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Sue Morgan
Mayor

State of the City Address to the Citizens of Salem – January 2020

Dear Citizens of Salem:

First of all, I want to mention how honored I am to be the first woman Mayor of Salem, and to assure you that improving Salem is always **FIRST** on my list of things to accomplish. This year I am going to give a little different report than past “State of the City” reports. Rather than a list of statistics, I would like to recognize some individuals and organizations that have made a difference in our community.

- **Bryan Bennett Library Director Kim Keller** – Kim does a great job of representing the library and the City of Salem by offering a variety of programs for both children and adults, including Book Bingo, Pre-School Story Time, Legos at 11, Family Reading Time and Senior Receptions. Bryan Bennett Library promotes fun and learning, along with a love of reading, and we’re lucky to have Kim spearheading those efforts.
- **Code Enforcement Officer Dave Lusch** - Dave is doing a great job of helping improve Salem’s appearance. Dave encourages our citizens to adhere to our codes, including debris removal, weed management, and storage of inoperable vehicles. Dave also enforces our building maintenance codes, and his efforts have led to the demolition of several derelict homes. We appreciate everything Dave does.
- **The Salem Police Department** – The Salem Police Department added two School Resource Officers to its ranks, in a cooperative agreement with Salem Community High School and Salem Elementary School. This has proven to be beneficial as both a safety measure and relationship builder. Additionally, the local FOP organization offered a “Shop With A Cop” program, with 71 children participating. Thank you to the Salem Police Department.
- **Public Works Department** - Thanks to the Public Works Department for working diligently to get replacement pumps and repairs made when the Water Plant pumps went out. The efforts of Dir. John Pruden, Asst. Dir. Annette Brushwitz and Chief Operator Jason Weber kept the citizens from being greatly inconvenienced by a city-wide water outage. I’d also like to acknowledge the many public works employees who worked long shifts, some up to 48 hours at a time, repairing waterline breaks during the past year. Kudos for your hard work.
- **YMCA Director/City of Salem Recreation Director Jed Casburn** - Thanks to Jed Casburn for his efforts to provide the many programs the Recreation Department offers to the community. In addition to Family Day in the Park, youth and adult sports activities, and Christmas events that he runs as the Recreation Director, Jed and his YMCA Board offer a summer camp at the Salem Community Activities Center during the summer that benefits area children and their families. I’d also like to thank the **Community Center Board** for providing a venue for the many events,

classes and meetings that they provide space for, and for just generally being a great asset to the community.

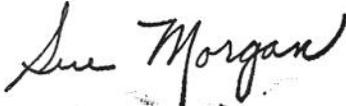
- ***Inclusive Playground Committee*** – Thank you to the Inclusive Playground Committee, specifically Shelli McIntosh and the members of the Lions club, along with grant writer Jeanne Gustafson. This group has organized fundraisers, wrote grants, and addressed community organizations to garner the necessary support and matching funds to make the Inclusive Playground a reality. Additionally, the project has been expanded to include many additional features that will benefit the entire community.
- ***The Daffy Dill Garden Club*** - The Daffy Dill Garden Club does an outstanding job of keeping our downtown planter boxes and the Bryan Statue area in Bryan Park looking beautiful. This year, the Daffy Dills involved community organizations and businesses in a contest for best holiday decorations in the planter boxes. We received a lot of compliments on the results, and appreciate the Garden Club and contest participants for all of their efforts.
- ***Salem Historical Commission*** – The Salem Historical Commission has put a lot of work into finding the right venue for developing a municipal museum, and that effort is beginning to show results with the purchase of the future museum site at 115 S. Broadway. Repairs to the water line and renovations to the building are being made in preparation for museum development. We appreciate the Historical Commission's efforts and look forward to the end result.
- ***Mission Salem*** - The churches and individuals who volunteer and donate funds to "Mission Salem" have done a wonderful job of helping make improvements to several homes whose owners might not have been able to make those improvements, otherwise. Projects completed included: 8 wheelchair ramps; 5 roof repairs; 3 door/window replacements; one foundation repair; and 1 painting project. Thank you, Mission Salem.
- ***The Salem Community Theatre Board*** – The Salem Community Theatre Board provides live theatre for our citizens, as well as a venue for other events offered by schools and businesses. You may have noticed the new addition to the building, which includes dressing rooms, restrooms and storage areas. Additionally, you may have seen the new and improved City parking areas behind the theater and across the street. We appreciate our Theatre Board and all they offer to our community.
- ***Little Egypt Festival and Parade*** - I want to recognize Jay and Beth Henke, Co-Chairs of the Little Egypt Festival, and their committee members. The Little Egypt Festival and Parade is a huge asset to our community, and I love seeing the large crowds it attracts. Thank you Jay, Beth and crew for all of your hard work.
- ***Sleep in Heavenly Peace*** – A new volunteer group has recently been formed in Salem as a branch of "Sleep in Heavenly Peace". The group is spearheaded by Annette Brushwitz, Steffanie Rakers and Megan Branch. The group raised donations, did a "bed build", and provided beds and bedding for 25 children in the Salem and Marion County area who did not have beds. What a wonderful concept! Thank you to Annette, Steffanie and Megan for bringing this group together for the benefit of our community's children.

- **Media** - Rarely recognized are WJBD Radio News Director Bruce Kropp and Salem Times-Commoner Editor Dennis Rosenberger. I want to thank Bruce and Dennis for reporting on all the many good things that are happening in Salem, and for helping get information out to our citizens.

As always, I want to express the City's appreciation to its employees, the volunteers who serve on our Boards and Commissions, fraternal organizations, clubs, churches, volunteer groups and citizens for all you do for Salem. I personally want to thank the Salem City Council for its efforts to listen to its citizens and for working together to make the best decisions for our community. As you can see, there are many individuals, groups and organizations who work to make Salem the friendly, clean and safe community that it is. I'm proud to work with you.

Sincerely,

CITY OF SALEM, ILLINOIS

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sue Morgan".

Mayor Sue Morgan
55th Mayor of the City of Salem