



From the Desk of the City Administrator

As we move into the winter months, many of us enjoy using our fireplaces. While these can keep us warm, it is important to use them safely. In the winter, we see a rise in home fires due to fireplaces. We have already had one such fire recently. Our firefighters got there in time, luckily, and no one was hurt. Please use good safety procedures to make sure you are not the next casualty. Before lighting a fire, please ensure that the flue is clear and that you have some type of screen to prevent embers from escaping. You can read more winter fire safety tips [here](#).

On a happier note, now that Christmas is over, you can put Christmas trees at the curb at the same time as your weekly garbage pickup. The City's street crews will be by to collect them. For their safety, please make sure that all trees are free of any decorations, lights or stands. Thank you for your help.

If you are like me, you may also have some unwanted tree lights that you are just too frustrated to repair after the Christmas holiday. During regular business hours, you can drop off those unwanted lights at the Transfer Station, which is located just east off of South 11th Street. I have noticed that some of you are still raking up leaves. You can drop off your leaves at the Transfer Station during business hours as well.

'Tis the season for snow. As a reminder, the Police Department will issue a snow emergency whenever we expect to receive a large accumulation of snow. Once a snow emergency is issued, citizens will need to remove their vehicles from designated snow routes to allow the snow plows to freely move along the streets. During a snow emergency,

if you do not move your vehicle from a snow route, you may receive a \$50 parking ticket. We will post information about snow emergencies on Facebook on both the City's page and the Police Department's page.

Let's be safe out there.

Lowell Crow

City Administrator



WARREN COUNTY **CEO**[®]

CREATING ENTREPRENEURIAL
OPPORTUNITIES

The City of Monmouth is thrilled to announce that the Warren County CEO (Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities) course will be available for Monmouth-Roseville High School and United High School juniors and seniors, beginning in fall 2017.

Applications are available now from high school guidance counselors and also on the [website](#). The deadline is February 21.

This program is available through a partnership with the Midland Institute for Entrepreneurship. There is *no cost* to our schools or students for this program! All expenses are paid by businesses and foundations.

Students who go through this program become self-reliant and enterprising, thanks to real-life learning opportunities. They learn confidence-building skills like speaking in front of groups and targeted skills like writing successful business plans. This program helps alleviate “brain drain,” creating a community that will make students want to stay to start businesses and raise families.

Thank you to our founding sponsors:

City of Monmouth

McDonough Telephone Cooperative

Mellinger Foundation

Midwest Bank

Monmouth College

Security Savings Bank

Tharp Brothers Underground Utility Services

The CEO program is much more than a textbook course. Students are immersed in real-life learning experiences with the opportunity to take risks, manage the results, and learn from the outcomes.

You can read more about this innovative program [here](#).





Coworking in Monmouth

The City of Monmouth hosted our first coworking event in December at the Warren County Public Library. For people who have a home-based business or work remotely, coworking offers the opportunity to get out of the house and work in an upbeat environment with others.

Sometimes a little noise is motivating! (And the donuts from La Flor de Trigo bakery and delicious Seagram's coffee helped, too.)

If you would like to join us for this free event, please stop by the upstairs Community Room at the Library on Thursday, January 12, any time from 9 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. There is WiFi, so you can work on your phone or laptop. You can do your regular work, of course, or get through your email, write a blog post, or update your social media sites. Last month, a couple Monmouth College professors graded final exams. It's up to you!

City of Monmouth Economic Development

In a small community like Monmouth, our small businesses are the life-blood of our economy. The City of Monmouth works hand-in-hand with businesses, agencies and driven individuals to create a fertile economic garden for our local enterprises to grow and thrive.

Whether you are a new business looking to start-up, an existing business looking to expand into the Monmouth market or a long-time Monmouth business looking to expand, let us help connect you to the tools and agencies to help you reach your goal.

Stop by City Hall and let us share our history, our vision, our

community and our tools with you. Together we can flourish here in West Central Illinois!

