



MURPHY MONTHLY

Official Citywide Employee Newsletter for the City of Murphy



EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER
TIM SAPP

We are thrilled to celebrate Tim Sapp, Finance & Purchasing Specialist, and a valued City employee since November 2024, as the first Employee of the Quarter of 2026! Tim officially received his award during the January 6 City Council meeting, and we could not be more excited to recognize his contributions.

A key member of the Finance Department, Tim consistently exemplifies the City's core values through his professionalism, reliability, and commitment to teamwork. He plays an essential role in payroll, purchasing/POs, and accounts payable, helping ensure City operations run smoothly and efficiently. His work may happen behind the scenes, but its impact is felt across every department.

Colleagues shared that:

- "Tim consistently demonstrates outstanding support and professionalism in all finance-related matters. Whenever we have a question...he responds quickly, clearly, and with a positive attitude."
- "He takes the time to explain details thoroughly and will even provide examples or documentation when needed to ensure we fully understand."

Tim's dependable support, responsiveness, trustworthiness, willingness to help, and his ability to always be a team player, both within the department and across departments, ensure the City continues to operate smoothly and efficiently.

Be sure to watch for Tim's upcoming "Day in the Life" video on the City's social media pages, brought to you by Bailey Ragsdale, for a behind-the-scenes look at the work that keeps our City running smoothly. Congratulations, Tim, on this well-deserved recognition.

FREE BIOMETRIC SCREENINGS



In just **10 minutes**, a biometric screening helps establish your health baseline and identify early risk factors for **diabetes, high blood pressure, and cholesterol**, before they become bigger issues.

It also checks off the 2nd requirement on your Wellness Scorecard! A small investment of your time now can pay off all year long.

JANUARY 28TH

9 AM - 1:30 PM

Community Room
Murphy City Hall 1st Floor



Sign Up Here!

WELLNESS TIP OF THE MONTH



Start the new year moving better and feeling stronger.

Join a FREE Airrosti webinar to learn simple, expert-approved techniques to reduce shoulder pain and improve mobility (no special equipment required).

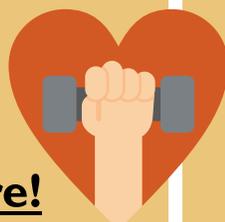
Webinar dates:

- January 15th at 3:00 PM
- January 27th at 12:00 PM

Small changes can make a big difference in how you move every day.



Sign Up Here!



DECEMBER NEW HIRES

Welcome to the Murphy team!



Duane Dantzler
PT AP Specialist
Finance

Duane joins the City of Murphy with experience in accounting at a small family business. He enjoys grilling, cooking, and watching football, with a particular love for Mexican food from Mi Cocina. Motivated by happiness, Duane is most proud of his faith and family, and hopes to attend a Super Bowl, especially one featuring the Cowboys.



Maria Palmer
Records Management
Specialist
CSO

Maria comes to Murphy from her role as an Environmental Quality Specialist in Plano's Environmental Health Department. She enjoys puzzling, reading, and Asian cuisine. Motivated by learning and growth, Maria is most proud of her family and hopes to keep bees, raise chickens, quail, and ducks, grow an orchard, and visit all National Parks.



Garret Wood
Crossing Guard
Police

Garret joins Murphy with a background in medical software customer support. He enjoys building computers, watching movies, and following sports, especially football, and is a fan of Breaking Bad. Motivated by future possibilities, Garret is proud of earning his master's degree and hopes to travel to Japan.



Luke Harris
IT Support Specialist
IT

Luke joins Murphy from Fuel the Future Platforms, where he worked as a Software Developer. He enjoys reading, playing the drums, and is learning to read Japanese. Motivated by learning new things, Luke is proud of his second-degree black belt in Taekwondo and hopes to build a Souls-like video game with friends and travel abroad.



Scott Eckstein
Division Chief /
Fire Marshal
Fire

Scott joins Murphy from the City of Richardson, where he served with the Richardson Fire Department. A fan of Star Wars, Star Trek, and football, he cheers for the Pittsburgh Steelers and Texas A&M. Guided by his faith, Scott is most proud of his personal growth and hopes to travel the Mediterranean with his wife, watch his children become leaders, and attend an NFL game in every U.S. stadium.



Cole Hunt
Maintenance
Worker I
Public Works

Cole joins Murphy after working as a Real Estate Assistant for a family friend. He enjoys the gym, playing golf, and training his Belgian Malinois. Motivated by making his family proud, Cole is especially proud of his dog's training and his apple crumble pie, and hopes to play golf at Pebble Beach or Pinehurst one day. Join us in welcoming Cole to the team!

FREE CARDIOVASCULAR SCREENINGS



HR is bringing back Premier Corporate Wellness to offer FREE, non-invasive cardiovascular screenings designed to detect potential issues before symptoms appear. These screenings help identify risks related to heart disease, stroke, and blood clots.

