

# Spring or six more weeks of eagle-watching? Alton turns to groundhog for answers

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**ALTON** - For the second consecutive year, Altonians will turn to **Murray the Groundhog** for answers to some of their most important meteorological questions: Will we see an early spring, or six more weeks of eagle-watching?

That question was posed by **Alton Conventions and Visitors Bureau Executive Director Brett Stawar**, who is putting together the event, set for 9 a.m. on Thursday,

Feb. 2, 2017, at the **Alton Visitors Center**, located at 200 Piasa St. Stawar said several area mayors, including **Alton Mayor Brant Walker**, **Godfrey Mayor Mike McCormick**, **Bethalto Mayor Alan Winslow** and **East Alton Mayor Joe Silkwood**, will be in attendance for a mayoral proclamation following Murray's predictions.

"We'll be celebrating either the beginning of spring, or else six more weeks of eagle season," Stawar said.

The event's showcase - **Murray the Groundhog** - is one of the many animals permanently housed at the **TreeHouse Wildlife Center**, located in Dow. Stawar said Murray was found as an orphan, and has become imprinted to humans. He will be the deciding factor in the traditional weather-witching set to take place Thursday morning.

Stawar said the entire event should not last more than 15 minutes. He said it would be a fun event to attend as a break from the day. Coffee and cookies will be provided.