

Ask the Mayor May 2007

Spring is here and our town is looking wonderful. Last Friday Steve DiPatri from Bridgeton High School called my office. He had 15 students who needed to get a few hours of community volunteer work done and he'd heard about my Saturday graffiti project. Could I find work for the kids? Well, not for the graffiti, I said, but maybe for a cleanup

I drove around town that afternoon, looking for a neighborhood in need of a litter detail. And I couldn't find one! I was frustrated - but it was the best kind of frustration a person can have. Our city is clean!

I finally did find a couple of areas where the kids could work - along Mill Street and up Elm to the railroad tracks and the old icehouse. And the students got to paint over some graffiti as well - something they really enjoyed. I can't speak highly enough of these kids. They had fun working hard! I want to thank the following young men and woman for helping the City of Bridgeton shine.

Steve Lane, John Yates, Qwame Delvalle, Alejandro Pacheco, Skye Palmer, Pedro Sandoval, DeJuana Dairsow, Jonathan Luna, Jose Herrera, Alex Aparicio, Ubaldo Santiago, Cecilia Santiago, Silvia Reyes, Tiffney Ellis, and Kevin Thomas.

Merry Woodruff has organized a spring-cleaning for the Old Broad Street Cemetery that morning. And this Saturday B3 is leading a citywide cleanup that starts at 9 am at St Teresa's church. So there are plenty of opportunities for anyone who would like to get out of the house, meet some friendly neighbors and help shine up Bridgeton.

The graffiti project in April went well. There are still a few spots I need to get to and it's especially important that people call my office and report any new tagging. When the people putting up the graffiti realize that we are not going to allow it to stay up, eventually they will stop doing it.

The line-up of performers for the Bridgeton Music Festival on June 16th has been announced and it sounds like a wonderful show. There is going to be something to please every musical taste - from bagpipes to bluegrass to ragtime to blues. And it will also showcase the best local musical talents selected from the auditions at Brenner's Brew. Get your tickets now!

With the warm weather, the kids are outside playing and riding their bikes. I want to remind every parent to be sure your child has a bike helmet and that they wear it; and, all of us driving in the city need to show a little extra caution and watch out for the little ones.

I'm hoping to see more folks coming out to the city council meetings. Come watch your elected representatives in action. If you have a suggestion or a gripe or a question - come and let us know about it!