



MURPHY MONTHLY

Official Citywide Employee Newsletter for the City of Murphy



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT DAVID HOLLAND

As a Maintenance Technician II for the Parks & Recreation Department, David enjoys the variety his role offers. "I get to work on different projects every day, which keeps things interesting and gives me something new to learn constantly," he shares.

With a family legacy in parks and recreation across various cities, it felt natural for David to follow a similar path. After two years at the MCC, he transitioned into his current role and found his niche—despite being a redhead who never imagined he'd enjoy working outdoors. "Thankfully, we can order sunscreen in bulk!" he jokes.

David counts obtaining his Certified Playground Safety Inspector license and attending the Park Planning and Maintenance Academy in Colorado as key career highlights.

A piece of advice that's stuck with him?

"Learn to be content with the present while working toward the future." He explains, "We often focus on what we want or lack, and forget to appreciate what we already have. It's important to recognize our blessings and enjoy the moment."

Fun Fact: At 6 feet tall, David is the shortest man in his extended family—his tallest brother stands at 6'7"!

5/28: WELLNESS WEDNESDAY

**7:30–8:30 AM – Vitamin Shots
(Walk-ins)**

📍 City Hall Conference Room #116

**12:00–1:00 PM – Lunch & Learn: Mental
Health Awareness**

📍 City Hall Fish Bowl

👉 Register at www.murphytx.org/915

2:30–3:00 PM – Wellness Walk

📍 Meet at the City Hall Front Entrance

Why Join Wellness Wednesday?

Boost your health, connect with coworkers, and earn up to \$30/month just by participating!

CORE VALUE TIP OF THE MONTH

BEING PROFESSIONAL

"Professionalism is how we show respect for ourselves, for our team, and for the people we serve." In the City of Murphy, we hold ourselves to a high standard because our community depends on it. Professionalism isn't just about how we act when others are watching—it's a daily commitment to doing our jobs with excellence, courtesy, and reliability.

Tip: *Commit to excellence in everything you do—no matter the task.* When you approach your responsibilities with care, attention to detail, and a sense of ownership, the quality of your work speaks for itself. Pride in your work fosters personal satisfaction, motivates others, and contributes to a culture where high standards are the norm.

APRIL NEW HIRES

Welcome to the Murphy team!



Nick Donahue
FF/Paramedic
FD

Please join us in welcoming Nick Donahue to our team! Nick joins us from Van Alstyne Fire and brings his experience as a firefighter/paramedic to the City of Murphy. Outside of work, Nick enjoys mountain biking, off-roading, and weight lifting. He's motivated by his family, especially his boys, and is proud of building a solid life for himself. We're thrilled to have him on board!



Amanda Burge
Telecommunications
Officer
PD

We're excited to welcome Amanda Burge to our Telecommunications team! Amanda comes to us from the City of Commerce and has a strong artistic side. In her free time, she enjoys international travel and is passionate about spending time with her kids, who are her biggest motivation. We're looking forward to seeing the great work Amanda will do with us!

PERSONAL TOUCHES

SPELLING BEE WHIZ

Sincerest congratulations to Brunson Adams, Aretha's superstar son, for spelling his way to victory. With lots of brainpower and determination, he won the 3rd grade spelling bee last month! Way to beee amazing, Brunson!



ELITE MARATHON RUNNER

Our powerhouse PD Lieutenant Barber crushed the Boston Marathon (aka the Olympics of marathons) on 4/21, crossing the finish line with an incredible time of 3 hours and 36 minutes! Talk about elite... Join us in a round of applause for this inspiring feat of strength, speed, and serious determination!



JOB OPENINGS

View more details at

www.governmentjobs.com/careers/murphytx

- Certified Police Officer
- School Crossing Guard
- Telecommunications Officer



WORKIVERSARIES



- Clifford Sales** - 19 Yrs of Service
- Joe Flowers** - 13 Yrs of Service
- David Holland** - 13 Yrs of Service
- Bailey Ragsdale** - 11 Yrs of Service
- Kendall DeLand** - 3 Yrs of Service
- Jaime Silverberg** - 3 Yrs of Service
- Chelsie Montgomery** - 2 Yrs of Service
- Noah Klem** - 2 Yrs of Service
- Penny Perryman** - 2 Yrs of Service
- Kandi Jackson** - 2 Yrs of Service
- Cynthia Folk** - 1 Yr of Service
- David Garcia** - 1 Yr of Service
- Carter Smith** - 1 Yr of Service

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

MAY BIRTHDAYS



- Wyatt Cook - 5/3
- Ben Frank - 5/7
- Jonathan Lopez - 5/12
- Kayla McFarland - 5/17
- Sarah Ashmore - 5/20
- Collin Miller 5/20
- Morgan Barclay - 5/22
- James "Hawk" Hawkins - 5/23
- Joseph Whitaker - 5/26

Wishing you all a wonderful birthday!

