuition assistance for students seeking to learn a degree in a health care field.

St. Anthony's Memorial



St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital, which is the largest employer in the City of Effingham, provides numerous services to the community.

Hospital has been and always will be a major part of the Effingham community. Not only does the hospital play a major role in the area economy, but

along with the numerous supporting and complimentary offices and clinics, the hospital helps make Effingham a regional medical center.

Interstate construction project underway in City

Construction to widen the interstates running through Effingham will provide three-lane traffic in each direction between the two tri-levels, located on the outer edges of the outside of the city.

The project is expected to be completed in four phases, with the first two of these phases having already been awarded and currently under contract.

McCarthy Improvement Company was the successful bidder on the first phase and a joint venture of McCarthy and Foley Construction Company, both of Davenport, Iowa, was the successful bidder on the second phase.

The first phase of the project is a \$45.8

million contract that includes paving from US 40 through the south tri-level. It also includes replacement of the Little Wabash River bridges on Interstate 70, repair of the tri-level bridges, and extension of the drive-thru culverts. The first phase is anticipated to be complete in late 2012.

The second phase of the project is a \$13.9 million contract that includes replacement of the Fayette Avenue bridge over Interstate 70 as well as reconstruction and reconfiguration of the on and off ramps. It also includes paving on Fayette Avenue from Illini Drive to Outer Belt West. When complete the Fayette Avenue interchange will be a regular four-legged

interchange with a set of traffic signals for each of the two sets of on and off ramps. It is anticipated that this phase will be completed in mid to late 2012.

The third phase of the project includes new pavement and associated work from US 40 to near the Fourth Street Overpass. This portion is planned to be let this summer.

The fourth phase of the project includes the new pavement from near Fourth Street through the north tri-level. It also includes replacement of the bridges over US 45 and ramp reconstruction at that interchange. It is anticipated that this work may be let in 2013.

Community Development

Final leg of Outer Belt West under construction

An alternative route designed to alleviate traffic congestion for motorists traveling from the north side of the city to the south sides of the city is one step closer to becoming a reality, as crews continue to work on the final phase of the Outer Belt West project.

Construction on the fourth phase of Outer Belt West is underway and will provide an easy access point for motorists entering and exiting Outer Belt West from Keller Drive.

In 2004, the City completed the first section of the roadway, which connects West Evergreen Avenue to Mid America Avenue on the north side of the city. The second phase of the project then connects the roadway to Fayette Avenue, and the third phase connects Fayette Avenue to US 40.

The final 2,000-foot section of the roadway will connect Keller Drive and Ford Avenue

to the existing portion of the roadway.

Feutz Contractors out of Paris, IL, will be completing the project, which is expected to be complete by the end of 2011.

The crews have the trees downed and are working to clean up the remaining debris. Installation of a 60-inch storm sewer was completed in early December, and the contractor hopes to have a good start on dirt work while the weather is favorable.

If residents have not yet noticed, the views from the Effingham Performance Center and from the Ford Avenue/Keller Drive intersection are significantly different.

When the project is complete, travelers can expect this portion of the roadway to be as scenic as the other sections of this beautiful road.



Dirt work has begun on the final leg of Outer Belt West, which will connect Ford Avenue to the existing roadway.

Residents asked to post street numbers on homes

With Effingham County having a 911 system in place, the importance of having an address number on your home cannot be emphasized enough. In life-threatening situations, every minute is critical. Four minutes is the amount of time EMS personnel have to provide emergency care to someone who has stopped breathing, before irreversible brain damage begins. Every second counts and is crucial. Having visible house numbers can be the difference between life or death.

In an effort to serve you better, the City of Effingham is requesting that residents cooperate in posting their street numbers on their homes, as is required by City ordinance.

Go outside and cross the street. Can you see your house numbers? Do this again at night. Can you see them now? Walk across the street of the houses next door to you - can you see your house numbers? If the answer to any of these questions is no, read and follow the suggestions below:

- Your house numbers should be at least three-inches tall and should be clearly visible from the street, and well lit at night. Street numbers should not be blocked by any trees or bushes. They should be contrasting to the background – light numbers on a dark background or dark numbers on a light background. The numbers should be large enough to be seen easily from across the street.

- Use actual numerals; do not have the number spelled out in script. Script numbers are hard to see and take time to read. By the time the Emergency Personnel can make out what they say, they may already have passed your house, and will have to go around the block, wasting precious moments.

- If the entrance is more than 50 feet from the street, or cannot be seen from the street, a second set of numbers should also be displayed on the mailbox or on a post at the street or end of the drive. Be sure to mark both sides of your mailbox or mark your house number in such a way that it may be easily seen, no matter which direction they are approaching.

