

# ACE NEWS

AMARILLO CITY EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



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## STREET DEPARTMENT

Chris Mitchell, Street Superintendent



Summer lends us beautiful days to picnic outside with our family and friends. Don't worry about the ants; grab a blanket or a couple of chairs, a ball for a game of catch, a picnic basket full of healthy treats, your sun-screen, and some bug spray, and head out to a local park or even your own backyard for a good, old-fashioned picnic, because **July is National Picnic Month!**

Special points of Interest:

- July Recipe —Garlic-Chipotle Chicken Tacos
- June Retirees
- Picnic Food Safety

Ever wonder how many miles of paved streets the City of Amarillo Street Department maintains? 912 centerline miles! Approximately the same number of miles you would drive if you were traveling from Amarillo to Yuma, Arizona. In order to maintain that many miles of paved streets, the City has two primary preventative maintenance operations. The first operation is a 1" asphalt overlay, which is used on the major streets (Western, Bell, 34<sup>th</sup>, etc.). The second operation is a sealcoat, which is used on all of the residential streets.

Sealcoating has been utilized by the City of Amarillo for over 80 years and has proven to be an efficient and very cost effective method of maintaining paved streets. Once every ten years, each residential street is sealcoated according to the standard process. The process begins with a layer of liquid asphalt sprayed on the existing street surface by a distributor truck. The hot liquid asphalt rejuvenates the pavement, which has oxidized and lost its flexibility. The liquid asphalt also seals the surface to prevent moisture from getting to the base material which is under the asphalt pavement. Second, a thin layer of pre-coated rock is spread on top of the liquid asphalt by a machine called a "chipsreader." Once the process is complete, the rock provides a new wear surface, which increases vehicle traction and improves the longevity of the paved street. The rock is then compacted into the asphalt with rubber-tired rollers until all of the voids in the asphalt are filled. The following day, the loose rock remaining on the surface is swept to the gutter by a power broom. Approximately one week later, a street sweeper begins sweeping up the loose rock along the gutter. The street

sweepers will continue to make multiple sweepings of each street until all of the loose rock has been picked up.

Over the years, the City has continued to refine and improve the sealcoating program to ensure the residential streets are maintained in the best possible manner for the citizens of Amarillo. In



John Galaviz and John Lopez

2009, the Street Department began using pre-coated rock. Pre-coated rock is rock that has been coated with a thin layer of liquid asphalt prior to use. Pre-coating the rock significantly improves the adhesion of the rock to the liquid asphalt sprayed on the street surface. As a result, less loose rock remains on the street surface

after it has been rolled which reduces the total time required to sweep up the excess rock. Furthermore, using pre-coated rock actually reduces the total amount of liquid asphalt and rock needed, which results in a significant cost savings.

Sealcoating operations need to be done during the hot summer months. So this summer when you're thinking about how cold your air conditioner is, just remember the sealcoat crew is working with 350 degree asphalt when it is 100 degrees outside. All this to ensure each street is properly taken care of for years to come for the citizens of Amarillo.

One final note, please be sure to watch out for the employees and equipment working on the streets, and obey all directions given by the flaggers.



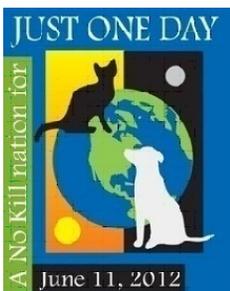
## Animal Control's Recent Adoptions

Shannon Barlow,  
Asst. Director Animal Control

On June 11, 2012, the Animal Control Department and the Amarillo-Panhandle Humane Society co-hosted a "Just One Day" adoption event. "Just One Day" was an inaugural national campaign to unite animal shelters across the nation to refrain from euthanizing adoptable pets on this date. As a bonus, the Humane Society and Animal Control provided for half price adoptions and micro-chips.

As a result of this effort, adoptions sky-rocketed and 65 animals were saved and provided new loving homes. The event was a raging success and not only provided many new homes, but also was an invitation to visit the animal shelter in hopes of finding lost or misplaced animals.

The Amarillo Animal Control and Shelter are open Mon-Fri. 10:00am – 7:00pm.



