

Mayor, J. Michael Houston

January-March 2015 Volume 1, Issue 2

<u> Mayoral Message</u>



Happy New Year-

I hope the new year finds you in good health and high spirits!

The year begins with milder temperatures than last year, but be sure that winter is here. Please keep safety in mind while driving the city's streets. The Public Works crews will be diligently monitoring the weather and will react with speed and efficiency to keep our residents safe.

As invovled members of your neighborhoods, please keep an eye out for our residents who may need an extra hand this year, whether that be shoveling their sidewalks or walking to their cars.

Thank you for your commitment to our community,

2015 Spring Leaf Pick-Up

The spring city-wide leaf collection will take place from **April 2015.** The Office of Public Works will release specific dates of leaf pick up, closer to spring. Residents may drop off yard waste at:

Evans Recycling2100 J. David Jones Parkway,
Monday-Friday, 7am-5pm;
Saturday, 7am – Noon.
217.391.0886



Branch Pick-Up

The City of Springfield is **suspended until the spring.** Residential branch pick up will be on a three to five week pick up schedule, **May through November.** A map indicating where branch pick up will occur in your area will be posted on the City website and in the Sunday edition of the State Journal-Register.

Residents may drop off branches at Evens Recycling.





- Avoid driving while you're fatigued. Getting the proper amount of rest before taking on winter weather tasks reduces driving risks.
- Never warm up a vehicle in an enclosed area, such as a garage.
- Make certain your tires are properly inflated.
- Never mix radial tires with other tire types.
- Keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid gas line freeze-up.
- If possible, avoid using your parking brake in cold, rainy and snowy weather.
- Do not use cruise control when driving on any slippery surface (wet, ice, sand).
- Always look and steer where you want to go.
- Use your seat belt every time you get into your vehicle



- SHOVEL
- WINDSHIELD SCRAPER AND BROOM
- FLASHLIGHT WITH EXTRA

 BATTERIES
- BATTERY POWERED RADIO
- WATER
- SNACK FOOD, i.e. ENERGY BARS
- MATCHES AND SMALL CANDLES
- EXTRA HATS, MITTENS AND SOCKS
- FIRST AID KIT WITH POCKET
 KNIFE

- NECESSARY MEDICATIONS
- BLANKETS OR SLEEPING BAG
- TOW CHAIN OR ROPE
- ROAD SALT, SAND OR KITTY LITTER
 FOR TRACTIONS
- JUMPER CABLES
- EMERGENCY FLARE OR REFLECTORS
- WHISTLE TO ATTRACT ATTENTION
- CELL PHONE WITH ADAPTER TO
 PLUG INTO LIGHTER





NEIGHBORHOOD SPOTLIGHT

MATHER AND WELLS

Betty Starks is the president of the Mather & Wells Neighborhood Association since its inception.

Where is Mather and Wells located?

The Mather & Wells Neighborhood is located in Ward 2. It is bound by 11th St to the west; Martin Luther King Jr., to the east; Capitol Ave to the north; and Cook st. to the south.

Mather & Wells has been around for 16 years and I have been president from the beginning. There have been a lot of chages through the year, all positive.

All neighborhoods strugle with different issues. What are some problems residents deal within your neighborhood?

Although it has improved over the years, garbage is a problem. Some residents do not have garbage pick up, have overflowing cans, or leave large items out. We need to keep our neighbors informed of services and keep things cleaned up and especially out of the alleys.

What is the personality of your neighborhood?

The neighborhood has evolved into an area that consists of homeowners, mostly families and elderly indivduals. We all look-out for one another, just like a family.

Tells us about your neighborhood and what makes your group unique to Springfield, contact us at:

public.works@springfield.il.us or call
217.789.2255

Large Item Pick Up Program

City residents are eligible for 2 pick ups per year of up to 3 large items.

Large items include: appliances, furniture and mattresses.

Call 528.1649 to schedule a pick up today!

Office of Public Works, 300 S. 7th St., Springfield, II 62701 217.789.2255 or public.works@springfield.il.us

TIPS & TIDBITS....

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

APRIL 11, 2015 ILLINOIS STATE FAIRGROUNDS 8AM- NOON

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD RESIDENTS ONLY!

Acceptable Waste:

Oil-based paints Used motor oil Pool Chemicals

Paint thinners Drain cleaners Aerosol paints and pesticides

Herbicides Lawn chemicals Cleaning Products

Insecticides Solvents Mercury

Pesticides Antifreeze Old Gasoline

Hobby chemicals Household Batteries

Old and outdated medications and pharmaceuticals

UNACCEPTABLE WASTE:

Agricultural chemicals Propane Tanks Business/commercial sector wastes

Smoke detectors Explosives Farm machinery oil

Fireworks Fire extinguishers Lead Acid Batteries

Institutional Wastes Controlled substances Fluorescent light bulbs

Sharps, needles and potentially infectious medical wastes Tires

Do not bring latex paint!

It can be dried by leaving the lid off or mixing in kitty litter or sand. Once dry, discard into the trash.

It is not hazardous material!

TIPS & TIDBITS....

Overhead Sewer Program



The Overhead Sewer Program was established to provide financial assistance to homeowners who desire to protect their home from flooding during a heavy rain. Eligible homeowners may qualify for a **75% rebate up to a maximum of \$3500.00** for installing an overhead sewer system which can protect their basements from sewer back-up. Some modified overhead sewer designs may also qualify.

Call the Office of Public Works for more information, 789.2255 or visit the website: http://www.springfield.il.us/PublicWorks/Sewer/SewerHome.aspx

Grow Springfield Community Gardening and Urban Farming Forum

Saturday, February 7th, 9am-1:30pm Illinois Dept. of Agriculture, Springfield, IL

Calling all community gardeners, garden managers, interested citizens, and urban farmers. Learn more about garden and farm opportunities in Springfield and across the state and hear speakers from Columbia, Missouri as well as Peoria, Urbana, and Springfield who have been using innovative ways to increase urban agriculture and access to fresh produce in their cities.

Registration fee is \$20, which includes lunch and materials. For those whom cost is prohibitive, there is an opportunity to attend at no charge. To register, go to http://web.extension.illinois.edu/lms or call 217-782-4617.

St. Patrick's Day Parade Saturday, March 14, 2015



Join our **Email List**

Office of Public Works, 300 S. 7th St., Springfield, II 62701 217.789.2255 or public.works@springfield.il.us