- Encourage your neighbors to have visible house numbers. If we can see their numbers as we are driving down the block, it makes it easier for us to find you.

If you still need another reason to post a number on your home, consider that City ordinance provides that if you fail to do so, a fine of up to \$500 can be assessed.

The main concern of everyone is for the safety of the residents of the City of Effingham. You never know when you may be the next one to call 911 for an emergency. Be sure your house number is posted and visible from the road so you can be found as quickly as possible as every minute counts.

Tips if making a 911 call from a cell phone

- Verify with your service provider that your cell phone has GPS capability, older phones and track phones may not.
- 911 cell calls will be directed to the nearest available cell tower which may not be in the city or area of your emergency. Your call could be transferred.
- After dialing 911, the dispatcher may verify your location by attempting to obtain landmarks or an exact address for better emergency assistance. Cell phones do not always give the exact location of the caller.
- Older cell phones or phones that no longer have service may still dial 911 if charged. Remove the battery or DO NOT let young children play with these phones.
- Currently, 911 Centers are not equipped with technology to receive text messaging or photos.
- Do not hang up if you dial 911 accidentally. This keeps emergency personnel from trying to track you down to see if you need some type of assistance.
- Remember; dial 911 when you need emergency assistance for Police, Fire or EMS services.

Take steps to prevent child abduction

The media is continually flooded with headlines of missing and exploited children, and a police officer can't be on every corner.

A child's safety is one of a parent's most primal instincts and one of the challenges of being a parent is teaching your children to be cautious without filling them with fear or anxiety.

Here are a few tips to lessen the chances that your child will be abducted:

Tips for Parents:

- Always know where your children are.
- Never leave children alone in a car or stroller, even for a minute.
- Teach your children their name, address, and home phone number and how to call 911 if there is an emergency.
- Agree on a specific time when your children must return home.
- Discuss what your children should do if they become lost

in a public place. Instruct children to ask a cashier for help. Remind them to never go to the parking lot to look for you.

- Children are most vulnerable when alone. Children should walk to and from school and bus stops in groups.

Tips for Children:

- Always tell your parents where you are going.
- Never enter an unfamiliar home without getting your parent's permission first.
- Never get into a vehicle, unless your parents know and have said it's OK.
- Always wear reflective clothing at night.
- Never approach any house that is not well lit.
- Remember anything weird that an adult says or does to you and tell your parents immediately.
- Run away from people who offer you candy or other treats or want you to help look for their lost pet.
- Scream, run and fight, if

anyone tries to grab you or make you go with them.

- Don't play in unfamiliar areas.
- Stay on well-lit streets and always use the sidewalk. If there is no sidewalk, always walk facing traffic and at least six feet from the street.

A family's best weapon against preventing child abduction is with communication and proper preparation. Parents are encouraged to have the following information about their children readily accessible if such a tragedy should occur: height, weight, eye color, clear recent photo, fingerprints, and up-to-date medical and dental records.

The Effingham Police Department wants you and your children to be safe, but not live in fear. Always contact law enforcement authorities immediately if you believe there is any suspicious or unlawful activity occurring.

Annual open house a huge success

The Effingham Fire Department's annual open house, held on Oct. 3, was once again a huge success. The fire department conducted a live side by side burn to promote home sprinkler systems, as well as a live extrication demonstration. Approximately 900 people were present.

The following are the winners of the contests that were a part of the open house.

Winners of the Coloring Contest are:

Ava Boehm, of Sacred Heart; Tymber Jordan, of Central School; Evitt Nashed, Early Learning Center; April Dy, St. Anthony School; and Kiley Weaver, South Side School. The winners of the coloring contest will have breakfast with the firefighters and then will ride to school in a fire truck.

Winners of the Home



Asst. Fire Chief Wolters helps with hands-on activities at the Fire Department's annual open house.

Fire Escape Plan are: Sophie Gabriel, St. Anthony School; Evi Malone, Sacred Heart School; and James Ross, Central School. The winners of the home fire escape plan won a \$5 gift certificate to Culver's.

Winners of the Build a Bear raffles are: Kylee Holt, Logan Miller, Shania Patton, Madison Florida, and Blair Banning.

Winner of the Pizza Pop Party is Irene Ashbaugh.

Winners of the school essay contest are: Makayla Koenig, St. Anthony School; Olivia Thompson, Effingham Junior High School; and Chelsea Miller, Sacred Heart School. Winners of the essay contest will have their names placed on a fire truck for one year.

Do you know where this is?



This old time filling station is a unique attraction in Effingham. It is seen by thousands of visitors each year, 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 March 15.

The winner of last issue's basket was Gretchen Cook, who answered correctly that the statue of the boy and girl reading the book is at the Helen Matthes Library. Congratulations Gretchen!