## What is Sick Leave Rollover Anyway?

Alesia Grist, Asst. Director Human Resources

Sick leave rollover is a means for qualified employees to convert the equivalent of 90 days of accumulated Sick Leave into the City's Deferred Compensation Plan in preparation for retirement. See Rule 605.2 in your City of Amarillo Employee Handbook for more information on this exciting opportunity which applies only to employees hired prior to October 1, 2007 (other than Sworn Fire and Police who are eligible regardless of hire date).

Most employees (including Police Officers) must meet the following criteria to qualify:

Be within 3 years of retirement eligibility (at least 17 years of service in TMRS) and have a minimum of 102 days of accumulated sick leave (that's 816 hours for most of us), including any hours you have previously transferred to deferred comp.

Employees over 57 years of age must have 7 years of service in

TMRS and a minimum of 72 days of accumulated sick leave (576 hours).

12 hour Firefighters must meet the following criteria to qualify:

- Have completed 17 years of Amarillo Fire Department (commissioned) service and
- Be at least 47 years of age and
- Have a minimum of 1,224 hours of accumulated sick leave, including any hours you have previously transferred to deferred compensation.

Each July, the Human Resources Department works to determine the eligible list of employees, and notifies them of their eligibility. Interested employees must turn in an "Intent to Retire" form. The process is completed over a 3 year period and a new Intent to Retire form must be turned in each year. The deadline for participating this year is July 27. Eligible employees should have received notice by now, so if you haven't and you think you are

qualified, give Alesia a call at 378-6066.

Once the sick leave is deposited into your account, it's up to you to invest the funds. If a person is utilizing the various funds available in our deferred compensation plan, dollar cost averaging works well for periodic payroll deposits. However, it may not work well for a lump sum sick leave deposit. Some employees make sure the sick leave rollover is deposited into the fixed account option so the funds don't lose value. If you are not depositing all of your deferred compensation payroll deduction into the fixed account in our deferred compensation plan and want your sick leave deposited into the fixed account, you will need to change your investment option before the deposit. Please contact our deferred compensation representative, John Hays with Nationwide at 614-854-3655 or 877-677-3678 ext. 43655 Email: [haysj8@nationwide.com](mailto:haysj8@nationwide.com)

## VECTOR CONTROL

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH MISQUITO CONTROL PROGRAM  
DEREE DUKE, DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

A typical day includes restaurant inspections, daycare inspections complaint investigations. Then during summer months we larvicide, space spray, trap, identify and test mosquitoes.

In our community during the summer months and into fall rain produces a suitable habitat for mosquitoes to grow. Biting females aggravate people, pets and animals. Mosquitoes require standing water to grow so if there is not standing water we do not have mosquitoes.

Mosquitoes bite and they can transmit diseases to humans. In our area West Nile Virus and St. Louis encephalitis are two viruses that are spread by mosquito bites.

To prevent mosquito bites, use insect repellents with deet, opicaridin and oil of eucalyptus, wear long sleeves and avoid dusk and dawn hours outside because this is when mosquitoes are most active.

If you are over 50 or pregnant, West Nile Virus may be a serious

consideration for you and is a good reason to avoid being bitten.



*A sanitarian is a person who is trained in the sanitary sciences, biology, chemistry, physics, and math, and who operates as a health official in the public sector reviewing programs and enforcing local laws to protect the public's health.*

**Check your backyard for standing water in flower pots, swimming pools, jars, buckets and always tip and toss the water every other day.**



**We specialize in situations that bug you**

- Mosquitoes
- Dirty places to eat
- Health issues





# High Noon on the Square Welcomes Summer with 'Be Water Wise'

Beth Duke, Center City

Center City of Amarillo kicked off its 18<sup>th</sup> season of High Noon on the Square on June 6 on the newly restored lawn of the historic Potter County Courthouse.

High Noon on the Square is a free concert presented by local entertainers who donate their time. Center City also sells a lunch for \$6 to encourage families and downtown workers to get outside and enjoy a summertime picnic.

The music and food can attract up to 600 people each Wednesday in June and July.

In 2011, the City of Amarillo partnered with Center City by having an "Every Drop Counts" booth at High Noon. Visitors could receive free tote bags, conservation tips and stickers to remind them about water conservation.

For 2012, the City of Amarillo has a new slogan and a new partnership with "Be Water Wise." This year, along with water conservation tips, stickers and information, the booth is serving Popsicles. Assistant City Manager Dean Frigo and Director of Utilities Emmett Autrey were among the city employees who became Popsicle distributors at High Noon.

