



MURPHY MONTHLY

Official Citywide Employee Newsletter for the City of Murphy



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

TAMMY DORAN

SR EXEC ADMIN ASSISTANT

I love being in an admin role because of the variety and challenge that each day brings. I learn so much about what all Public Works handles and to be a part of the team has been wonderful. The admin role requires flexibility, organization, and a proactive approach to problem-solving. It is fulfilling for me because I thrive on the variety and helping things run smoothly. I ended up working here because I was mainly looking for a better work-life balance. My previous job was a 15-minute car ride followed by a 35-minute train ride, plus 10–12-hour days. This job is perfect for me because my commute is short, and I go home every day for lunch and hang out with my animals.

A career highlight is during my 8 years at Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), when I was promoted to Analyst III in recognition of my performance in tracking budget and absenteeism metrics. I'm a bit of an Excel nerd and often find myself watching YouTube videos to pick up new tips and tricks. That is why I love Excel; you can never get bored with it!

If I had to pick a different area of the City to work in, it would be Animal Control because I love animals.

The best piece of advice I have ever received is never let the fear of failure prevent you from trying new things. Even when a project seems overwhelming, remember to break it down into manageable steps—just like eating an elephant one bite at a time.

Lastly, a fun fact about myself is that I love to go walking. It helps clear my mind, but there's nothing like a great book and cuddling with my animals to make any day better.

WELLNESS WEDNESDAY - 1/22

1-Mile Wellness Walk

11:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Meet us at the City Hall Front Entrance for a refreshing 1-mile walk to kickstart your wellness journey for 2025!

Cardiovascular Screenings with Premier Corporate Wellness

Location: Murphy Activity Center

ALL SLOTS ARE FULL!

Due to the overwhelming demand for cardiovascular screenings, HR is working diligently to secure additional health and wellness screening opportunities for February and March's Wellness Wednesdays. Be on the lookout for more details and upcoming chances to participate!



CITY EVENTS



Jan 9 - National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day

Jan 16 - New Hire Breakfast

- 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM
- Murphy Activity Center
- A warm welcome to all the 2024 New Hires! Join us for a breakfast event to connect and get to know one another.

Jan 20 - MLK Jr. Day

- City offices will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Feb 1 - Daddy Daughter Dance

- 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- Murphy Community Center

DECEMBER NEW HIRES

Welcome to the Murphy team!



David Bucher
Systems Analyst
IT

David joins the City of Murphy's IT team with a wealth of experience, having previously worked as a Systems Administrator at a Geomap company and serving for many years in the City of Plano's IT Department. Outside of work, David enjoys photography, DIY projects, and woodworking. A passionate traveler, he dreams of exploring Israel, Switzerland, and Norway. Motivated by his strong personal relationship with God, David is most proud of his marriage to his best friend, Sally.



Joseph Proce
Support Specialist
IT

Joe joins us from Huitt-Zollars Inc., where he worked as an IT Junior System/Network Administrator. Outside of work, Joe is a passionate musician, gamer, and boxer. He enjoys vodka pasta and spends his free time working on cars. Joe's career goal is to reach a point where he can travel more, and his greatest source of pride comes from helping his friends get into shape. We're thrilled to have him on the IT team!



Trevor Bowman
GIS & IT Applications
Manager
IT

Before joining the City of Murphy, Trevor worked as a GIS Specialist at Garland Power & Light. Outside of work, he's an avid runner (though not quite elite!), and enjoys pizza, glass-bottle Coca-Cola, and the Harry Potter series. Trevor dreams of visiting Japan one day and is deeply motivated by personal growth, learning new things, and helping others. We're excited to have him on the team and look forward to seeing all the great contributions he'll make!



Marissa Hackett
Recreation & Events
Coordinator
Recreation

Marissa joins us from the City of McKinney, where she worked as a Recreation Events Coordinator. A fan of macadamia nut lattes, popcorn, and planning her next vacation, Marissa also enjoys diving into crime shows and podcasts in her downtime. She dreams of visiting every continent and considers her children her greatest source of pride. The Recreation team and the City of Murphy are thrilled to have Marissa on board, and we can't wait for her to help create memorable events in the year ahead!

JOB OPENINGS



View more details at

www.governmentjobs.com/careers/murphytx

- Firefighter/Paramedic
- Maintenance Worker II
- School Crossing Guard
- Telecommunications Officer

MILESTONES



- Chance Weems** - 1 Yr of Service
- Daniel Paredes** - 2 Yrs of Service
- Tanner Smith** - 2 Yrs of Service
- Wyatt Cook** - 3 Yrs of Service
- Thomas Fraser** - 3 Yrs of Service
- Russell Veasey** - 4 Yrs of Service
- Elise Dailey** - 6 Yrs of Service

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

BIRTHDAYS



- Anisha Justin-Sabu - 1/2
- Shaun Jackson - 1/4
- Jazmin Walker - 1/7
- Leandra Magness-Weimer - 1/10
- David Holland - 1/10
- Cheryl Blasingame - 1/14
- Jonathan Hunter - 1/19
- David Paul - 1/28
- Christopher Wooley - 1/31

MONTH IN REVIEW

Service Awards and Holiday Luncheon

The Annual Service Awards & Holiday Luncheon on December 13th was a success with a "Christmas in July" theme. Employees enjoyed food from Dickey's BBQ and a lively atmosphere with music, games, and raffles. City Manager Aretha Adams opened the event, followed by HR Director Chelsie Montgomery recognizing Service Award recipients:

Services Awards Included:

- 5-Year Awards: Elise Dailey, Daniel Sandoval
- 10-Year Awards: Bailey Ragsdale, Brett Bertelli, Cody Clark
- 15-Year Award: Tammy Drake
- 20-Year Awards: Adana Barber, Kimberly Gann

Awards of Recognition Included:

- Murphy COOL Award (Employee of the Year): John Grant
- Outstanding Performance Awards: Brett Bertelli, Shannon Long
- Rising Star Awards: Jacy Mitchell, Israel Rodriguez

New Hire & Birthday Social w/White Elephant

The New Hire Birthday Social and White Elephant event on December 19th brought together new team members and those with birthdays from October to December to enjoy delicious cake and ice cream. One of the highlights of the day was the White Elephant gift exchange, where participants brought some truly entertaining gifts, like a NutriBullet, a Pyrex set of food storage containers, and a quirky chicken-shaped hot sauce bottle. It was a fun way to create some laughter, and everyone is highly encouraged to join in the next time HR hosts a white elephant.

