



MURPHY MONTHLY

Official Citywide Employee Newsletter for the City of Murphy

DECEMBER FAREWELLS

Chief Del Albright



After 8 years of dedicated service to the City of Murphy, Fire Chief Del Albright is retiring. His exceptional leadership and lasting contributions have greatly impacted our community and fire department.

Join us as we celebrate Chief Albright's retirement on December 19, 2024, at 5:30 PM in the Fire House Bay (RSVP to 972-468-4304 by 12/9).

Let's come together to thank him and send our best wishes as he begins this exciting new chapter. Congratulations, Chief Albright!

Brick House



After nearly 19 years with the IT Department, Brick House is retiring! Brick has been a cornerstone of the City of Murphy's growth. We are immensely grateful for his hard work, dedication, and invaluable contributions over the years.

Please join us in celebrating House's retirement on December 23 at 2PM in the Community Room. Let's send him off with warm wishes and gratitude as he embarks on this exciting new journey. Congratulations on a well-deserved retirement!

DOOR DECORATING CONTEST



HR has loved seeing all of the creative and festive door decorations throughout City Hall! As a reminder, the deadline to sign-up and decorate your door is 12/13, as pictures will be taken of all doors for judging on 12/16. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners will be announced by email on 12/19 and will receive trophies. Thank you to all who have participated!

CITY EVENTS



12/12 - House's Retirement Luau

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM @ Community Room

12/13 - Holiday Luncheon & Service Awards

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM @ Murphy Community Center
(City Services closed at 11:30)

12/19 - New Hire & BDay Social + White Elephant Gift Exchange

2:30 PM – 3:00 PM @ Community Room

12/19 - Chief Del Albright Retirement Celebration

(RSVP to 972-468-4304 by 12/9)

5:30 PM @ Fire Department Bay

12/24–12/25 - Christmas Holiday

City offices closed

1/1/25 - New Year Holiday

City offices closed

NEW HIRES

Welcome to the Murphy team!



Jared McDonald
Maintenance Supervisor
Parks

Jared brings his expertise in irrigation management from Brightview to our team. When he's not at work, you can find him enjoying the thrill of riding dirt bikes or unwinding with a good documentary. A passionate traveler, Jared dreams of visiting Jerusalem one day. His faith & family are his greatest motivators, and he's incredibly proud of his 20-year marriage & his three wonderful children. We're excited to have Jared join our team and look forward to working with him!



Morgan Barclay
Planning Administrator
Comm. Dev.

Morgan joins the City of Murphy from the City of Southlake, where she worked as a Planning Technician. A former competitive dancer of 16 years, she brings both discipline & creativity to her new role. In her downtime, Morgan loves indulging in soup dumplings, cuddling with her adorable three-legged cat, and dreaming of traveling to England. She's deeply motivated by a passion for helping others & a love for learning. Morgan takes the most pride in her empathy, which shines through in everything she does. We're thrilled to have her on board!



Gabriela Benavides
Telecommunications
Officer
PD

We're excited to welcome Gaby to the City of Murphy! Before joining our team, she gained valuable experience working for a moving company. In her free time, Gaby enjoys indulging in her guilty pleasure—Taco Bell—watching episodes of SWAT, and practicing self-care routines. She's driven by her goal of building a bright future and takes pride in being a kind and genuine person. Welcome aboard, Gaby!

JOB OPENINGS



View more details at
www.governmentjobs.com/careers/murphytx

- Firefighter/Paramedic
- School Crossing Guard
- Telecommunications Officer
- Recreation Aide I (Part Time)
- Parks Maintenance Technician
- Maintenance Worker I

MILESTONES



- Jeff Gibson** - 1 Yr of Service
- Tammy Doran** - 1 Yr of Service
- Orion Hackney** - 2 Yrs of Service
- Shaun Jackson** - 2 Yrs of Service
- Benjamin Frank** - 7 Yrs of Service
- Del Albright** - 8 Yrs of Service
- David Crawford** - 17 Yrs of Service
- John Grant** - 17 Yrs of Service
- Brentan Ulch** - 19 Yrs of Service

