

April 24, 2014

News Release

For Immediate Release

Sidewalk poetry project kicks off tomorrow

It's only appropriate that during National Poetry Month, the City of Springfield, Missouri State University and the local art community will get to see a project aimed at incorporating poetry into the urban landscape come to life.

Keran's Construction of Galena will stamp Springfield's first three "sidewalk poems" at 1 p.m. tomorrow at MSU's Brick City in downtown Springfield. The poems, all provided by Ozarks poets, were chosen by a panel of MSU faculty and students, City staff and local artists, writers and poets.

The timing of Brick City's streetscape construction lent itself to launching the sidewalk poetry project there, said Eric Claussen, P.E. He said Public Works plans to include poetry in new and re-poured sidewalks across the city.

The idea for Springfield's sidewalk poetry project came from Director of Public Works Phil Broyles, who died March 29 after a brief battle with cancer. Broyles was inspired by St. Paul, Minnesota's "Everyday Poems for City Sidewalk" program, which includes an annual poetry contest.

The poems chosen for tomorrow's stamping at Brick City are "The Fickle Land," by Terry Belew, "Sky Lanterns," by Jessica Glover and "Aux Arcs," by MSU-West Plains professor Anthony Priest.

For more information, please contact Interim Co-Director of Public Works Jonathan Gano at 417-864-1961.