Services Offered

- Business plan counseling (including financial planning for startups—using Google Docs for shared online access)
- Access to retail purchasing data, demographic data and gap analysis reports
- Help locating downtown retail locations
- Help with site acquisition
- Needed infrastructure assistance
- Assistance finding franchise opportunities
- Facade matching-grant program for downtown building restoration
- Streamlined permitting and zoning process
- Coordination with State and regional organizations within Enterprise Zone
- Help with obtaining sales tax exemptions for building materials in Enterprise Zone
- Recurring business competitions to spur entrepreneurial startups
- Coordinated sector marketing opportunities
- Professional logo and website development programs

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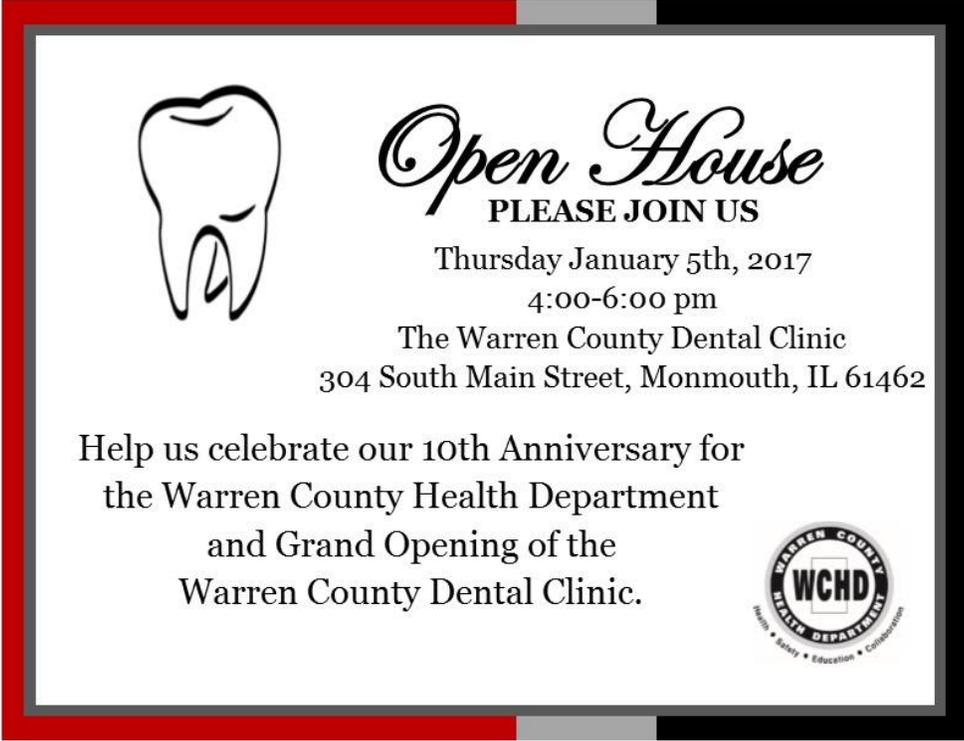
In addition to having help right here at City Hall in Monmouth, the Illinois Small Business Development Center (ISBDC) at

Western Illinois University provides FREE confidential advising and training to help Monmouth entrepreneurs start, grow and sustain their businesses.

ISBDC consultants provide information on a variety of topics:

- Business start-up, expansion, acquisition, or sale
- Business planning, including financial projections
- Accounting, record keeping, cash flow management
- Financial analysis
- Financing programs
- Government regulations
- Intellectual property
- Management and human resource management
- Market research
- Marketing, sales, e-commerce
- Business education and training

Call them today for more information at (309) 298-3040 or check out their [FAQs](#).





Open House
PLEASE JOIN US

Thursday January 5th, 2017
4:00-6:00 pm

The Warren County Dental Clinic
304 South Main Street, Monmouth, IL 61462

Help us celebrate our 10th Anniversary for
the Warren County Health Department
and Grand Opening of the
Warren County Dental Clinic.



Legislative Luncheon

On Monday, January 30, the Monmouth Area Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Legislative Luncheon at noon at the Warren County Historical Museum. The luncheon is open to members as well as non-members. The cost is \$17 per person and may be paid at the door.

Guest speakers: State Senator Jil Tracy, Representative Randy Frese, and Representative Norine Hammond.

City Council Meetings

**Tuesday, January 3, at 7 p.m.
and Monday, January 16, at 7 p.m.**

City Council meetings take place in Council Chambers at City Hall (100 E. Broadway).

Agendas



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