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

BIRTHDAYS



- Tammy Drake - 12/1
- Orion Hackney - 12/3
- Garrett Rae - 12/4
- Kristoffer Riebschlager - 12/5
- Jackie Cooke - 12/8
- Travis Morgan - 12/9
- Perry Elliott - 12/10
- Chance Weems - 12/15
- Joseph Flowers III - 12/17
- Martin Torres - 12/18
- David Crawford - 12/20
- Jeremy Martin - 12/23
- Robin Roy - 12/30

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

JAMES "HAWK" HAWKINS FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC



I have been a firefighter/paramedic with the City of Murphy since September 2023. My favorite part about my role is that no matter the emergency, I can always leave the situation better than when I arrived. Even in minor moments, I can provide something meaningful that helps ease the situation.

After retiring from the Garland Fire Department and moving to Murphy, I became close friends with several Murphy firefighters, who convinced me to come out of retirement to serve the citizens of Murphy. While in Garland, I was deployed to several hurricanes in Texas, helping devastated fire departments fill their staffing gaps. I also served as a search and rescue canine handler with Texas Task Force. Some of my most memorable honors include being named Firefighter of the Year and Paramedic of the Year. I've also had the privilege of carrying three people out of burning buildings to safety during separate incidents.

If I could work in a different department for a day, I'd choose Parks—they get to work outside and function as a team, even in extreme conditions like 110-degree heat—they always get the job done. Alternatively, I'd choose Animal Control, who don't get enough credit at all for such a tough job.

Two key pieces of advice that have shaped me:

1. "Dreams remain dreams until you take action" -- without action, an idea is just a dream.
2. "Don't worry about what others think" -- be unique, memorable, confident, and proud!

A fun fact about myself is I have an amazing wife who is the new EMS manager in Wylie. Together, we've fostered 65 dogs over the past four years!

Fire Promotions

Congratulations to **Brent Ulch** and **Wyatt Cook** on their well-deserved career advancements! After a series of rigorous exams, Brent Ulch has been promoted to Fire Captain, and Wyatt Cook has been promoted to Fire Driver/Engineer. We look forward to seeing the great things they will accomplish as they take on these responsibilities.



MONTH IN REVIEW

Thanksgiving Potluck

A big thank you to everyone who joined our Thanksgiving Potluck and contributed delicious dishes to share! We're truly grateful for each of you and the vital role you play in making the City of Murphy such a special place. Congratulations to the winners of Thanksgiving Bingo! We hope you all enjoyed the celebration and had a wonderful holiday with your loved ones.

Leadership Academy

Last month, participants of the Murphy Way Leadership Academy learned how to leverage the diverse skills and viewpoints across generations to foster innovation, enhance teamwork, and bridge generational gaps.

Wellness Wednesday Recap

November's Wellness Wednesday was packed with great activities! Gardner Wallace served Chick-Fil-A for breakfast and hosted an insightful Breakfast & Learn on Financial Wellness at the Public Works building where participants gained a foundational understanding of personal finance and the key principles of financial planning. Despite the chilly weather, we powered through a one-mile wellness walk and were treated to relaxing chair massages at discounted rates.

Thank you to everyone who participated in making November's activities a success! *Please note there will be no Wellness Wednesday in December due to the many events and holidays.* The next Wellness Wednesday will be held on January 15th.



COUNCIL ROUNDUP

A RECAP FROM THE NOVEMBER MEETINGS



NOVEMBER 5TH & 19TH MEETINGS

- **Arbor Day Proclamation**: Matt Foster received a proclamation in honor of Arbor Day as the city celebrated by giving away 250 saplings!
- **Finance Department Recognition**: Congratulations to the Finance Department for receiving the Government Finance Officers Association award for the 20th consecutive year for our Annual Comprehensive Report!
- **H-E-B Development**: The Site Plan, Landscape Plan, and Building Elevations for H-E-B have been officially approved. Exciting developments ahead!
- **Board Consolidation**: A resolution was passed to combine the Murphy Municipal Development District (MMDD) and the Murphy Community Development Corporation (MCDC) into one board