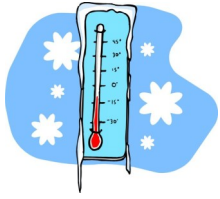


Murphysboro Minute

January/February 2026

From the Desk of Mayor Will Stephens



DID YOU KNOW?

When temperatures get below freezing, it is always a good idea to leave a faucet on with a very light drip overnight.



The Water Billing Department offers a variety of options to receive your water/sewer bill. Emailed bills or direct debit are available options. Contact our Billing Department at 618-684-2431 for more information.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- General John A. Logan Birthday Breakfast—Saturday, February 7th
- St. Patrick's Day Celebration—Saturday, March 14th
- Secretary of State Mobile DMV—Wednesday, March 11th



**The City of Murphysboro
will be closed on**

Martin Luther King Jr. Day - 1/19

and

President's Day - 2/16

Happy New Year to you and your family. I hope that you are blessed with good health, wealth and happiness in 2026.

To recap 2025, I am happy to report that the City of Murphysboro saw significant improvements to our infrastructure. The 7th Street road work, rehabilitation of our two primary water towers, and improvements to various water and sewer lines were all finished. Road improvements were also performed in the Watt Hill Road and Fiddler Ridge Road areas. Additionally, the City received grant funds to rework Enterprise Avenue. A consultant was hired to conduct a Hydraulic Study of the Pond Creek Area. This study brings to light what work can be done to help water flow during heavy rains. This brings the hope of minimizing flooding along North 7th Street, North 16th Street, Roberta Drive and other prone areas in the Northern part of Murphysboro. The Illinois Department of Transportation also was able to upgrade the traffic signals and intersection of Route 13 and Williams Street.

2026 will continue to be a year of infrastructure improvements. The City of Murphysboro has earmarked \$200,000 for sidewalk improvements throughout town. Location of improvements will be prioritized using the Walkability Assessment conducted in partnership with the Jackson County Health Department and the Active Transportation Alliance. Work will be performed by the Murphysboro Street Department led by Foreman, Darrin Mills. His team is gearing up to get the improvements started once warmer weather is consistent.

In other good news, the City of Murphysboro recently received news of the award of a \$650,000 Community Development Block Grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. These grant funds will be used to rehabilitate approximately 10 low-income owner-occupied homes within the City Limits of Murphysboro. Grant opportunities such as this will greatly improve the quality of living for low-income families in this community. The City is extremely grateful for the availability of these funds. As with most grant funds, there are documents that have to be signed and details that have to be worked out before the real work can begin. We anticipate that it could take up to 90 days before we are able to start notifying homeowners. Please continue to be patient with us during this phase of the grant.

Heads up! 2026 will also bring a slight change to the Murphysboro Apple Festival. This year the Festival will be celebrating its 75th year of traditions. Normally the Festival falls on the 2nd weekend after Labor Day. However, this year, the Festival will start on Wednesday, September 9th and run through Saturday, September 12th. Mark your Calendars and watch their Facebook page for more details leading up to the event.

As always, I am available to meet to discuss any issue or ongoing concern. Contact my Administrative Assistant, Sandra M. Ripley, at 618-684-4961 to schedule an appointment. Council meetings are the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 6:00 p.m. Residents are welcome to attend and engage with their government. Meetings are held in the City Hall, Council Chambers located at 202 North 11th Street.

Until Next Time,
Will Stephens
Mayor

www.murphysboro.com or 618.684.4961