



City of Murphy
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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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January 11, 2021

Recreation Dept. opens Virtual Community Center

MURPHY (January 11, 2021) The dawning of the new year, with its myriad possibilities, has justifiably provided positive expectations for many, and the City of Murphy Recreation Department is in lockstep with that new attitude, pivoting during the new year to provide lots of innovative programming.

While the Rainbow Trout Roundup, the Father-Daughter Dance, and the Mother-Son Dance have been cancelled for this year, the department is preparing to provide fresh programs and events for the first quarter of 2021 that officials hope will offer safe alternatives for these popular events and provide new ways for the local community to engage in recreation virtually.

In preparation, a page on the Murphy website has been initiated called the Virtual Community Center. It is located at <http://www.murphytx.org/824/Virtual-Community-Center>, and will be populated with interactive programs and activities that participants can enjoy.

The page will include activities that appeal to a variety of ages, such as packets or pages with preprinted tasks and games that can be downloaded as many times as needed, interesting videos that are designed to captivate viewers, and much more. These virtual activities are intended to further supplement the programming offered in person and give programming opportunities to whom in-person activities may not be an option.

Many of the programs that will be featured on the Virtual Community Center will include prepacked activity-based kits that will be made available for pick up at the Murphy Community Center, 205 North Murphy Road, during operating hours. The kits allow for families to enjoy recreational programming and activities in the comfort and safety of their homes. They're specifically designed for certain events and milestones and will be developed on a periodic basis.

The first of these was the *My 2020 COVID-19 Time Capsule*. These initial kits contained: a 9" x 12" x 4" cardboard box; a 2020 COVID packet to fill out; washable markers; pencils; crayons; stickers; colored paper; and a pre-printed label that includes a seal bearing a space for adding a date to the time capsule. The popularity of these kits has exceeded the department's expectations and were all claimed within 24 hours of advertising their availability.

Families who missed out on picking up a kit may visit the Virtual Community Center and obtain the printable journal, information, and instructions. Once completed, we invite families who feel comfortable doing so to post photos on the Murphy Community Center Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MurphyCommunityCenter>.

"We hope families in Murphy take this opportunity to create a tangible keepsake memory with their families that they can save to enjoy in the future," said Caitlyn Mullins, Manager of Recreation. Updates, new programs, and related information are regularly placed on the Virtual Community Center webpage and the social media sites, including the Facebook page.

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Note to editors: A list of proposed programs and events for 2021 accompanies this news release.

ABOUT MURPHY -- Murphy is a fast-growing community located in Collin County. The population is approximately 20,010, generally characterized as highly educated with a median household income well above the state average. With more than 80 percent of the land developed, the community is dominated by single-family residences. City planners strive to preserve a family-oriented community with a strong sense of place. Money Magazine has dubbed Murphy as the 27th Best Place to Live in America for small cities, and D Magazine placed Murphy as the fifth best suburb in the 2014 list, where it has consistently ranked in the top 10.

City of Murphy
Proposed Programs and Events
January to March 2021



More information on these events is available at:
<http://www.murphytx.org/824/Virtual-Community-Center>

Note: Program details and dates are subject to change.

Thursday, Jan. 14 – Murphy Trivia Night

An app-driven game for the whole family, focusing on all things Murphy. Game starts at 7 p.m. and the winner get a gift card to one of Murphy's restaurants.

Monday, Jan. 18 – Winnie the Pooh Day

Specially-designed for the younger set, this virtual story time concentrates on the adventures of Winnie the Pooh and the wonderful cast of characters that surround Winnie.

Saturday, Jan. 30 – Murphy Audubon Outing

Bird-watchers will love this activity, which takes place at a Murphy park. Registrants will receive a Murphy Bird Identification Guide and a pair of binoculars.

Monday, Feb. 8 – Scout Appreciation Day

A salute to all of our Murphy scouts including interviews with boys and girls about the impact that scouting has had in their young lives, and what the scouting program has meant to them.

Saturday, Feb. 13 – Daddy-Daughter Date Night In!

A fun activity kit that will include all of the ingredients for dads and daughters to share in crafts, STEM activities, recipes for food preparation, and a photo session. Registration and fee required.

Feb. 15 - 21 – Random Acts of Kindness Week

In the spirit of the month of love, this activity will issue a challenge to every member of the family to conduct random acts of kindness, together or individually, and share them on social media.

Friday, Feb. 26 – Drive-in Movie

What could be better than dinner and a movie – in your car! With dinner specials from local restaurants, families can pile in the car, pick up dinner, and enjoy a drive-in family movie!

March 8-12 - Spring break

The week students look forward to as the sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and textures of the spring season all come together. During the week, we'll use each of the five senses for some fun activities!

Saturday, March 20 – Mother-Son Who-Dun-It Mystery Case!

Moms and sons become crime-solving sleuths in this fun kit-based activity. A classic who-dun-it mystery that requires the skills of Sherlock Holmes and Agatha Christie! Photo session included. Registration and fee required.