

April 2021 Our Stories, Redmond Connections

Hello, I am Mayor Angela Birney, and welcome to another video in my monthly “Our Stories, Redmond Connections” series.

An organization is only as good as its people. As a City, I think we are so fortunate to have such a talented group of individuals who strive to make our community better every day and have helped us through some of our most challenging times this past year. I am excited to welcome two new additions to our Director’s Team— our new Fire Chief- Adrian Sheppard and our new Chief Operating Officer, Malisa Files. Both bring immense knowledge, expertise, and leadership skills to their new roles and our organization. I thought it would be interesting to ask them what they are looking forward to most in their new roles and share something about themselves that might surprise people.

- Fire Chief Adrian Sheppard

As I look to redeploy my services as a Fire Chief, really what I look forward to is becoming first and foremost part of the Redmond community. As a member of the Redmond Fire Department, I really look forward to be a contributor to the courteous and responsive services that we can provide. That in by way of EMS, by other response emergencies, and also just being a member and present inside the Redmond community.

I think there's a particular image of firefighters and how they grow-up wanting to be firefighters, swinging axes, and dragging fire hose. But for me, growing up something that would surprise you was that I actually wanted to be a ballet dancer. I always considered them to be athletes and I was an athlete. But end of day, I think I found the calling that I was meant to do and became a firefighter. But in the back of my mind, I still want to be that ballet dancer.

- Malisa Files, Chief Operating Officer

I’m excited to be in this new role. I love serving the City of Redmond and the people I serve with. I think I most look forward to the breadth and depth of the COO position. I am excited about the sheer variety of the challenges and opportunities I get to be involved in. And I’m also excited about what a bright future this City has and I feel blessed to be able to be a part of it.

Something that people might not know about me is that I’ve been a part of over 1,800 weddings. My last year of high school and all through college I worked as a wedding hostess and planner for a small wedding venue. I’ve seen so many wedding ceremonies that I could probably officiate them myself if I was licensed to do it. I used to bribe, with cookies, the organist to play songs that I liked during the wedding, because I got really sick of hearing the same wedding songs over and over again. But one thing I did learn, was to remain calm in very stressful situations.

- Mayor Angela Birney

Something people don't necessarily know about me is that I love Disney. I know it might be surprising, but there are few places I'd rather be than Disney World to celebrate a birthday. I can't wait for the pandemic to be far in the past and be back in the most magical place on Earth.

Enough about me; I am interested to hear your thoughts. In the comments, please share something interesting about yourself. Just remember to use the hashtag #RedmondConnections. Thank you for making Redmond and our community a great place to live, work, and play. See you next time. Oh...and have a magical day!