WELLNESS TIP OF THE MONTH

May is Mental Health Awareness Month—a time to break the stigma and support those living with mental health conditions. Mental illness includes a range of diagnoses that affect mood, thinking, and behavior, such as anxiety, depression, and bipolar disorder. Mental health is a vital part of your overall well-being. It impacts how you think, feel, act, handle stress, and make healthy choices. Your mental state can shift depending on life's challenges and available support.



Half of people in the United States will be diagnosed with a mental disorder at some point in their life.

Taking care of your mental health is essential. Here are five simple ways to support your well-being each day:

- **Express gratitude:** Write down things you're thankful for to reduce stress and foster positivity.
- **Be kind:** Acts of kindness, no matter how small, benefit both you and others.
- **Get moving:** Regular exercise enhances brain function, reduces anxiety, and improves self-image.
- **Prioritize sleep:** Aim for 7-8 hours of quality sleep to avoid fatigue and mood changes.
- **Spend time outdoors:** Sunshine and nature can enhance mood and focus.

If you're concerned about your mental health, reach out to your primary care provider or a licensed mental health professional.

For urgent mental health-related crisis support, you can call or text 988, or chat online at [988lifeline.org](https://www.988lifeline.org).



DID YOU KNOW?

You're not alone. The City of Murphy offers free, confidential support through the Employee Assistance Program (EAP).

Through the EAP, you and your household have access to:

- ✓ Confidential short-term counseling
- ✓ Legal and financial consultations
- ✓ Work-life referrals and resources
- ✓ 24/7 crisis support

Accessing your benefits is easy:

- Visit www.awpnow.com
- Click "Access Your Benefits"
 - Enter code: **AWP-MURPHY-2990**
- ☎ Or call 1-800-343-3822 anytime

Reminder:

You, your spouse, and your children are eligible for up to 6 free sessions per issue, per year with a licensed counselor.

RECOGNITION WALL | DEPARTMENT UPDATES



NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our dedicated employees who work tirelessly to serve the City of Murphy and our community. Your hard work, commitment, and passion make a difference every day.

As a token of our appreciation, we invite you to join us for an **Employee Field Day on May 15th**. We will be providing lunch and hosting fun games. This is a time to relax, enjoy each other's company, and celebrate our shared commitment to public service.



ON THE SPOT RECOGNITION

Our second On the Spot recognition recipient is Tracie Riebschlager from Finance. Tracie earned 5 On the Spot cards and redeemed them for a \$10 gift card! Thank you Tracie, for your hard work, positive attitude, and dedication.

At the City of Murphy, we value and celebrate 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 effort or generosity. Cards are available through your department head/HR, and once you collect 5 cards, you can redeem them for a \$10 gift card.

SPRING CLEAN & GREEN RECOGNITION

FROM: DANIEL PAREDEZ

TO: ALL PW STAFF

A huge thank-you goes out to our PW staff for working each super busy station at the Spring Clean and Green event on April 12th. Your efforts help keep our City clean & beautiful and we very much appreciate your hard work and commitment to making a difference in our community—thank you for being the backbone of this event!



FIRE DEPARTMENT LATEST RECRUITMENT PROCESS SHOUT-OUTS

The Fire Department recently wrapped up a recruitment and hiring process where ALL 9 selected candidates—the largest group we've had in some time—successfully passed the physical agility test, which is no small feat! This was truly a team effort, with HR and firefighters volunteering their time to help set up and run the physical agility and interview process—an all-day event that required coordination, energy, and dedication.

This year, the interview panel also included Captains and one tailboard member, a valuable addition that brought fresh perspective to the selection process. With such strong candidates, the department is optimistic about welcoming two new members to the Murphy Fire family soon!



