



# MURPHY MONTHLY

Official Citywide Employee Newsletter for the City of Murphy



## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT HEATHER SMITH

As a Juvenile Case Manager for the Municipal Court, Heather enjoys meeting people from all walks of life and helping them navigate the court process. "It can be a very confusing or overwhelming time for many. It's rewarding to be able to help them feel seen and heard" she shares.

It has been quite a journey - 23 years! - for Heather at Murphy. She started out as a receptionist, then moved into the police department as both a records and CID clerk. After that, she transferred to the city manager's office as an administrative assistant. Later, she worked as a court clerk and eventually transitioned into her current role as a juvenile case manager.

The City of Murphy holds a special place in her heart, as this is where she met her best friend, who she eventually married. They will be celebrating their 18-year anniversary this October!

If she had to choose a different department to work in, she would choose community development, as it is deeply meaningful to have a hand in something so important – shaping the future of a city.

A piece of advice that's stuck with her? "Live intentionally. Create a life you're proud of."

Fun Fact: She is obsessed with all things beauty - she even created her own makeup line after her grandmother who raised her. It had always been a dream of hers, and it finally came to fruition when she launched Lawrencia Beauty on October 6, 2024!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Every Friday in June - Sounds at Sundown**

- Murphy Central Park 7-10PM

**6/19 - Juneteenth** - City offices closed

**6/25 - Wellness Wednesday**

- 7:15am-8:00am – Breakfast & Learn
  - Social Security Planning
  - City Hall Community Room
  - **RSVP required at [www.murphytx.org/915](http://www.murphytx.org/915)**
- 7:30–9:00 AM – Vitamin Shots
  - City Hall Conference Room #116
- 9:30am-10am – Wellness Walk

**6/12 - Murphy University Kick-Off**

- City Hall Community Room 5:30pm

**7/4 - Independence Day** - City offices closed

## CORE VALUE TIP OF THE MONTH

### BEING TRUSTWORTHY

Every interaction with a resident or fellow employee is a chance to build trust. Being trustworthy means people know they can count on us by showing it through consistent, everyday actions.

#### Practical ways to show trustworthiness:

- Do what you say you'll do - Be dependable in your responsibilities and timelines.
- Communicate clearly and regularly - don't leave people guessing.
- Admit when you don't know something but strive to seek the right answer - honesty builds credibility.
- Own your actions - Mistakes happen. What matters is taking responsibility and correcting them quickly.
- Do what's right, even when no one's watching

# MAY NEW HIRES

Welcome to the Murphy team!



**Donita Lovely**  
Custodian

Facilities

Before coming to Murphy, Donita worked at Lowe's as a Merchandiser. In her free time, she enjoys swimming, cycling, eating Mexican food, and watching movies. She hopes to go parachuting one day, and her work ethic is what she is the most proud of.



**Val Fields**  
Recreation Specialist

Parks & Rec

Val came to the City of Murphy from the US Department of Education as a Senior Lender and Guarantor Review Specialist. Outside of work, she likes to crochet, watch Murder, She Wrote, and watch track meets. Visiting the Louvre is on her bucket list, and she is most proud of raising an awesome kid.



**Jerry Murphree**  
Maint. Worker I

PWW

Before joining the City of Murphy, Jerry worked at the City of Sachse as a meter services lead. In his free time, he enjoys tending to all of his animals - especially his horses. He is motivated by continuously learning and bettering himself as well as his wife.



**William Belcher**  
Maint. Worker II

PWW

Before coming to Murphy, William worked for the City of Cedar in the water/sewer department. Outside of work, he likes fishing, breakdancing, and he wishes to go deep sea fishing one day. His family is what motivates him, and he is especially proud of his daughter.

# JOB OPENINGS

View more details at

[www.governmentjobs.com/careers/murphytx](http://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/murphytx)

- Certified Police Officer
- School Crossing Guard
- Telecommunications Officer



# WORKIVERSARIES



**Drex Dorman** - 18 Yrs of Service

**Brett Bertelli** - 11 Yrs of Service

**Garrett Paynton** - 10 Yrs of Service

**Alicia Munoz** - 9 Yrs of Service

**Billy Cook** - 8 Yrs of Service

**Benny Cano** - 5 Yrs of Service

**Timothy Rogers II** - 3 Yrs of Service

**Travis Morgan** - 3 Yrs of Service

**Thomas Bader** - 1 Yr of Service

**David Paul** - 1 Yr of Service

*Thank you for your continued service to making  
Murphy the incredible place it is!*

# JUNE BIRTHDAYS



Patti Towne - 6/3

Russell Veasy - 6/4

Drex Dorman - 6/4

Allison Bass - 6/10

Billy Cook - 6/10

Mario Vega - 6/12

Ashley Hudson - 6/14

Antonio Titsworth - 6/17

Chelsie Montgomery - 6/21

Harley Cox - 6/26

Jared Conoly - 6/27

Virgil Cross - 6/28

Connor LeBaron - 6/28

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## NEW CERT SHOUT-OUT

FROM: CODY CLARK

TO: DAVID LOVATO

A big congrats to David Lovato, Irrigation Technician, for passing his Landscape Irrigator test this past month! His hard work and dedication have truly paid off in this great achievement. If you see him out in the field digging a hole or running systems, be sure to give him a "COOL" thumbs-up!!