Leadership Academy

The Murphy Way Leadership Academy Part I wrapped up its 2024 season, focusing on Ethics in Leadership. The sessions highlighted important values such as equity, respect, responsibility, and compassion—essential qualities for any accountable and responsible leader. The academy will resume in July 2025, offering more chances for personal growth and professional development.

Christmas in the Park

The annual Christmas in the Park event on December 7th was a magical evening that warmed the hearts of the residents, even with the rainy weather. Families came out to enjoy a range of activities, from ice-skating and a festive tree-lighting ceremony to taking photos with Santa and shopping from local vendors. A heartfelt thank-you goes to our Parks and Recreation Department who worked behind the scenes to make this event such a success. Your hard work and collaboration brought joy to the community and made the evening truly unforgettable. And a special shout out to our public works, green team, Fire Department, and Police Department for their efforts towards the event. Thank you for helping us ring in the holiday season with such festive cheer!



MONTH IN REVIEW

Chief Del Albright's Retirement Ceremony

It was a heartfelt and memorable send-off for Chief Del Albright, who retired after eight years of dedicated service as our Chief of Fire. The ceremony, held in the Firehouse Bay, was attended by his family, friends, department members, the mayor, council members, and both current and former city staff.

Chief Albright was honored with a gold-plated ceremonial firefighter axe as a token of appreciation for his exceptional leadership and service to the department and our community. He also received a special flag from Candy Noble's office, representing the Texas State Legislature.

In a moving moment, the ceremonial Last Call was performed, officially announcing Chief Albright's retirement. During his emotional speech, he expressed deep gratitude to the firefighters and issued one final heartfelt order: to take great care of Apple, the beloved firehouse dog. He then passed the torch to Interim Fire Chief Joseph Flowers by presenting him with the iconic red pen before taking his Final Walk.

The celebration concluded with pie, coffee, and warm conversations, providing a fitting tribute to Chief Albright's remarkable dedication and legacy. We thank him for his outstanding service and wish him all the best in his well-earned retirement!



William House's Retirement Party

Congratulations to William House on his retirement after 19 years of dedicated service in the IT department for the City of Murphy! His Hawaiian-themed retirement party was a wonderful celebration attended by current and former city employees, friends, family, and Texas State Representative Candy Noble (District 89).

House was honored with two awards from the city recognizing his significant contributions and years of service. Representative Candy Noble also presented him with a flag flown over the Texas State Capitol in Austin and gave a heartfelt speech. The celebration included a surprise video from current and former colleagues expressing their appreciation for House's impact over the years.

House closed the event with a touching speech reflecting on his career. The celebration concluded with cake, punch, and refreshments. We wish House all the best in his well-deserved retirement!



DOOR DECORATING CONTEST WINNERS

A big thank-you to everyone who participated in this year's holiday door decorating contest! **1st place** went to **Customer Service** for their creative Christmas Tree Farm design. **Finance** took **2nd place** with their clever 'dough' theme, and **3rd place was a tie** between **Jared Mayfield** and **Judith Friedline**'s **Monsters, Inc.** theme. If you have any recommendations or suggestions for next year's contest, please share them with HR!



PERSONAL TOUCHES

Congratulations to Shaun Jackson, our firefighter/paramedic of two years, on the arrival of his beautiful baby girl, Freya Jane Jackson, born on December 17th! Best wishes to Shaun and his family!



12 : 29 PM on DEC. 17th 2024
Hour Minute a.m./p.m. Month Day Year
6 lb. 15 oz. Length 20 in. 13.8 in. 12.6 in.
Pounds Ounces Length: Inches Head: Inches Chest: Inches

COUNCIL ROUNDUP

A RECAP FROM THE DECEMBER 3rd MEETING



- We started off the meeting with a badge pinning ceremony celebrating the promotions of Wyatt Cook, Driver/Engineer, and Brent Ulch, Fire Captain!
- Jared Mayfield, Assistant City Manager, presented the Community Survey results.
- Council unanimously approved applying for grant money to purchase Flock cameras.
- There was no second meeting in December due to the holiday season.

WELLNESS TIP OF THE MONTH

PROTECTING YOUR SKIN DURING THE WINTER

- Adjust your shower routine. The length and temperature of your showers can make a big difference in the dryness of your skin. Long and hot showers during the cold months can strip the natural oils in your skin, drying it out. Try short and cold showers instead.
- Use moisturizer. Applying moisturizer, especially after showering, can help retain your skin's natural moisture levels and thus prevent dryness or irritation.
- Avoid products with fragrances. Often, the better a product smells, the more irritating it can be for your skin. As such, consider choosing fragrance-free skin products and laundry detergents, such as all free & clear.
- Use a humidifier. Humidifiers can return moisture to the air in your home, helping prevent and relieve environmental dryness. There are plenty of great options at Walmart, Target, and even Costco!