



## A Legacy of Fun, A Future of Community—Murray's 4th of July Celebration

Every year as the Fourth of July approaches, I find myself reflecting on what it means to be part of a community. Murray is a place that values family, history, and everyday neighborliness. Our 4th of July celebration, called Murray Fun Days, is more than just another holiday because it brings those values to life. It honors our past, strengthens our connections, and reminds us why Murray is such a special place to call home.

### Honoring Our Roots

Independence Day always reminds me of my dad and how much this day meant to him. I remember our last Fourth of July together in 2011, now 14 years ago, when he held his final flag ceremony at his home in Magna. A World War II veteran, he stood tall that day with his hand over his heart, proud of the country he loved and the flag he defended. That was the last time I watched him raise the Stars and Stripes, and I'll never forget it.

My dad loved people unconditionally. He taught me what it meant to serve, to show up for others, and to find joy in the little things, like waving the flag or standing with your hand over your heart during the national anthem. That's the kind of spirit we honor on the Fourth of July.

It's also the spirit that lives on in our community traditions. This year's celebration marks 67 years since Mayor Ray P. Greenwood first brought Fun Days to life in 1958. It began as a simple idea to bring neighbors together on Independence Day and create lasting memories. Since then, it's blossomed into a full day of family-friendly events, laughter, patriotism, and plenty of good food, all centered in and around the heart of our city, Murray Park.



Jimmie L. Hales, father of Mayor Brett A. Hales, proudly raises the American flag at his home on the Fourth of July—a cherished family tradition.

## **A Day Packed With Fun**

Whether you're an early riser or a night owl, Murray Fun Days 2025 has something for everyone. Here's a look at what you can enjoy on Friday, July 4:

### **Morning Events:**

6:00 AM to 2:00 PM – Chalk Art Contest outside the Murray Armory (pre-registration required)  
6:30 AM to 10:00 AM – Rotary Club Community Breakfast at Pavilion #5 (modest fee required)  
7:00 AM – Sunrise Service at the Murray Park Amphitheater  
7:00 AM – Check-in for the 5K Walk/Run and Children's Race at Constitution Circle  
8:00 AM – 5K Walk/Run begins  
8:30 AM – Parade starts at Fashion Place Mall and winds down to Murray Park  
9:00 AM – Children's Race kicks off

### **Midday Fun:**

11:00 AM to 2:00 PM – Live Daytime Entertainment at the White Gazebo

### **Throughout Murray Park:**

- Games & Activities
- Car Show
- Food Trucks
- Bingo Tent
- Balance Bike Race for Kids

### **Evening & Fireworks:**

8:00 PM to 10:00 PM – Concert by The Monkee Men at the Murray Park Softball Field

10:00 PM – Fireworks Show lights up the Murray sky

Bring a blanket, your loved ones, and your best sing-along voice!

## **A Look Back: The Murray Museum Opening and Block Party**

Before we look forward to Fun Days, I want to pause and reflect on something that made me so proud to be mayor: the recent Murray Museum Grand Opening and Block Party.

That day was nothing short of magical. Hundreds of residents gathered to celebrate our city's heritage in the beautiful Murray Museum in the award-winning restored John P. Cahoon Mansion. The energy was contagious. People laughed, hugged, shared stories, and danced under the lights with music in the air. Children played games and ate treats, parents chatted with neighbors they hadn't seen in a while, and volunteers greeted guests with warmth and pride.

The museum, filled with treasures from Murray's past, serves as both a time capsule and a reminder of our roots. It's a place of remembrance that also points us toward the future. At the ribbon cutting, I shared what continues to guide our work in Murray: we don't just preserve history, we build on it.

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The block party brought the city to life in a way I haven't seen in years. People stayed late, lingered long, and walked away with smiles. That's exactly what we hope to recreate again on July 4. These shared experiences remind us that Murray is more than a place. It's a people.

This July 4, you're invited to experience Murray Fun Days not just as an event, but as a homecoming. Bring your family. Meet your neighbors. Laugh with strangers who quickly become friends. Whether it's pancakes at sunrise, chalk art outside the new Murray Armory, or fireworks under the stars, I promise, this day will feel like Murray at its best.

We've already shown what it looks like to come together. Let's do it again. Let's celebrate our city, our country, and each other.

I'll see you there.

With pride and love,  
Mayor Brett Hales