



THANK YOU



City of Amarillo Employees!

Employee Appreciation Lunch Thursday, December 12, 2013



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Amarillo Welcomes Bob Cowell as New Assistant City Manager for Development Services

After an extensive recruitment and selection process, the City of Amarillo announced the appointment of Bob Cowell as its new Assistant City Manager for Development Services. This position will assume oversight and responsibility for the City's Development Services, Utilities and Public Works divisions.

"We are extremely pleased to add Mr. Cowell to our team, especially as we continue to focus on the City's growth," says City Manager Jarrett Atkinson. "He brings nearly 20 years of development and planning experience in both the private and public sector and we look forward to adding Mr. Cowell's expertise to the City's team as we

focus on implementing the Comprehensive Plan and on our multi-discipline development services. Mr. Cowell brings direct experience in delivering the development services needed in a modern, growing community."

Mr. Cowell comes to Amarillo from the City of College Station, where he served as Executive Director of Planning and Development Services since 2007. He also is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Practice in Texas A&M University's Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning. Before College Station, Mr. Cowell served as Planning Director for the Monroe County Planning Commission in Bloomington, Indiana.

Mr. Cowell earned his Master's degree in Urban Planning, Specialization in Land Use from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville and his Bachelor's degree in Aeronautics, specialization in Administration, from St. Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri.

As Assistant City Manager for Development Services, Mr. Cowell's responsibilities will include the oversight of approximately 700 employees in 14 departmental operations. He will be actively involved in streamlining and enhancing Amarillo's development and growth processes and services. Additionally, Mr. Cowell will be responsible for overall city management in coordination with the



senior management team.

"I am excited to be a part of the many wonderful activities going on in Amarillo and I look forward to keeping Amarillo a great place to live, conduct business and visit," Mr. Cowell says.

Mr. Cowell began his new position Dec. 16, 2013. He and his wife Ellen look forward to hiking in Palo Duro Canyon.

Library Adds Digital Magazine Service to eLibrary

by Stacy Clopton-Yates, Public Relations Coordinator

Amarillo Public Library patrons can now read some of their favorite magazines from almost anywhere.

The Library has added Zinio, the world's largest newsstand, to the eLibrary - a collection of digital services available through the library's website: www.amarillolibrary.org.

Zinio gives Amarillo Public Library cardholders access to dozens of popular magazines on topics such as business, news, health, DIY, nature, and many more. Cardholders simply create an account with their APL card number and start downloading.

Amanda Barrera, Assistant Director of Library Services, says the library subscribed to Zinio primarily with mobile users in mind, but the

service is also accessible on the library's public access Internet computers. "Patrons accessing Zinio from a smart device such as an iPad or Android tablet will need to download a Zinio app, which is available for free in both the Apple and Android app stores. You "check out" the magazine and read it via streaming on your computer, or you can download the magazine to your device through the app."

Some of the magazines available through the Library's Zinio page include: *Newsweek*, *Rolling Stone*, *Forbes*, *National Geographic*, *Cosmopolitan*, *ESPN*, *Field & Stream*, *Do It Yourself*, *Discover*, *Prevention*, *Popular Mechanics*, *Smithsonian*, and many others.



Employee Appreciation Lunch

Continued from Cover



Amarillo 101 Grows in Popularity

Thank you to everyone who made the City's fall session of Amarillo 101 such a huge success! Participants in the Citizens Academy were constantly impressed with staff's dedication in staying after hours, working on weekends and answering their questions in a friendly, professional and knowledgeable manner.

In fact, in completing a survey, one of the participants noted, "I would like to have had more time to spend in each department and talking to personnel."

There is already a waiting list for the City's next session of Amarillo 101 scheduled for the spring – so if your department is involved, be sure to save the following dates:

THURSDAY, MARCH 20 – SESSION 1

Orientation: City of Amarillo Overview (City Hall)

THURSDAY, MARCH 27 – SESSION 2

Your Money at Work (EOC)

SATURDAY, MARCH 29 – SESSION 3

Amarillo at Work (Service Center)

THURSDAY, APRIL 3 – SESSION 4

Amarillo as a Growing City (Airport)

SATURDAY, APRIL 12 – SESSION 5

Amarillo at Your Service (Water Treatment Plant)

THURSDAY, APRIL 17 – SESSION 6

Caring for the Community (Public Health)

THURSDAY, APRIL 24 – SESSION 7

Amarillo as a Place for Fun, Recreation and Learning (Downtown Library)

SATURDAY, MAY 3 – SESSION 8

Amarillo as a Safe Community (Fire Training Center)



During a session at the City's Water Treatment Plant, Amarillo 101 participants learned that there's more than meets the eye when it comes to fire hydrants.