February 25 | 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Council Chambers Executive Meeting Room

Spots are limited, sign up [HERE!](#)

WORKIVERSARIES



- Jaelyn Smith (PD)** - 1 Year of Service
- Graydon Strickland (PD)** - 1 Year of Service
- Chance Weems (PW)** - 2 Years of Service
- Daniel Paredez (PW)** - 3 Years of Service
- Tanner Smith (Fire)** - 3 Years of Service
- Wyatt Cook (Fire)** - 4 Years of Service
- Russell Veasey (PW)** - 5 Years of Service
- Elise Dailey (PD)** - 7 Years of Service

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

BIRTHDAYS



- 1/2 - Anisha Sabu
- 1/2 - Christopher Ware
- 1/4 - Shaun Jackson
- 1/6 - Colton Gossett
- 1/6 - Duane Dantzler
- 1/7 - Jazmin Walker
- 1/10 - David Holland
- 1/10 - Leandra Magness-Weimer
- 1/13 - Nick Donahue
- 1/14 - Cheryl Blasingame
- 1/19 - Jonathan Hunter
- 1/28 - David Paul
- 1/28 - William Belcher
- 1/31 - Christopher Wooley

EMPLOYEE OF THE 1ST QUARTER NOMINEES

Donita Lovely - Facilities

"Donita has hit the ground running since she has started. She shows up for work with a great attitude, takes pride in her work, and is always going above and beyond what's expected. Can't say enough about her."

David Alkins - Com/Dev

"David is always willing to go the extra mile not just for his fellow employees but for our citizens. He is always going out of his way to lend a hand to anyone who needs it. He is such a great asset and an amazing team member to work with."

Russell Veasey - Public Works

"Russell continues to work around the clock and always shows up with a positive attitude. He stepped up during the holiday season, going above and beyond to make sure the public works department did not miss any steps."

A SPECIAL THANKS TO THOSE WHO SUBMITTED A NOMINATION!

As promised, your names have been entered into the annual drawing for a paid day off.

UPCOMING EVENTS



MLK Jr. Holiday: January 19

Jan Wellness Wednesday: January 28
Biometric Screening

Leadership Academy Cohort II Begins:
February 12

"We Heart our Team" Appreciation Social:
February 13

President's Day Holiday: February 16

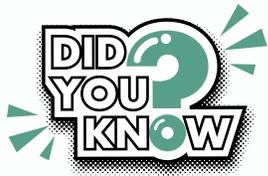
Feb Wellness Wednesday: February 25
Cardiovascular Screening

Chili Cook Off: February 26

Rainbow Trout Roundup: February 28

Employee Appreciation Day: March 6

March Wellness Wednesday: March 25
Jet Dental Exams



2025-2026 Wellness Program Scorecard

Ready to earn rewards while improving your health? If you're enrolled in the City's health insurance, you can earn a \$25 incentive by completing your Wellness Scorecard! Your incentive will begin the month after you turn in your completed Scorecard to HR and will continue through September 30, 2027. Plus, if your spouse is also on the City's plan and completes the scorecard, you'll receive an extra \$10 incentive.

Visit www.murphytx.org/915 for access to the scorecard.

2025-2026 WELLNESS PROGRAM SCORECARD	
Complete the following activities to earn a \$25 monthly wellness incentive. Spouse on your health plan? Have them complete steps 1-4 for an additional \$10 a month! Completed scorecards are due to HR by September 30, 2026. For questions, e-mail hr@murphytx.org	
REQUIRED ACTIVITIES & COMPLETION:	
1. Annual Physical Complete an annual physical exam or at an in-network physician of your choice. Employee Signature: _____ Date Completed: _____ Spouse Signature: _____ Date Completed: _____	3. Participate in a City Sponsored Wellness Activity* Participate in any City sponsored wellness event (such as a lunch & learn, wellness chat, wellness fair, etc.) Activity: _____ Date Completed: _____ *Contact HR if your work schedule prevents you from attending.
2. Biometric Screening Complete a biometric screening (results must include Height, Weight, Blood Pressure, Cholesterol, Total Cholesterol, HDL, LDL, Triglycerides). Employee Signature: _____ Date Completed: _____ Spouse Signature: _____ Date Completed: _____	6. Health Management Activity (choose 1 of the following) • Track steps, calories, weight, stress, or sleep on a City Wellness portal (at least 40 days) • Complete a health "Assess" via the City Wellness portal. • Complete Tobacco Cessation Program via the City Wellness portal. • Complete a Wellness Challenge via the City Wellness portal. Activity: _____ Date Completed: _____
3. Cigna Health Assessment Complete your health assessment at www.cigna.com . 1. Sign into your Cigna for Member Connect. 2. Use user ID: "Register" to create an account or sign in if a returning user. 3. Go to Wellness -> Wellness Home -> Wellness Dashboard -> Click on "Health" 4. Have your Biometric Screening results handy. Enter your results into the portal. Employee Signature: _____ Date Completed: _____ Spouse Signature: _____ Date Completed: _____	Activity: _____ Date Completed: _____ • 5 Mile Walk (at least 6 times) • Yoga Workout (at least 6 times) • Fitness Class (e.g., Yoga) (at least 6 times)
4. Complete an additional Preventative Screening Complete any one preventative screening of choice (such as meningitis exam, varicella screening, mammogram, colonoscopy, vaccine, etc.) Employee Signature: _____ Date Completed: _____ Spouse Signature: _____ Date Completed: _____	Activity: _____ Date Completed: _____ Activity: _____ Date Completed: _____ Activity: _____ Date Completed: _____ HR www.murphytx.org/915 for more information about wellness resources available to you.

