

# Murphysboro Minute

March/April 2026

Only a few more weeks until Spring arrives. I know we are all ready for a little more sunshine in our life.

On July 4, 2026, our nation will commemorate and celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Not only is this the year of America's 250th birthday, it is also John A. Logan's 200th birthday. The General John A Logan Museum is planning the America 250/Logan 200 Grand Parade. This celebration will be held on Saturday, June 6, 2026. Because of the far reaching impact Logan had on Southern Illinois, local communities are invited to be a part of this celebration. The Grand Parade will feature Revolutionary War re-enactors, Civil War re-enactors, cannons, antique cars and more. Follow their Facebook page for more details.

At this point, I want to highlight a conversation that I recently had with a former member of the Murphysboro City Council, Mr. Russell Brown. Russell served on the City Council for 20 years, from 2003 to 2022. Many know him from Brown's BBQ, and as a retired Murphysboro Police Officer. He will soon be 87 years old. He is currently living at a Residential Healthcare Facility in Marion near the Veterans Hospital. We had a good conversation about things happening in Murphysboro, and despite his health challenges Russell was upbeat and was looking forward to hearing about the ongoing progress toward building a new Police-Fire Station and City Hall. It also reminded me that one of the best things a person can do is to call or visit someone in the hospital or who is limited by health problems. A person can sometime feel forgotten as the years go by. If you have a family member, friend, or co-worker who is facing challenges today, make the call, or drop by for a visit. It will be a blessing to you and the person visited.

I mentioned the proposed Police-Fire and City Hall. The City Council and I continue to review plans presented by the architect that is helping to plan the new facility. Many meetings have been held with City Staff and Department Heads as we consider what space is needed versus what space is wanted. I am committed to making sure that the City of Murphysboro moves forward with a new building. Our current building was built in 1957 and has far outlived its useful life. I am also committed to only moving forward with a building that the City can afford to pay for. Balancing these things is not easy, but with a great City Council and some give and take, we can get to a result that we can all be happy with.

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.

Until Next Time, Mayor Will Stephens

## Community Events—

**Secretary of State Mobile DMV**—Wednesday, March 11th

At the Davis McCann Civic Center—10a to 2p

**St. Patrick's Day Festivities**—Saturday, March 14th

**Farmers Market**—Wednesdays from 3p to 6p

New Location—Across from 17th Street Warehouse

Runs from April through August

**Cruise Nights**—1st Saturday of Month:

April to October

**City-Wide Clean-up**—

Friday, May 1st & Saturday, May 2nd

**City-Wide Yard Sale**—

Friday, May 1st & Saturday, May 2nd

Fee of \$5 to be included on address listing

**City Council Meetings**—

2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

City Hall, Council Chambers, 202 N. 11th Street

**City Storage Yard Open for Yard Waste**—

2nd & 4th Fridays of Each Month