Introducing Andy Tarkington



The Parks and Recreation Department welcomed Andy Tarkington to their team as Athletic Supervisor in October. Tarkington comes to Amarillo from Farmington, New Mexico where he was the Recreation Sports Supervisor the past two years.

Born in Corsicana, Texas, Tarkington grew up in Irving. It was his desire to get back to Texas that attracted him to Amarillo. He has more than 20 years of municipal parks and recreation experience in a variety of positions with several cities in the Dallas/Fort Worth area with a focus on Athletics/Recreation.

During the course of his career, Tarkington has served as the tournament director for 12 Texas Amateur Athletic Federation (TAAF) state tournaments and 15 regional tournaments encompassing six different sports. In addition to being an active member of the Texas Recreation and Park Society, Tarkington has served as an executive board member, regional director and State commissioner as part of that organization.

Tarkington earned his bachelor degree from University of Texas at Arlington. He is a certified ASA umpire and has been both a chapter director and certified clinician for the National Youth Sports Coaches Association (NYSCA).

In his down time, Tarkington loves the Dallas Cowboys and Dallas Mavericks. He also enjoys traveling and listening to music.

New Text Service Available

The Parks and Recreation Athletic Department has a new text messaging service that allows you to receive information for the softball, volleyball and basketball leagues. You can opt-in to all three services to receive information for each league or simply just the sport of your interest.

Send a text message with one of the following words: **APARDSOFTBALL**, **APARDVOLLEYBALL** or **APARDBASKETBALL** to the number 71441 and follow the instructions. Opt-in to the program and let your friends and teammates know, too!

The Mustang Course Named in Golf Digest's List of "Best New Courses"



In May of this year, the ACE newsletter covered the opening of the Mustang course at Ross Rogers Golf Complex. This month, that very course has been recognized by *Golf Digest* as one of the "Best New Courses of 2013."

Parks and Recreation Director Rod Tweet says, "For the Mustang course at Ross Rogers Golf Complex to be mentioned in *Golf Digest* as one of the best new courses of 2013, along with some incredible private clubs and high-end daily fee courses, speaks volumes for the quality of the project, staff and architect. The quality experience and value offered at both of our golf complexes is something the community can be very proud of!"

If you haven't hit the links since the course reopened, check it out when weather permits!

Jason Floyd Joins Ross Rogers Golf Complex as Assistant Superintendent

By James Stow, Superintendent, Ross Rogers Golf Complex



Jason Floyd is the new face at Ross Rogers Golf Complex. Jason began work at Ross Rogers in October as the new Assistant Golf Course Superintendent.

Floyd earned his bachelor's degree in Business Administration, specializing in Business Management from Southwestern Oklahoma State University where he was a member of the golf team. After graduation, he had the opportunity to work for the Houston Astros as a member of the grounds crew. Following his tenure with the Astros, Floyd spent time working at the Escondido Golf Club in Horseshoe Bay, Texas, and as a spray tech at The University of Texas Golf Club in Austin.

In 2008, Floyd became the Assistant Golf Course Superintendent at La Paloma Golf Club in Amarillo and continued in that position for four years.

In his spare time, Floyd enjoys helping his family run their fireworks stand and working on the family ranch. When he has the chance, he enjoys hunting and fishing, as well as playing golf and softball.

Safety Corner: Year-End Safety Recap

by Charlie Sanchez, Safety Manager

During the past year, we have published articles that were intended to bring you to a keener level of awareness of your safety, not only at work but also at home. When "Take Safety Home" becomes a part of your everyday recognition and is practiced, it will be the beginning of our journey toward the cultural change known as Safety Behavior and Safety Culture. Statistics show that when a worker suffers an injury, it affects the employer, co-workers and family members. Reducing injuries will have a profound impact on your well-being and help maintain the quality of life you are accustomed to.

