

Newsletter from the Mayor Spring 2023

I hope everyone had a very good holiday season and hope the New Year brings many blessings to you all.

A big thank you to all persons who contributed money and their time to make the Back-to-School Event in August 2022 a success. This event was able to assist more than 200 students from the East Alton and surrounding school districts. This event would not be a success without the monetary donations and the many volunteers who helped out on the day of the event. Looking forward to the 2023 "Back-to-School" event to be held on August 5, 2023 at Keasler Complex.

In December of 2022, the Village was fortunate enough to be able to sponsor another event – "Night of Christmas." This was the second year hosting this event, and this year we had right around 200 children who were able to have a fun-filled, Christmas evening by meeting Santa and the Grinch, eating chili, and drinking hot cocoa. With the parents accompanying their children, there were close to 400 people in and around Village Hall and the Vital Services Building.

Both the Back-to-School Event and the "Night of Christmas" event are put on strictly through donations, and no taxpayer money is used. The cost for both events is completely FREE to the children and their parents. We hope we can continue to host them year after year.

If you are interested in volunteering for a good cause, these two events are excellent choices as well as our Soapbox Race for Fun to be held on September 9, 2023 and our "Kids at the Park" day to be held on May 20, 2023. More information about all of these events will be posted to our website and Facebook page in the next few months. There will be information on how to volunteer or donate, both time and monetary/gifts. If you desire to see the Village be a better place for everyone that lives here and visits, these opportunities to help out are a great way to get connected and serve your community. When we all pull together to make changes and help our community, we will definitely see changes for the better!

There are some new things happening in East Alton as of this writing. Two new houses are being built with two more set to begin shortly. These vacant lots, which the Village owned, were given to Madison County and the County secured a developer (Justine Petersen Housing and Reinvestment Corporation) to build affordable housing on these lots. The locations are in the 200 Block and 500 Block of Washington, 200 Block of Haller, and 200 Block of Whitelaw. The Village is excited about these four new houses and hope to have more in the future. Thank you, Madison County Community Development.

I hope you all have a great new year, and that good things happen to you and your family. I look forward to seeing you at events at the Village throughout the year, and again: check our website and Facebook page for the most up-to-date information all the events happening within the Village!