



Continuing to Build a Great Place to Call Home

As we step into 2026, I'm filled with gratitude, pride, and excitement for what lies ahead for Murray City. The start of a new year always comes with looking back, and 2025 was truly a big one for our community.

This past year, we celebrated milestones that will shape Murray for generations. We opened the Murray Museum in the historic Cahoon Mansion, bringing our city's story to life in a space worthy of our rich history. We welcomed the Murray Armory as a flexible new event space inside Murray Park, creating new opportunities for your recreation, gatherings, and community connection. And we celebrated the reopening and restoration of the historic Murray Theater, a cultural gem that is bringing arts, music, and fun back to the heart of our city.

We launched the Love, Murray campaign to share all of this with you. We highlighted what the buildings and programs that make Murray unique as well as the people who call our city home. Love, Murray reminded us of our commitment to kindness, belonging, and pride in our community, the values that guide everything we do.

As we look to 2026, our vision is clear: to build a city where you belong, where you can enjoy lively entertainment, and stay connected to your neighbors. We want families to feel supported and businesses to thrive.

One event I'd like to invite you to early in the new year is our State of the City address, which will be held at the Murray Theater for the first time. I invite you to join us for an evening that celebrates Murray's past, present, and future.

State of the City – Tuesday, January 27
Murray Theater
6:00 PM

In honor of the theater's history, the evening will begin with a video showing a flag waving with the Star-Spangled Banner, just as it was performed in the Murray Theater in years past, followed by an opening piano performance by Murray citizen and accomplished pianist Tracy Bird. Guests are invited to enjoy light hors d'oeuvres before the program, creating time to gather and connect with neighbors.

I will then share a 10-minute State of the City address, reflecting on where we've been and where we're going together. After the remarks, the evening continues with a free concert, along with complimentary popcorn and drinks.

This event is free, but seating is limited. Please reserve your tickets at www.MurrayTix.com to save your seat.

As we begin this new year, I want to thank you for your support, your kindness, and your continued belief in our city. Murray's best days are ahead, and I look forward to experiencing them together.

Here's to a joyful new year in Murray.

Brett A. Hales