Let's review some of those articles from our past ACE Newsletters. In January we looked at flammable liquids and how they present unique hazards to the people that use them. Using appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was also discussed. We addressed flash points in vapors and flammable liquids.

Our February issue discussed "What is Safety?" We defined that question as a person's basic instinctive reflex action. We explained how H.W. Heinrich, a safety engineer, used statistics to construct the "accident triangle." His description of the relationship between major, minor and no-injury accidents was an attempt to show how important the injury potential is in the process of accident prevention.

Moving into the spring and warmer months, we



discussed using an overhead crane and hoist. Our April article reported on a tour of the Atmos Energy Service and Training facilities. We moved into May focusing on office safety and ergonomics. Beginning the summer months, we discussed insect safety describing how to identify certain insects that are venomous and how to prevent contact and first aid measures. Next we identified correct procedures for handling pesticides and the use of PPE as intended for protection against bodily injury.

In the dog days of August, we talked about carbon monoxide poisoning, how to properly inspect CO detectors, how to identify symptoms of CO exposure and appropriate first aid measures. We mentioned that most home insurance carriers now require a CO detector before a policy can be issued.

Our fall articles covered powered hand tool safety, as well as how to identify double insulated tools versus a three pronged grounded tool. We highlighted how to clearly understand and use the tool as per the operating instructions. Halloween safety for our trick-or-treaters highlighted our October article. Lastly, in November, we covered some Dos and Don'ts for work and home. We always closed our articles with our signature saying, "TAKE SAFETY HOME."

As we close our year and prepare for the new year, let's look back at those near hits and misses and lessons learned. "Take Safety Home" and enjoy a very joyous holiday season and have a very prosperous, safe and happy New Year!

Amarillo Hosts Capitol Christmas Tree

An once-in-a-lifetime event has now enjoyed a three-peat in Amarillo as our city once again served as a 2013 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree Whistle-stop. For nearly five decades, the beautiful and iconic U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree has been selected from a national forest as a gift from the American People to our nation's Capitol. This year, Washington State's Colville National Forest provided the tree, which has already made its way to Washington, D.C.

Although it was warm on Saturday, November 16, the winds were rather blustery. Amarillo Public Library's downtown branch graciously opened their doors to let children of all ages visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus, enjoy music by the Sweet Adelines and snack on treats provided by Friends of the Amarillo Public Library and B&W Pantex. For those who braved the winds, they had a chance to see the tree before it continued its journey east and sign a giant Christmas card.

In addition to the Library, the event was made possible by Center City of Amarillo, the Amarillo Convention and Visitor Council, Amarillo Parks and Recreation, the Amarillo Police and Fire departments and many others.



Kids of all ages braved a blustery wind to greet the Capitol Christmas Tree as it once again visited Amarillo. The tree can only be viewed from the very back of the tractor trailer that carries it, as the rest is covered in vinyl, serving as a giant Christmas card.

Promotions/Transfers for November 2013

Name	OLD Title	Department	NEW Title	Department
Jimmy Seymour	Building Attendant 1	Civic Center	Building Attendant II	Civic Center
Stephanie Coggins	Accountant III	Accounting	Budget Analyst	Accounting
Angel Martinez	Res. Equip. Op. - hrly.	Solid Waste Collection	Residential Equip. Op.	Solid Waste Collection
Donna Hill	Corporal	Police	Sergeant	Police
Brian Wallace	Officer	Police	Corporal	Police
Timothy Sharp	Utility Worker	Street	Animal Control Officer	Animal Control
Rex Clifton	Bus Driver	Transit	Dispatcher	Transit
Donald Wilhite	Electrician 1	Facilities	Electrician II	Surface Water Treatment
Gary Cagle	Utility Worker	Wastewater Collection	Utility Operator	Wastewater Collection
Earl Parrie	Utility Worker	Wastewater Collection	Utility Maintenance Mechanic	Wastewater Collection
Cory Ezzell	Airport Police Officer	Dept of Aviations	Airport Police Sergeant	Dept. of Aviations
Isaac Rodriguez	Building Mechanic 1	Dept of Aviations	Building Mechanic III	Dept. of Aviations
Lonnie Thrower, Jr.	Equipment Operator II	Street	Custodian III	Dept. of Aviations