Frigo said the Popsicles were a great hit with the crowd – especially the children. Families with young children make up a large part of the audience, but the adults enjoyed the chilly snack as well as the temperatures increased.

High Noon will continue its partnership with "Be Water Wise" every Wednesday in June and July (except for the July 4 holiday).

Beth Duke, executive director of Center City, said the "Be Water Wise" campaign adds to the fun of High Noon.



Beth Duke, Center City

"I would ask the kids if they got a Popsicle, and they would show me their orange hands or their grape-colored mouth. It was a perfect outdoor treat after our Big Texan hamburgers," Duke said.

Another attraction for High Noon this year is the newly landscaped Courthouse lawn. The Potter County Courthouse is undergoing a three-year historic restoration with help from the Texas Historical Commission "High Noon is a great way for people to experience a great

outdoor concert with the background of historic Amarillo. This is one way Center City meets its mission of bringing people downtown," said Duke.

All proceeds will benefit Center City of Amarillo. Tickets for the meal may be purchased at the event. Center City Board Member Shelly Kearns is the volunteer chairman for High Noon.

The last High Noon on the Square is:

**Wednesday, July 25** – Entertainment by the Lone Star Ballet and food by Desperado's Barbecue.

Center City thanks KGNC-AM and Brice Edwards for technical assistance and the Potter County Judge and Commissioners for permission to use the historic courthouse square.

For more information about High Noon on the Square, please call Center City at 372-6744.



Volunteers — Stacy Yates and Charlie Sanchez

## FROM THE PANTRY

MARGARET PAYTON, MBA, RD

### Garlic-Chipotle Chicken Tacos

#### Ingredients:

- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh garlic
- 1 tablespoon chipotle chile, canned in adobo sauce
- 2 tablespoons canola oil, divided
- 1 pound chicken cutlets
- ¼ teaspoon kosher salt, divided
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper, divided
- Cooking spray
- 2 teaspoons chili powder
- 1 small red bell pepper, quartered
- 1 small green bell pepper, quartered
- 1 small Vidalia onion, cut into ½-inch rings
- 8 (6-inch) corn tortillas
- ½ cup shredded green leaf lettuce

#### Preparation:

Preheat grill to medium-high heat. Combine garlic, chipotle, and 1 tablespoon oil; rub evenly over chicken. Sprinkle with ¼ teaspoon salt and ¼ teaspoon black pepper. Place on grill rack coated with cooking spray; grill 3 minutes on each side or until done. Remove from grill; keep warm.

Combine remaining oil, remaining salt, remaining black pepper, and chili powder in a large bowl. Add bell peppers and onion; toss gently to coat. Place vegetables on grill rack; grill 5 minutes on each side or until soft and charred. Place tortillas on grill rack coated with cooking spray; grill 30 seconds on each side or until lightly charred. Remove from grill; keep warm. Thinly slice chicken. Divide chicken, bell peppers, onion, and lettuce among tortillas.

**Yield:** Serves 4 (serving size: 2 tacos)

#### Nutritional Information:

Calories: 312; Fat: 9.8g; Saturated fat: 0.9g; Monounsaturated fat: 4.8g; Polyunsaturated fat: 2.8g; Protein: 29.5g; Carbohydrate: 27.8g; Fiber: 4g; Cholesterol: 66 mg; Iron: 1.4mg; Sodium 533mg; Calcium: 60mg





## 81st Amarillo Police Academy Graduation

Captain Ken Funtek, Amarillo Police Department



The 81st Amarillo Police Academy graduated with 13 newly sworn officers on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Over 400 applicants began the hiring process, with over 93 passing the written entrance exam and physical agility. Then they had to pass a thorough background investigation, polygraph, interview board, medical, and physical exams. Six months later, they began their 27 week journey to prepare for their newly chosen career.

The 81st Academy demographics included 15 men ranging in age from 21 to 39 years old. The recruits came in to the academy on the first day as most new groups, appearing excited but a little apprehensive at the same time. When they saw the stack of reference materials waiting for them, they were a little overwhelmed. They were quickly provided the class rules, were welcomed by the Chief and other administrators, and soon started their studies. The recruits studied a wide variety of topics that are included in the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) Basic Peace Officer Course (BPOC) including, Penal Code, Traffic Code, Family Code, Arrest/Search and Seizure, Firearms, Driving, and Defensive Tactics. The BPOC course consisted of 680 training hours to prepare for their State exam. The recruits participated in daily physical fitness training, in addition to academic studies. All 15 recruits passed the TCLEOSE exam on the first try. Our academy has had a 100% first time pass rate for approximately eight years now, which is something to be very proud of and a rare feat in comparison to

other training academies around the State.

The next phase of the training consisted of an extra 400 hours of training specifically to prepare them to be an officer for the A.P.D. This included the week of Patrol Procedures, otherwise known as SWAT Week. During SWAT week, the recruits participated in training scenarios to evaluate their decision making ability and how they apply their recently gained knowledge during stressful situations. Even though the training is done with officers as role players and the recruits know it is just a scenario, they typically are fairly apprehensive at the prospect of going through SWAT week in of itself. This is also where we typically wash out one or two recruits each academy, so that adds some stress as well. At the end of the week, two recruits didn't pass.

Graduation day finally arrived. Thirteen soon to be officers arrive with fresh haircuts, polished boots, and crisp new uniforms. They were clearly proud, excited and perhaps a little apprehensive. The all took their oath of office and had their badges pinned on by their families. Some went to work that very night. They began their Field Officer Training Program (FTO) which lasts four months. During that time, they will begin performing basic police duties and gradually build to the Evaluation Phase, which is to determine if they are ready to patrol on their own. That being said, they are never truly alone. They are now part of the brother/sisterhood that is a vital part of policing. They will be ready to "Protect and Serve" as proud members of the Amarillo Police Department.



## Picnic Food Safety

MARGARET PAYTON, MBA, RD



Now that it is summer many people want to enjoy the outdoors by having a picnic. One of the last things you want to happen after having a picnic is for some or all of the people attending to start experiencing stomach aches, diarrhea, or vomiting. This can easily happen if you are not careful and take heed to a few food safety tips. Following are 12 basic food safety tips to follow to ensure the food you prepare and serve at a picnic is safe.

1. Always wash hands and work areas before preparing food.
2. Plan your menu so that cooked foods are prepared well enough in advance that they have plenty of time to chill thoroughly in shallow containers in the refrigerator.
3. Pack foods right from the refrigerator into the coolers. Have enough coolers with ice or frozen gel packs in which to store perishable foods like meat, poultry, fish, eggs and salads. Food should be kept at or below 40 degrees.
4. Carry the cooler inside an air conditioned car. Don't put the cooler in the car trunk. At picnics, keep the cooler in the shade and keep the lid closed. Replenish the ice as it melts.
5. Use a separate cooler for drinks so that the one containing the food won't constantly be opened and closed.
6. If a source of safe drinking water isn't available at your destination, bring water for preparation and cleaning. Or, pack clean, wet, disposable cloths or moist towelettes and paper towels for cleaning hands and surfaces. Cross-contamination during preparation, grilling and serving food is a prime cause of food borne illness.
7. Pack raw meats, poultry or seafood on the bottom of the cooler. This will reduce the risk of them dripping on other foods.
8. Pack coolers until they are full. A full cooler will stay cold longer than one that is partially full.
9. Do not partially grill extra meat or poultry to use later. Once you begin, cook until completely done to assure bacteria are destroyed. Grill raw poultry until juices run clear and there is no pink. Hamburger should not be pink in the center.
10. Don't put cooked items being removed from the grill on the same platter that held raw meat unless the platter has been washed.
11. Remember the two hour rule. Don't leave food unrefrigerated for more than two hours. Put perishable foods back in the cooler or refrigerator as soon as you finish eating. Don't leave them out all afternoon to nibble on.
12. Discard picnic leftovers. Chances are they have been sitting out for more than an hour or two. Cold foods that were kept in a cooler that still has ice may be safe. If the ice has melted, the food should be discarded.

By following these simple food safety tips you can make you summer picnics ones to remember for the good times everyone had and not for how sick everyone became afterwards.



# BENEFITS WELLNESS

CINDY REYNOLDS, BENEFITS ADMINISTRATOR

## THE SUPREME COURT HAS RULED THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (PPACA) IS ONSTITUTIONAL

### WHAT NOW?

What does it mean for you as a covered member of the City's Group Health Benefit Plan? The act itself is huge and is implemented in pieces over the course of several years. In this newsletter and the next we will attempt to clarify parts of the act that impact City employees and the health plan. Dental, vision and life insurance plans are not a part of Healthcare Reform for the city.

The PPACA became law on March 23, 2010. Plans that were already in effect on that date were allowed to choose "grandfathered" or "non-grandfathered" status. Choosing "grandfathered" status allowed certain parts of the act to be postponed. In 2010 the City chose to be a "grandfathered" plan and will probably remain a "grandfathered" plan until 2014 at which time the "grandfathered" option disappears.

There were certain portions of the act that had to be implemented immediately for all plans including "grandfathered" plans. Those were implemented by our plan on January 1, 2011 and included the following:

1. Eliminating the lifetime maximum on essential health services
2. Eliminating the pre-existing limitation on children under 19 years of age
3. Allowing children to stay on their parents health plan until age 26 without student status requirements (Grandfathered plans are allowed, until 2014, to drop a child if they have access to other employer sponsored coverage)

### Changes coming for 2013 that will effect the City Plan include:

1. Medical Flexible Spending Accounts will be capped at \$2500.00 per year per employee.
2. W-2 reporting for 2012 must include the value of the city's health plan (this is informational only and you will not be taxed on this amount)
3. During open enrollment you will receive a Summary of Benefits and Coverage using a standard template in an attempt to simplify the language of insurance Summary Plan documents.

Changes for 2014 and beyond will be covered in our next edition of the ACE.

## Protecting Your Home

Sgt. Brent Barbee, Amarillo Police Department

Summer brings vacations and more chances for burglars to invade your home...here are some tips to help protect your home and belongings:

Home security inspections have shown us that some older homes still have hollow core doors. Money spent on a solid core door, a good quality dead bolt lock, and related hardware is an investment in peace of mind while you are away. If you already have good locks, install strike plates that attach to the door's frame with screws long enough to reach into the door frame, not just the door trim. It is true that any lock or door can be broken with enough time and force, but the goal is to make your house so hard to break into, or so loud to break into, that the burglar goes somewhere else. We suggest thinking in terms of spending as much making your back door secure as you spend making your front door attractive.

Make certain that your windows are locked as part of your "leaving the house" checklist. Consider adding a dowel rod wedged between the top of the window and the window frame to block the window from being raised, or a screw-on device that attaches to the window's track to block the window from being opened even if it is broken-again, make it difficult and noisy. Check the door and window hardware section of home improvement stores for ideas about security hardware, or call the APD Crime Prevention Unit for suggestions.

**Use a trusted friend, neighbor, family member, or house sitter to keep an eye on your home while you are away. Offer to do the same for your neighbor. Avoid disclosing the information that you will be away from home for an extended period with anyone that does not need to know. This type of knowledge can be unintentionally passed to and used by dishonest people.**

The old stand-by advice is still good-make sure mail is picked up or held by the post office. Have newspaper delivery stopped well in advance of leaving. If no one can watch your home, light timers or remote lighting controls can help the house look occupied...but burglars most often work during the day time. They knock on the front door to make sure no one is home before going around back to kick open the back door or break a window. Watch for signs of this in your neighborhood, and call the police if you suspect someone is going to doors in an effort to find a home to burglarize.

If you have any questions or would like more information about securing your home, contact the Crime Prevention Unit of the Amarillo Police Department, 378-4257.



## SAFETY CORNER

CHARLIE SANCHEZ, SAFETY MANAGER



While some exposure to sunlight can be enjoyable, too much can be dangerous. Overexposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun can result in a painful sunburn.

It can also lead to more serious health problems, including skin cancer, premature aging of the skin, cataracts and other eye damage, and immune system suppression. Children are particularly at risk.

Most people are not aware that skin cancer, while largely preventable, is the most common form of cancer in the United States. More than 3.5 million new cases of skin cancer are diagnosed annually. Melanoma, the most serious form of skin cancer, is on the rise in the U.S. and is the most common cancer among young adults aged 25-29.

According to the EPA, one American dies from skin cancer every hour. The most common type of cancer in the U.S., skin cancer affects more than two million people each year, outnumbering the cases of **breast, prostate, lung, and colon cancers combined**. Statistics show that one in five Americans will develop the disease in their lifetime.



Early detection of melanoma can save your life. A new or changing mole should be evaluated by a dermatologist. Here are some action steps for Sun Safety.

- Avoid Sun Tanning and Tanning Beds

- Generously apply sunscreen. Sunscreen should have a Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of at least 15 and provide broad-spectrum protection from both ultraviolet A (UVA) and ultraviolet B (UVB) rays

- Sunscreen more than a season old should be thrown out and replaced with new Sunscreen
- Seek Shade

- Check the UV Index. The UV Index forecast is issued daily by the National Weather Service and EPA

And remember: "SLIP, SLOP, SLAP & WRAP"  
Slip on a shirt! Slop on SPF+15 sunscreen!  
Slap on a hat! Wrap on some sunglasses today and every day!



# WELCOME...

NAME	TITLE	DEPARTMENT	NAME	TITLE	DEPARTMENT
James McCormick	R/T Communications Spvr	Communications	Jonalynn Jones	Admin Assistant-hourly	Library
Sande Smolin	Building Attendant 1	Civic Center	Melissa Mercado	Admin Assistant-hourly	Library
Krystal Woods	Building Attendant 1	Civic Center	Kylie Tyson	Admin Assistant-hourly	Library
Rubi Morales	Events Supervisor	Civic Center	Ariana Madrid	Admin Assistant-hourly	Library
Bridger Howard	Asst. Facilities Manager	Facilities	Benjamin Wilting	Library Assistant	Library
Stacy Carroll	Administrative Assistant II	Purchasing	Kendra Hacker	Admin Assistant-hourly	Municipal Court
Rhett Amburn	Police Recruit	Police	Matthew Cancino	Utility Worker-hourly	Street
Nathaniel Arriaga	Police Recruit	Police	Carolyn Lucas	Bus Driver- hourly	Transit
Aiden Callahan	Police Recruit	Police	Glenn Kile	Bus Driver- hourly	Transit
Fabiola Gajardo	Police Recruit	Police	Joseph Morris	Utility Worker-hourly	Park Maintenance
Logan Grazier	Police Recruit	Police	Bill Schaub	Utility Worker-hourly	Park Maintenance
Clay Hegwood	Police Recruit	Police	Consuelo Cruz	Utility Worker-hourly	Park Maintenance
Christopher Kidd	Police Recruit	Police	Thomas Allen	Utility Worker-hourly	Park Maintenance
Kristopher Koval	Police Recruit	Police	Sarah Cooper	Utility Worker-hourly	Park Maintenance
Lankin Landrum	Police Recruit	Police	Elroy Oliver	Utility Worker-hourly	Park Maintenance
Eric Skaggs	Police Recruit	Police	Bailey Hart	Camp Assistant	Zoo
Vincent Surace	Police Recruit	Police	Amy Briles	Registered Nurse	Public Health
Zachary Walla	Police Recruit	Police	Persephanie Puente	WIC Tech-hourly	WIC
David Wolven	Police Recruit	Police	Michelle Carrasco	WIC Tech-hourly	WIC
James Bentley	Planner 1	Planning	Eric Jordan	Intern	Director of Utilities
Kenneth Lake	Equipment Operator III	Hollywood Road WWT Plant	Christopher Walker	Utility Worker-hourly	Water Transmission
Amanda McClendon	Airport Police Officer	Dept of Aviation	Danny Reid	Treatment Plant Operator-hrly	Surface Water Treatment
Jane Izard	Loan Officer	Credit Union	Johnathan Standish	Utility Worker-hourly	HRWWT Plant
Mia West	Custodian -hourly	Custodial Services	David Westmoreland	Utility Worker-hourly	HRWWT Plant
			Kristin Rattray	Nurse Practitioner- hourly	City Care

## Promotions/Transfers

Name	OLD Title	Department	NEW Title	Department
Chelsea Bowen	Admin Assistant- hourly	Municipal Court	Admin Assistant II	Municipal Court
Richard Bustos	Utility Worker- hourly	Traffic Field Ops	Utility Worker	Traffic Field Ops
David Haws	Utility Worker- hourly	Traffic Field Ops	Utility Worker	Traffic Field Ops
Miguel Johnson	Traffic Control Technician	Traffic Field Ops	Signal Technician 1	Traffic Field Ops
Amy Francis	Admin Assistant- hourly	Com. Dev.	Admin Assistant IV	Com. Dev.
Umeka Johnson	Admin Assistant 1	Com. Dev.	Admin Assistant IV	Com. Dev.
Christopher Beard	Utility Worker- hourly	Park Maintenance	Utility Worker	RRWWT Plant
Ashley Orr	Admin Assistant 1	Library	Admin Assistant II	Human Resources
Brad Sharber	Utility Worker	Park Maintenance	Com. Tech Assistant	Communications
Joel Hernandez	Utility Worker	Park Maintenance	Park Technician II	Park Maintenance
George Brenes	Police Officer	Police	Corporal	Police
Jennifer Torres	Admin Assistant 1	Civilian—Police	Photo Technician	Civilian—Police
Sammy Camacho	Bus Driver-hourly	Transit	Bus Driver	Transit
Sara Luikart	Lesson Coordinator	Parks & Rec.	Swimming Pool Manager	Parks & Rec.
Joseph Campoamor	Lifeguard	Parks & Rec.	Lesson Coordinator	Parks & Rec.
Claudia Guzman	Nutrition Technician 1	WIC	Nutrition Technician III	WIC
Cody Hofmann	Utility Worker	Surface Water Treatment	Treatment Plant Operator 1	Surface Water Treatment
Lavonda Lyles	Admin Assistant 1	Water Distribution	Admin Technician	Water Distribution
Kyle Drake	Lift Station Maintenance Mechanic	Wastewater Collection	Odor Control Technician	Wastewater Collection
James Strack	Treatment Plant Operator	RRWWT Plant	E/I Technician	RRWWT Plant
Christopher Akins	Utility Worker	HRWWT Plant	Treatment Plant Operator 1	HRWWT Plant
Quinton Holt	Mechanic Apprentice	Municipal Garage	Mechanic 1	Dept of Aviation
Shelton Bollinger	Utility Worker-hourly	Street	Utility Worker	Dept of Aviation

## Congratulations June Retirees

**Larry Offerdahl**  
Parks and Recreation – 11 years

**Strecia McCaig**  
Amarillo Police Department – 26 years

**Randy Nesbitt**  
Amarillo Fire Department – 28 years

**Tim Carter**  
Amarillo Fire Department – 20 years



### Tuition Assistance... Another Benefit for City Employees

The City of Amarillo offers a number of good benefits to us as employees. The Tuition Assistance Program is one benefit that is often overlooked. The Tuition Assistance Program is city-wide and grants employees financial assistance for courses that may be directly related to your present job duties or related to other job duties within the City. The courses can provide knowledge to enhance current skills and ability to complete your present job duties and/or fulfill education requirements for other jobs within the City.

Tuition assistance is available to regular, fulltime employees. Part-time employees may be eligible for tuition assistance if the classes are in conjunction with a City development program.

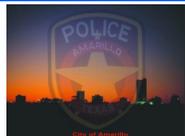
Division Directors and Department Heads have the option of providing tuition assistance for employees. Approval of tuition assistance should be based upon:

- Employee's job performance
- Potential to use the training in their current duties, or to increase or maintain the efficiency of related job standards and regulations
- Potential to enhance the employee's ability to promote to other jobs within the City.

Here are some additional tips about our tuition assistance...

- Visit with your Department Head in advance of college enrollment
- Textbooks and miscellaneous fees are not covered. Only the cost of actual tuition is covered in the program
- You are responsible for the remainder of the tuition if the department funding is not sufficient
- You MUST submit a copy of your grade report or completion certificate to Human Resources
- If you are granted tuition assistance, you will be required to repay the amount of tuition paid by the City if
  - you fail to obtain a passing grade or certificate of completion in the course for which assistance was granted
  - you withdraw or drop out of a course where all or a portion of the funds were not reimbursed to the City
  - you voluntarily resign your employment within 1 year of the course starting date.