Take precautions to keep warm, safe this winter

Winter is here, which means we're once again faced with snow, ice and cold temperatures. Now's the perfect time to take measures to ensure you and your family are safe and warm this winter.

The Effingham City Emergency Management Agency is joining with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) to highlight winter preparedness and safety.

Traveling during the winter months can be particularly hazardous. You can make winter travel safer by planning ahead and taking certain safety measures. Always check weather and road conditions before you start a trip. Equip your car with a Winter Storm Survival Kit stocked with items such as blankets, extra warm clothing, a flashlight and batteries, first-aid kit, windshield scraper, water, and some non-perishable food items.

If you become stranded along the roadside, pull as far off the road as possible and set your hazard lights to "flashing." If you have a cell phone, call for help. Make sure the exhaust pipe is not blocked by snow, and then run the engine and heater about 10 minutes each hour to keep warm. To keep blood circulating and to maintain body heat, vigorously move arms, legs, fingers and toes.

More tips are available in a winter preparedness guide which is available by contacting Aaron Wellbaum at (217) 342-5368. Also, visit the Ready Illinois website at www.Ready.Illinois.gov.

Become a 'defensive walker' this winter season

Many slip and fall injuries occur during the winter months due to inclement weather. Wet or slippery surfaces increase the risk for slip and fall injuries. Taking extra precautions during the winter season will help reduce these types of injuries.

Injuries sustained from slips and falls may range from minor bruises to broken wrists or sprained ankles, to more serious bone fractures and back injuries, to life-threatening head traumas. Snow and ice raise special safety concerns as this increases the likelihood of slips and falls, especially on sidewalks, entryways, stairs, ramps, slopes, and parking lots.

Many injuries occur in the simple process of getting in and out of cars, trucks, and other equipment. Inspect the area around the vehicle/equipment before stepping out onto the ground. Even stepping out onto wet leaves can increase the risk

for slip and fall injuries. Always face the vehicle/equipment when entering or exiting, keeping legs close to the vehicle and getting as close as possible before climbing in. Don't enter or exit a vehicle/equipment without first having a good hand-hold. Pulling oneself up reduces the force between the shoe and the step and reduces the danger of a slip. Step down lightly and test the surface before putting your entire weight down. Transfer weight slowly and use the vehicle for support.

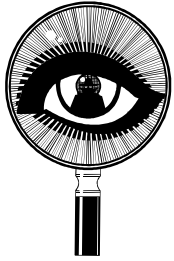
Wiping one's feet and keeping mud, ice, and other debris off the bottom of shoes and boots will help maintain good traction. Apply deicers and/or abrasives to help accelerate melting of ice and give better traction. Pay particular attention to north-facing sides of buildings which receive less sunlight and tend to stay frozen longer.

Just like being a "defensive driver"

to avoid accidents, become a "defensive walker" to avoid slips and falls during inclement conditions. Plan ahead and ensure sufficient time to reach your destination. Wear shoes or boots with soles that provide traction on snow and ice. Avoid wearing footwear with plastic or leather soles or heels. Assume that all wet, dark areas on pavements are slippery and icy. Look ahead when walking. A sidewalk completely covered with ice may require walking along its grassy edge for better traction. Take small slow steps or shuffle for stability and keep hands at the sides and not in pockets.

No matter how well the snow and ice is removed, you will invariably encounter some slippery surfaces when walking outdoors this winter. It is important to be continually aware of dangers and to consciously be safe around slippery surfaces.

Library gears up for a **Mystery Meltdown**



If you are looking for something to do during the cold winter months, the Helen Matthes Library should be your next stop. Adult Programming Coordinator, Catherine Bailey, is busy planning for a Mystery Meltdown adult winter reading program. The program runs from January 18th– February 28th and includes 8 special mystery meltdown events. Participants will be provided with a list of 7 mystery themed tasks. Each week, the reader will complete a task from the list and bring the provided reading log to the library to receive a certificate to a local business.

Sponsors include: The Downtown Popcorn Company, Burklands Flower Shop and Greenhouse, Starbucks (Effingham) and the Last Straw. A library card is not required to participate. For further information call 342-2464 x3 or stop by the Check Out Desk at the library.

Helen Matthes Library

Storytime
10:00am &
6:00pm

**1st, 2nd, & 3rd Tues of
each month**

**S.W.A.G.
(Seniors With
Attitude Group)**
10:00 am

1st Thurs. of each month

**Edinburgh, Scotland...
The Jekyll and Hyde City**
6:30pm

Jan 25

Tween Karaoke
3:30pm-5:30pm

Jan 27

St. Patrick's Day Tea & Tales
11:30am-12:30pm

Mar 17

To register and see a full list of
library events visit:
www.effinghamlibrary.org

www.EffinghamIL.com

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

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