PARKS TEAM SHOUT-OUT

FROM: CODY CLARK

TO: ALL PARKS STAFF

On April 12th, the Parks department held their annual Park Board Tour, and throughout the day, they received many compliments from the board regarding how well the City parks are maintained. We would like to extend our gratitude to each of our Parks staff members for their hard work, dedication, and willingness to put in extra hours when needed. Thanks guys!!!

Pictured: Mario being "COOL" at the Hop-n-Hunt event.



Health & Wellness Fair

The City of Murphy hosted its very first Wellness Fair in April, and it was a fantastic success! A huge thank you to Nichole from the HR team for taking the lead in organizing this event and bringing together such an incredible lineup of wellness resources for our employees. We welcomed 17 vendors to the Murphy Activity Center from 10 AM–2 PM.

Highlights included:

- 🧘♀️ Free 10-minute chair massages
- 👉 Restore Wellness' lymphatic leg massage chair
- 🏥 Airrosti's on-site injury clinic
- 📈 One-on-one retirement consultations with Mission Square's Steven Whitman
- 💰 Financial wellness guidance from Gardner Wallace
- 🔥 Hotworks & Body Fit offering free weekly training sessions
- 🧘 StretchLab's free stretch sessions
- 🏠 Joint Chiropractic's \$29 first-visit discount
- 🩺 Total Men's Clinic providing free blood pressure checks and biometric screening sign-ups

New Hire & Birthday Social

On April 24th, we celebrated all the new hires and birthday peeps from January-April with some cake and ice cream graciously provided by Dawnelle and Teresa. We shook things up with a brand-new game, in which you had to match descriptions of new hires from the Murphy Monthly to the correct new hire -- and Brian McKown (aka Odie) got a perfect score the fastest, with Ben Frank finishing also with a perfect score, but a mere 31 seconds after Brian. Be sure to come back and enjoy the fun next time!

Hop-n-Hunt

The Parks & Recreation team pulled off another egg-ceptional event at Hop & Hunt on April 17! With over 15,000 eggs, age-divided hunts, and a wide range of free family activities, the evening was a hit for all ages. From the toddler egg pool to adult flashlight hunts, plus face painting, a petting zoo, inflatables, and festive photo ops—the event was packed with springtime fun.

A big thank you to the Parks & Rec staff for their creativity, energy, and hard work in making this community favorite such a memorable success!



COUNCIL ROUNDUP

A RECAP FROM THE APRIL MEETINGS



Consent & Regular Agenda Items

- Solid Waste Disposal Fee Schedule Amendment – Approved unanimously
- A pass-through fee update from NTMWD impacting both commercial and residential rates
- Law Enforcement Agreement & Master Service Agreement with Flock Group, Inc. – Approved unanimously
- Emergency Services District in ETJ – Approved unanimously
- Everbrook Academy – Public improvements accepted
- Ordinance Amending Multiple Funds – To recognize new revenue and internal transfers
- Public Hearing: New Planned Development (PD)
- Approved a request to establish City Vet, a veterinary clinic at the current Panera Bread and Freebirds location – Approved unanimously

City Updates & Presentations

- Debt Education 101 presented by Hilltop Securities
- Water Loss Update
- Upcoming Events preview

Recognitions & Proclamations

- Sexual Assault Awareness Month
- Earth Day
- Murphy Citizen Academy
- Murphy Police Department – Recognition for drone training
- Child Abuse Prevention Month
- National Telecommunicators Week
- National Animal Control Appreciation Week
- Employee of the Quarter
- Recycle Truck Art Contest Winners

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat, 5/10 – Backyard BBQ Competition

🕒 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

📍 Murphy Central Park

- Join the community for Murphy's first-ever Backyard BBQ event hosted by Parks and Public Works, featuring live music, local vendors, and some serious BBQ competition fun!

Thu, 5/15 – Employee Field Day

🕒 12:00 PM – 2:30 PM

📍 Fire Station Bay

City offices will close at noon.

Mon, 5/26 – Memorial Day

City offices closed

5/28 – Wellness Wednesday

See page 1 for more information.

Fri, 5/30 – New Hire Orientation

For new hires from January–April

Time and location to be shared with participants

