

## MAYOR REPORT – Joe Silkwood, Village of East Alton

2017 was an incredible year for the Village of East Alton. A few highlights were:

The award-winning History Museum opened in March of 2017. If you haven't had a chance to check it out, I encourage you to do so! Donations and loans are still being accepted and the museum is being updated continually with new displays. Thank you to the volunteers that have helped make this museum a reality.

Phase I of the East Alton American Legion Veterans Memorial Park was completed and dedicated in front of hundreds on Veteran's Day. Keynote speaker Lt. Colonel Sarah Smith gave a powerful speech at the dedication. The park is located at the Shamrock and Main intersection. Thanks to the East Alton American Legion and the Veterans Committee for their hard work.

Phase II Veteran's Memorial is scheduled for Veteran's Day this year. It will include a brick walkway honoring Veterans leading up to a monument displaying Village residents that were killed in war. A brick walkway fundraiser honoring Veterans has kicked off to pay for Phase 2. You may purchase a brick by contacting Village Hall, Keasler Recreation Complex, The East Alton American Legion, or the East Alton History Museum.

Berkshire Boulevard will be improved during the summer with patching, asphalt overlay, and some sidewalk work. This improvement will use a 75% Federal Grant and a 25% Madison County Grant to pay for the construction. The Village will use MFT funds to pay for the engineering on the project.

The Village continues to work hard with local developers to bring new business to East Alton and retain the many fine businesses we have. We recently had great news that Eastgate Plaza has been sold to local owners. The redevelopment of Eastgate Plaza will strengthen the entire Route 3 Corridor. There are many opportunities for new businesses to locate in this high traffic corridor (24,000 cars per day). Wilshire Shopping Center has several ready to occupy spaces available. Wilshire has several national tenants and has space available for small or large needs.

Two local family owned businesses are celebrating a remarkable 100 years in the Village. I want to congratulate Community Seed & Feed and Walter Hale Realty on this historic accomplishment.

I hope everyone has a great spring/summer (if we ever have one)! Please remember to support local businesses whenever possible.