Employee Milestones

NAME	JOB TITLE	DEPARTMENT	YEARS
Kathleen Collins	Planning	Senior Planner	5
James Rabin	Street Department	Equipment Operator II	5
Adriane Morris	Utilities Office	Administrative Assistant I	5
Paul Kite	Water Distribution	Water Foreperson	5
David Ardoff	Custodial Services	Custodian III	10
Derek Bailey	Fire Operations	Firefighter	10
Javier Rodriguez	Solid Waste Collection	Residential Equip. Operator	10
Debra O'Halloran	Communications	Administrative Assistant I	15
Michaela Beam	Park Maintenance	Park Foreperson I	15
Chris Holcomb	Police	Corporal	15
Miguel Johnson	Traffic Field Operations	Signal Tech I	15

Congratulations November Retirees!

Phillip Sowers
20 years
Water Distribution

Elvia Sandoval
10 years
Ross Rogers



WILL BURKS - PLAYING FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME

by Storm Wardwell, Street Program Coordinator, Street Department

Are you interested in football? Professional? Semi-professional? The backyard game? William Burks, Foreman I in the Street Department, certainly is, and has been as long as he can remember. He's not just your average fan, though. He wants to be out there participating.

Will has been playing semi-pro football for the WT Longhorns (previously known as the Amarillo Titans) for the past three years. He is a starting defensive back in their 10 regular games, as well as several fundraising games that the team plays throughout the year. The WT Longhorns play five games in Amarillo (all on the grounds of Trinity Fellowship Church) and the other five are split between Lubbock, Abilene and El Paso.

The Longhorns come from a wide variety of occupations from local bankers to construction workers - and all of them love

the game. In 2013, the team made the playoffs in San Antonio and will put their best effort into making the playoffs again this year. They have also held fundraising games for breast cancer awareness, Toys for Tots and other groups.

If you ask Will what he has gained from playing outdoor football with the WT Longhorns, he will tell you he can't pin it down to one thing, but he can name several. Everyone playing has a true love for football and what starts out as new friends, quickly develops into an extended brotherhood/family experience. The sportsmanship he learned in middle school and high school is quickly enhanced and expanded upon. Will plans to continue playing at the semi-pro level as long as he can.



Will Burks playing for the Amarillo Titans (prior to the team name change).

If you get a chance, be sure to visit a game and show support for one of your coworkers!

Welcome to the COA Team!

NAME	JOB TITLE	DEPARTMENT
LaCalvin Robinson	Building Attendant 1	Civic Center
Stacy Conway	Building Attendant 1	Civic Center
Douglas Abbey	Building Technician II	Civic Center
Vanessa Vital	Admin. Assistant- hrly	Library
Alan Ponce-Chavarin	Admin. Assistant- hrly	Library
Wendy Briant	Admin. Assistant 1	Library
Preslie Wilde	Admin. Assistant 1	Library
Dashia Manuel	Instrument Operator	Engineering
Carl Wesley	Utility Worker	Street
Jeffery Thompson	Utility Worker	Street
Rodney Houck	Utility Worker	Street
Daniel Johnson	Utility Worker	Street
Theodore Gerth	Utility Worker- hrly	Solid Waste Disposal
Mark Hanke	Transfer Truck Driver- hrly	Solid Waste Disposal
Kiele Clay	Range Officer - hrly	Police Civilian Personnel
Bryon Rogers	Animal Control Officer	Animal Control
Jaclyn Redmon	Plans Examiner	Building Safety
Jeffry Shipley	Mechanic Apprentice	Transit
Christopher Bilderback	Meter Reader 1	Utility Billing
Marcus Navarrette	Meter Reader 1	Utility Billing
Ashley Bogrand	GIS Technician	Dir. of Utilities
Kyler Horn	Utility Worker	Wastewater Collection
Shane Bramblett	Utility Worker	Hollywood Rd. WWT Plant
Geneva Cummins	Bacteriology Technician	Laboratory Administration
Michelle Estrada	Security Op. Agent	Dept of Aviation
Bret Tharp	Mechanic Apprentice	Municipal Garage
Dylan Doshier	Mechanic Apprentice	Municipal Garage

Santa, Community, Help Light City's Tree



Santa and Mrs. Claus saved the day after frigid temperatures forced the cancellation of Center City of Amarillo's Electric Light Parade. The Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts opened its doors on Tuesday, December 10, as the community gathered to light the City's Christmas tree.