RECOGNITION WALL



Recognition for Orion Hackney

From Daniel Paredez:

I would like to recognize Orion Hackney, our Maintenance Worker II, for getting his Class C Water Distribution license this past month. This means Orion is now a certified professional who can help ensure Murphy residents have safe drinking water by handling tasks like monitoring water quality, operating pumps, maintaining pipes/hydrants, and responding to system issues. Thank you, Orion, for your commitment to expanding your skillset and for all your hard work!

MONTH IN REVIEW

Holiday Luncheon & Service Awards

On December 19th, City of Murphy employees came together at the Murphy Activity Center to celebrate our Annual Holiday Luncheon & Service Awards, beautifully themed Candy Cane Christmas. Members of the leadership team and City Council served employees a delicious lunch catered by Babe's Chicken. It was a meaningful gesture that reflected the City's appreciation for the people who keep our community running every day.

The celebration continued with plenty of laughter and friendly competition as the team from We Live brought energy and excitement to the room. Employees enjoyed games with cash prizes, along with a lively mini sing-off that revealed some impressive hidden talents. Congratulations to Brent Ulch, who took home bragging rights & prize as this year's sing-off winner.

The afternoon concluded with the Service Awards presentation, where we proudly recognized employees for their years of dedicated service, outstanding COOL-ness, and honored our Employee of the Year.

A special note of appreciation goes to our Murphy Culture Committee members, who helped pack gift boxes and ensured every detail was ready for the event. We'd also like to give a well-deserved shout-out to **Morgan Barclay** (Development) and **Joseph Proce** (IT), who truly went above and beyond. Both were on hand before and after the event to assist wherever needed - without even being asked. Their willingness to step in and support the team is a perfect example of Murphy's strong culture. And yes, they are definitely pretty cool.

The Holiday Luncheon & Service Awards was a wonderful reminder of the teamwork, dedication, and community that make the City of Murphy a great place to serve.



WIN PRIZES
CASH GIFT CARDS
CANDY & MORE



AWARD RECIPIENTS



RECOGNITION AWARDS

★ **EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR:** *Melvin Capers*

We are delighted to recognize Melvin Capers as our 2025 Employee of the Year! From the moment Melvin stepped into his role as Recreation Center Supervisor, he embraced the City's mission with energy and purpose.

Whether he's supporting weekend operations, managing large reservations, staying late to ensure recreation facilities are ready for the next day, or mentoring new and existing staff at the community center front desk, Melvin leads with professionalism, reliability, and heart.

We sincerely thank him for his contributions every single day that help Murphy remain a premier place to live and thrive!



★ **RESPECTFUL SHINING STAR:** *Penny Perryman*

★ **PROESSIONAL SHINING STAR:** *Jared McDonald*

★ **TRUSTWORTHY SHINING STAR:** *Jennifer Chacon-Case*

★ **FRIENDLY SHINING STAR:** *Donita Lovely*



SERVICE AWARDS

5 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Philip Gilbert
- Israel Rodriguez
- Daniel Moszak
- Beny Cano
- Devin Welty
- Melvin Capers

10 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Sammi Clark
- Garrett Paynton

15 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Sarah Ashmore

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Matt Foster
- Brent Ulch



COUNCIL ROUNDUP

A RECAP FROM THE DECEMBER 2nd MEETING



Consent & Regular Agenda Items

- **Resolution under Consideration:** the establishment of the Public Art in Murphy Program, to be funded by the established Community Enhancement Grant Program, including the purchase of two pieces of public art.
- **Item 8.D. Approved:** Council Member Deel moved to appoint Place 1 Jaskiran Kaur, Place 2 Matthew Rivers, Place 3 Julie Johnson, Place 4 Kendra Walden, Place 5 Erin Pietrasik, Place 6 Susy Gulley, and Place 7 Heather Jones to the Historic Resources Advisory Committee to serve a one-year term beginning January 2026.
- **Item 8.E. Approved:** Council Member Deel moved to appoint Maggie Whitt to serve a one-year term as Chairperson on the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee.