

What is it about that full week back after a holiday? It always feels a little longer and a little heavier. But it's officially December, which means that we can blare our favorite holiday songs and proudly display our favorite holiday crafts, collectibles, and decorations without judgment. (Call me old fashioned, but I'm still not OK with retailers setting up Christmas displays before Halloween.) Now that Thanksgiving is behind us, anything goes! Fortunately for us, there is plenty of holiday cheer to be found in and around Edwardsville this weekend (and coming week) as well as an opportunity to tour the new Public Safety Building tomorrow. Speaking of the public safety building, if you have a few minutes, please also complete the survey for the mosaic mural which is attached to the current public safety building. I pasted the link below. Happy Friday, Ward 4!

A CHRISTMAS STORY AT THE WILDEY: Curtain's Up Theater Company returns to the Wildey this weekend to kick off the holiday season with a series of live performances of "A Christmas Story" - the classic Christmas tale of young "Ralphie" who pines for a Red Ryder BB gun. The show plays tonight (Friday) and tomorrow (Saturday) at 7:30 p.m. There will also be two matinee performances at 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Don't miss this delightful stage version of this holiday favorite! Tickets for the show, which is composed almost entirely of Edwardsville area residents, can be purchased at WildeyTheatre.com.

60'S CHICKS CHRISTMAS CONCERT: The Edwardsville YMCA "60s Chicks" are presenting their winter choral concert, "A Celebration of Christmas Classics," TONIGHT (Friday,) December 1st, at LeClaire Christian Church at 7 pm. The "60s Chicks" will perform 15 holiday classics, from "Jingle Bell Rock" and "Santa Baby" to "Ave Maria" and Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus," with a few surprises mixed in. Tickets are \$7, and can be purchased at the door or at the Esic YMCA. Don't miss this fantastic holiday show performed by talented local vocalists!

WINTER MARKET TOMORROW: The 5th Annual Winter Market takes place tomorrow (Saturday, December 2) from 9 am- 12 noon at the site of the Goshen Market near the Madison County Court House in Edwardsville. This year's event will feature artisans, baked goods, crafters, locally grown items and unique gifts. Bundle up and come out to some these great local vendors and enjoy some free hot chocolate and caroling.

OPEN HOUSE AND TOURS OF NEW PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING: The striking 51,000 square-foot Public Safety Building will be officially dedicated tomorrow, Saturday, December 2 at 9 a.m. with a ribbon cutting and the public is invited to attend. Located at 333 S. Main Street, the building, which will house the Edwardsville Police, Fire and Rescue Departments, is an impressive facility. Following a brief ceremony, the facility will be open to the public for tours until 1:00 p.m. If you have an opportunity, stop by and walk around the new building, which will serve our community for decades to come.

IN-HOUSE ART SALE - Looking for some great local art? Tomorrow, Saturday, December 2 from 10 am - 5 pm, local artist and Ward 4 resident Michael Kathriner is hosting an art sale at his home in Steinmeyer at 215 Banner Street. He will be selling artwork produced by himself and 5 other local artists. I'm proud to have one of his colorful and vibrant paintings in my dining room! Come check out this unique in-home art show and find a great gift for this holiday season (or even for yourself)!

WHAT'S UP AT THE WILDEY: As I mentioned earlier, the Wildey will be hosting Curtain's Up Theater's "A Christmas Story" this weekend, and the Friends of the Wildey's "White Christmas" next weekend. Coming up on Thursday, December 14, St. Louis favorite Erin Bode will take the stage for her annual Holiday Concert with sounds of the season and songs infused with jazz grooves. A talented singer/songwriter in her own right, Bode performs original compositions, standards and Christmas favorites with her jazz ensemble. For details on these and other shows at the Wildey, visit WildeyTheatre.com or call 307-1750.