From the Pantry: Sweet Potato Quesadillas

by Margaret Payton, MBA, RD



- 2 small sweet potatoes
- 2 medium red, yellow or orange bell peppers, cut into 1/2-inch strips
- 1 medium yellow onion, cut into 1/2-inch strips
- 1/2 tablespoon olive oil
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- Cooking spray
- 4 (8-inch) whole wheat tortillas
- 1 cup shredded pepper jack or cheddar cheese

1. Wash potatoes well. Pierce with a fork five to six times, and microwave on high for 5 to 7 minutes, depending on the size of the potato. Remove flesh from the skins and mash the flesh. Keep warm.
2. Heat oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add peppers, onion, salt and pepper. Cook 10 to 12 minutes or until tender. Add garlic and sauté 2 more minutes. Remove from heat and keep warm.
3. Coat a medium non-stick skillet with cooking spray and heat over medium-high heat. Add 1 tortilla to skillet and sprinkle with 1/4 cup cheese. Heat until cheese begins to melt. Spread approximately 1/4 of the mashed potatoes over 1/2 of tortilla. Top with 1/4 of pepper and onion mixture, using a slotted spoon to drain off excess moisture.
4. Fold over tortilla and cook approximately 1 to 2 minutes on each side or until browned. Remove quesadilla from heat and keep warm. Repeat with additional 3 tortillas.
5. Serve with tomato salsa and sour cream if desired.

Serves 4.

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Publication Policy

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Items must be received no later than the first of each month to make that month's edition.

All items are subject to space availability and edited for appropriateness.

CITY OF AMARILLO

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To Hell (Michigan) With My Friends

by Gary Holwick, MPO Director

A Second and Final Summer 2013 Ride

In October, I gave a preview of my favorite pastime, touring our country's great roadways on two wheels. Here is Part 2 of my 10,000 mile summer of 2013.

It was a dark and stormy Monday in September when 22 riders left Clarksdale, Mississippi for the gravesite of Robert Johnson (the famed Father of the Blues). Our charge began 12 days earlier in Paradise, Michigan, near Sault Sainte Marie. Riding south into Hell, Michigan, we were tasked with retrieving Robert Johnson's soul and returning it to his gravesite near Greenwood, Mississippi.

Upon meeting the devil, ride coordinator "Joey Bones" made a challenge, his soul for Robert Johnson's. Fooling that demon wasn't easy but with the toss of a coin (with two sides the same) Joey bested that old master of trickery. With that we each showed our exit visa from Hell and were freed onto the open road.

Headed past the Damn Site Inn, the riders dined on a fine feast. The ride would confirm many old friendships and establish several new ones as we traveled through Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee.

In Lynchburg, Virginia, some visited with "Jack Daniels" who bestowed a commemorative container upon the few who stopped there in the wilds of Tennessee.

Drifting down through Fall Creek Falls State Park, riders enjoyed the coolness of the water and the shade of trees, and then traveled down the Natchez Trace into Tupelo and on to Clarksdale. Stopping for the night at the Shack Up Inn, we rested in the comfortable surroundings and celebrated with another party. Exploring this town, many were lost in the blues and music history.

The last morning of the ride came with a frightful rain. The Devil was doing his best to keep his hold on the Blues Legend's soul. Lots of lightning kept the riders off the roads until after dinner.

With clearing skies, the small group of remaining riders proceeded to Rosedale, Mississippi and on to the Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church graveyard near Greenwood. Here we returned Bluesman Robert Johnson's soul to him after nearly 80 years. The return trip home brought an end to another great riding season.



Gary Holwick, left, with friends at Robert Johnson's grave.