# RECOGNITION WALL | PERSONAL TOUCHES



## ON THE SPOT RECOGNITION

Our third On the Spot recognition recipient is **Tim Sapp** (Finance). Tim earned 5 On the Spot cards and redeemed them for a \$10 Chick-Fil-A gift card!

At the City of Murphy, we value the everyday contributions that help make our workplace thrive. That's why we encourage everyone to use On the Spot Cards - a quick and meaningful way to recognize a colleague for their hard work & effort. Cards are available through your department head/HR.



## GRADUATION SHOUT-OUT

*JACY MITCHELL - PARS & RECREATION*

Join us in extending a huge congrats to Shelby (Jacy's daughter) for graduating from Sachse High School! We wish her the best of luck as she continues her studies in cosmetology school.



## GRADUATION SHOUT-OUT

*ABIGAIL VAUSE - PARS & RECREATION*

Join us in recognizing Abigail Vause (Recreation Aide) for graduating from Collin College, accepting her Associate of Science in General Studies. We wish her the best of luck as she continues her college journey!



## GRADUATION SHOUT-OUT

*ANISHA SABU - HUMAN RESOURCES*

Join us in celebrating Josiah (Anisha's son) for graduating from Cox Elementary School this past month on the honor roll, earning A's all through the 2024-2025 school year! We wish him the best of luck as he continues his education in middle school.

## MONTH IN REVIEW

### Keep Murphy Beautiful

Reflecting the continuous care and attention that Murphy residents place on their homes, as well as the work and investment that the City devotes to parks and open spaces, Keep Murphy Beautiful has been awarded the Keep Texas Beautiful Gold Star Affiliate designation for the 13th year in a row! The designation is the highest level of recognition from Keep Texas Beautiful, and KMB is one of only a third of the state's 300 affiliates to achieve that level. Congratulations, KMB!



## Employee Field Day

On Thursday, May 15th, we celebrated Public Service Recognition Week in style with an unforgettable Employee Field Day! Everyone enjoyed hamburgers and popsicles, as well as a variety of games and activities, including a dunk tank. The highlight of the afternoon was the tug-of-war between Public Works and Parks & Rec, which was held over the pond outside of City Hall. In the end, Public Works pulled through (literally) and claimed victory. As a result, Parks Supervisor Jared McDonald unfortunately took an unexpected dip as he was pulled straight into the murky water! A big thank you goes out to our Culture Committee, who went above and beyond to make this day a fun-filled success.



## May Wellness Wednesday

Our recent Wellness Wednesday was all about recharging, refreshing, and refocusing on health, mind, and body for Mental Health Awareness Month! The day kicked off with vitamin shots provided by Star Wellness, offering options like Vitamin B12, Vitamin D, and Lipotropic. At noon, we provided a FREE, interactive lunch and learn hosted by AWP, which centered on tips and resources for managing stress and supporting emotional well-being. Lastly, we held a late afternoon wellness walk. We hope that you all will join us for June's Wellness Wednesday!



## Quarterly New Hire Orientation

Our latest Quarterly Orientation was a fantastic way to welcome the nine team members who joined the City since January! New hires had the opportunity to hear from each of our department directors during engaging presentations that gave insight into how each department's operations contributes to serving our community. After a fun team-building activity, the group embarked on a tour of City facilities. Along the way, they got to meet the adorable dogs and kittens at the Animal Shelter, watch Apple perform some tricks at the Fire Station, and see Detective Gilbert show off the Police Department's new drone in action.



## Clifford Sales Retirement

On June 3rd, Clifford Sales's 20 years of service as a beloved school crossing guard was honored at his retirement celebration, which also included a proclamation at the Council meeting that evening. Clifford has been keeping our children safe at Hunt Elementary ever since it opened as well as at Murphy Middle and McMillen High. His watchful eyes and warm waves will surely be missed.