MOSAIC MURAL SURVEY: The fate of the mosaic mural, which is currently affixed to the wall of the Public Safety building on N. Main Street, remains uncertain. But thanks to efforts by Alderman Krause, myself and members of the Edwardsville Historic Preservation Commission, we have developed a very short survey to gauge public opinion about its future. There are also some bulleted points that provide some important context. Please take five minutes and complete the survey to help us determine how important saving this mural is to the community, and just how much the community is comfortable with its elected officials spending to save, move and display the mural. It's good public policy to collect feedback from residents in this way, especially when an expenditure is outside the typical realm of expenses for a unit of government. Here's the link to the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FMJ9BFV>

WINTER POOL MEMBERSHIP SALE: The Edwardsville Parks and Recreation Department is having a Winter Membership sale beginning today and running through February 28. While Family memberships for Edwardsville and Glen Carbon residents normally start at \$300, the Winter membership price is \$260. Memberships for senior citizen residents are normally \$125, but the Winter membership price is \$112. The pool, which sits adjacent to beautiful Cougar Lake, includes lockers, restrooms and a concession area as well as a small splash pad for the youngest visitors. It is accessible from N. University Drive with parking available at Lot 10 which sits just southwest of The Gardens and Cougar Lake Drive. Parking at this lot during the summer is free to anyone visiting the pool. Daily passes will also be available for \$5 per day or \$4 per day for seniors and children 4-15, kids three and under swim free. Private rentals will also be available for birthday parties, reunions and more. For more information contact the Edwardsville Parks Department at 692-7538 or visit www.cityofedwardsville.com.

SANTA HOUSE AT CITY PARK: Santa Claus is coming to town and there's plenty of time to stop by, say hello, lie about how good you've been this year and put in your gift requests. Now through Wednesday, Dec. 20, you can visit him on Wednesday nights from 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm and Saturdays from 1 – 4 pm at his winter lodging in Edwardsville's City Park. Visits to Santa and his elf are free and open to the public. Just be good for goodness sake...

WHITE CHRISTMAS SING ALONG SOLD OUT: The Friends of the Wildey Theatre's annual showing of the 1954 classic film, "White Christmas" is now sold out for all three of its performances on Thursday, December 7 at 7 pm, Friday, December 8 at 7 pm, and Saturday, December 9 at 2 pm. If you really want to be a part of this holiday tradition, come by the Wildey 30 minutes before one of the shows, there are usually no-shows and there might be an opportunity to buy tickets.

HOLIDAY ART CONTEST: Edwardsville Parks & Rec is sponsoring an art contest for kiddos in Grades K-6. Themes include: The holidays in: Downtown Edwardsville, Leclaire Lake Park, City Park or with the family. Coloring, paintings and drawings will all be accepted. Entries must be dropped off at the Parks & Rec Office (2nd floor of City Hall) by December 15. Prizes are available per grade. For details, visit:

http://www.cityofedwardsville.com/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC={0487A25A-5878-4E6B-9B18-66B7770C58EA}&DE={CFFBDC0E-55E1-4955-A341-198EB48EE6B9}

YOGA AT THE WILDEY: Come experience the Wildey and be refreshed in body, mind, & soul on the third Tuesday of each month (Nov – May) from 7pm-8pm with Free yoga on the second floor of the Wildey. All levels are invited to join the group, led by certified yoga instructor Donna Bartley. Guests must bring a yoga mat and water and are encouraged to arrive 15 minutes early. Space is limited and small donations are welcomed.

BACKYARD HENS VOTE: After months of deliberation, public meetings, and revisions, the City Council will be voting this coming Tuesday, on whether or not to allow a limited number of homeowners in our community to own up to 6 hens in a coop and run in their backyards. Those homeowners will be subject to a heavily-scrutinized licensing process as well as a carefully regulated building permit process for the coop and run. As I've mentioned, the ordinance that is being considered has been drafted using similar ordinances from communities like Webster Groves, Clayton, Collinsville, Ladue, Alton, and Kirkwood. There are many safeguards in place to prevent a homeowner's keeping of chickens from creating a problem for neighbors, but we won't know for certain until it's tested. In reality, if approved, there will probably only be a handful of individuals who will pursue a license. But it affords a privilege to those who wish to responsibly keep chickens as pets, for both eggs and for the educational value. I'll let you know how it goes.

OLIVE STREET CLOSURE: Olive is still closed for the culvert replacement and stream bank stabilization of the Delaplain Branch. Motorists are encouraged to use Grandview Drive during the closure.

Have a great weekend, Ward 4 and hope to see many of you at the facility opening tomorrow!

SJ Morrison
Ward 4 Alderman
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