Employee Milestones		
NAME	DEPARTMENT	YEARS
Brendon Burke	Civilian Personnel	5
Tyson Fussell	Traffic Field Operations	5
Fabian J. Martinez	Waste Water Collection	5
Shane Chadwick	Police	10
Cynthia S. Reynolds	Benefits	15
Dale Bible	Civic Center Operations	20
Suzan E. Alexander	Building Safety	25
Cameron B. Beam	Park Maintenance	25
Tim Loan	Director of Utilities	25
Brian H. Albers	Surface Water Treatment	30
Steven E. Lofgren	Fire Operations	30



## Citizen's Police Academy

Captain Ken Funtek, Amarillo Police Department



### The 19<sup>th</sup> Citizen's Police Academy is scheduled to begin on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Why a citizen's academy? The Amarillo Police Department exists to provide a safe environment where the citizens of Amarillo can live, work, play, and attend school in a friendly, safe environment. The Department cannot provide this safety alone. We must have the support and help of our citizens to achieve a community we will all be proud of. The goal of the Citizen and Student Police Academy is to help the citizens of Amarillo understand how the police work and complete their jobs in the community. It is hoped that all graduates of the Citizen Police Academy will get to know more about the men and women who are protecting their community and why they make the decisions they do while performing that duty. Community Oriented Policing plays an important and vital role in reducing crime in any community.

The Amarillo Police Department started the Citizen Police Academy to improve communication and obtain citizen input and support throughout the city. It is our hope the graduates will become partners with us in identifying problems and solutions to the crime issues that are affecting our community. Graduates will take their knowledge back to their families and friends where they can use it to enhance the quality of life in our city. There is no tuition or fees required to attend.

**Place:** Amarillo Police Department Fourth Floor Training Center, 200 East 3rd

**Dates:** September 10th through November 19th, 2012

**Times:** Monday Evenings \*\*\*Changed from Tuesdays\*\*\* from 7 PM to 10 PM

**Planned Subject Areas:**

How the Department is organized and what each police unit's job is; Patrol Division field operations; Canine demonstration, Motorcycle and radar demonstration; Dive Team demonstration; Employment opportunities and requirements; Police Academy training; Crime Prevention strategies; School Liaison program; Gangs;

Criminal Justice System; Felony stop procedures; Crime scene ID hands-on demonstration; Property and Evidence tour; Radio room and 911 tour; Narcotics Unit operations, and SWAT operations and demonstration.

The Amarillo Police Department is a Professional Standards Department based on the standards set by The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies.

**For more information, please contact Capt. Ken Funtek at 378-6170 or [Police@Amarillo.gov](mailto:Police@Amarillo.gov).**



Send your comments,  
suggestions and ideas to:

City Secretary's Office  
City Hall  
509 Southeast 7th Avenue,  
Room 303  
Phone:  
(806) 378-3014  
Fax:  
(806) 378-9394  
Email:  
frances.hibbs@amarillo.gov

We're on the Web!  
See us at:  
www.amarillo.gov

CITY OF AMARILLO  
P. O. Box 1971  
Amarillo, TX 79105-1971

## Public Health

Prevent • Promote • Protect

### Reminders:

Immunization requirements for  
the start of school  
Also, Meningitis vaccine  
available for children under the  
age of 17 – free!

Congratulations  
to proud  
grandfather  
Ruben Arias



Michael Hammons  
son of Amanda  
Arias Hammons  
and Nick Hammons born  
June 18, 2012 19" 7 lbs 7 oz



## Employee Pool Party

Bring your family  
for one last swim  
before school  
begins!



Hotdogs, Chips, Drink,  
and Lots of Fun

Saturday, August 18  
at Southwest Pool  
11am-2pm

\$3/person admission fee  
goes to  
United Way



## ACE on the Spot– City of Amarillo Welding Class Graduation



Congratulations to our six new certified welders! Amarillo College instructor, Jimmy Bradshaw, presented framed certificates to the graduates during a luncheon in their honor on June 28. The class has met twice weekly since October 2011. While this is the 4<sup>th</sup> group from the City to finish the course, it is the first time the class concentrated on a specific project. Together, this team designed, built and completed a new six station charcoal grill on a trailer for the City of Amarillo's event use. In the past, when we needed to feed a large number of employees at an event, the grill had to be rented or borrowed. When asked what benefit the recipients felt they received from attending the course, responses ranged from greater confidence in doing

their job, to the fact that they are now more able to handle projects at home themselves rather than calling in an expensive repairman. Department heads in attendance were very appreciative of the work done by these employees and said they were looking forward to the opportunity to send more through the class in the future.

### Congratulations!

- Daniel Ashlock, Hollywood Road
- John Calhoun, Hollywood Road
- Michael Castleberry, River Road
- Duane Evenson, River Road
- Chris Russell, Municipal Garage
- Shon Smith, Water Production