## PD Corporal Swearing-In Ceremony

On May 28<sup>th</sup>, PD held a swearing-in ceremony to recognize the promotions of seven of our officers to the rank of Corporal, including Collin Miller, Daniel Moszak, Travis Morgan, Brandon Myers, Kris Riebschlager, Angela Hughes, and Jennifer Chacon-Case. Join us in celebrating our new Corporals and expressing gratitude for their continued service to the City of Murphy!



# Reminder

## EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER SUBMISSIONS

It's time to submit your nominations again!

- Do you know an employee who demonstrates work qualities that align with the City's core values?
- Do you know an employee who goes above and beyond and consistently gives their best?
- Do you know an employee who stands out to you as a true leader or team player?
- What about an employee who has made a positive impact on your day-to-day work or inspired you with their dedication?

**If so, nominate them for Employee of the 3<sup>RD</sup> Quarter and get entered into an annual drawing for a paid day off!**

### HOW IT WORKS:

- Complete a nomination form and submit it to the employee's Department Head by **FRIDAY, JUNE 13<sup>TH</sup>**
- Department Heads will consider all nominations and may submit up to 2 to HR.
- The final selection of Employee of the Quarter is made by the CMO.
- Employee of the Quarter recipients are considered for Employee of the Year.
- Unselected nominees have the opportunity to win the annual Shining Star Award.



### WHAT AWARD RECIPIENTS RECEIVE:

#### **Employee of the Quarter will receive:**

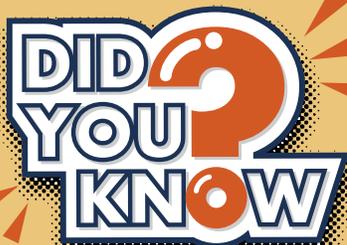
- A paid day off (to be taken within 3 months)
- Recognition in the April Employee Newsletter
- Recognition on the City Manager webpage and social media pages
- A Glass Plaque awarded at the April 15th Council Meeting
- Consideration for Employee of the Year

#### **Employee of the Year will receive:**

- \$250 VISA Gift Card
- Marble award presented at the Annual Service Awards Ceremony in December 2025
- Recognition in the January 2026 Employee and Community Newsletter
- Recognition on the City Manager webpage and social media pages

#### **Shining Star will receive:**

- \$100 VISA Gift Card
- Glass award presented at the Annual Service Awards Ceremony in December 2025
- Recognition in the January 2026 Employee Newsletter
- Recognition on the City Manager webpage



### **GOT STUDENT LOANS?**

You might qualify for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program!

If you work full-time for the City, have federal Direct Loans, and have made 120 qualifying payments, you could get the rest of your balance forgiven. Learn more at [studentaid.gov/pslf](https://studentaid.gov/pslf).

# COUNCIL ROUNDUP

## A RECAP FROM THE MAY MEETINGS



### Consent & Regular Agenda Items

- **Resolution approved:** 48-month PC equipment lease with Dell Financial Services
- **Resolution approved:** Standard Professional Services Agreement between the City and LJA Engineering for planning services
- **Resolution approved:** Adopting and approving the 2025 Strategic Plan of the City Council, which City Manager Adams presented
- City Secretary Jackson administered the Oath of Office and Mayor Bradley issued the Certificate of Election to newly elected Council Members: Elizabeth Abraham, Ken Oltmann, Jené Butler, & W. Scott Smith
- **Resolution approved:** Amendment to Murphy Planning & Zoning Commission Bylaws establishing a new meeting day and adopting a revised development submittal calendar

### City Updates & Presentations

- Stormwater Drainage 2025 Utility Rate Updates
- Financial Report for the past quarter by Finance Director Fitzpatrick-Walker
- Quarterly PD statistics by Chief Gibson
- Sidewalk Improvement Program Update by Public Works Director Williamson
- Master Plan Kickoff by Director of Community & Econ. Dev. Rothenberger

### Recognitions & Proclamations

- Public Works Week
- National Police Week
- Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month
- National EMS week

## WELLNESS TIP OF THE MONTH

### SUMMER FOOD SAFETY TIPS

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 1 in 6 people get sick from a foodborne illness each year. Here's three simple ways to prevent food poisoning at picnics and barbecues this summer:

1. **Clean** - Be sure to clean the grill's surface after each use and wash cutting boards after preparing raw meat.
2. **Separate** - Use one cooler for drinks and one for food. It's also important to separate raw foods from those ready to eat.
3. **Chill** - Refrigerate food promptly; bacteria can rapidly multiply if left at room temperature. The "danger zone" for bacterial growth is 40-140 degrees Fahrenheit.



If you have mild food poisoning, stay hydrated. Keep in mind that more serious cases, which include a fever and dehydration symptoms, require medical attention.