

ACE Employee Newsletter

For Amarillo City Employees

Volume 4, Issue 1 • January 2014



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Education Days Huge Success

Several departments came together the week of Thanksgiving to host hugely successful Centennial Celebration Education Days at the Amarillo Civic Center. The purpose of Education Days was to introduce Amarillo ISD students to civics on a local level, and increase their awareness of future job opportunities with the City.

The Centennial Education Committee, led by Pam Cognasi and Rene'e Stovall from Parks & Recreation, as well as Capt. Jacob Oehlert from the Amarillo Fire Department, are already working on ways to reach students in other area school systems. So watch out, they may be calling on your expertise again in the near future!

Many thanks to the following departments for their participation: Engineering, Street, Transit, Wastewater Treatment, Water Distribution, Wastewater Collection, Civic Center Complex, Department of Aviation, Parks & Recreation, Amarillo Emergency Communications Center, Water Production, Water Treatment, Water Transmission, Laboratory Administration, Library, Municipal Court, Amarillo Police Department, Building Safety and Amarillo Fire Department—as well as Center City of Amarillo and Xcel Energy.



“I Love Our Trash Man ...”

You read the headline correctly—and really, it’s no surprise, especially around the holidays. Our citizens notice the good deeds we do every day, even if we just see the acts as part of our job. Here are some recent notes of praise:

“I love our trash man ... not only because he does a job that probably most people wouldn't, but also because every time he comes, the girls run to the back porch ... he waves at them and says hi and toots his horn ... he may not realize the importance of this, but I do. The girls feel special. They love to wave and get a wave back. You see to the heart of a child. This says ‘I see you ... you are important.’ Thank you, sir, for seeing my girls.”

And here’s another citizen who took time to say “thank you”:

“I was outside my house on Tuesday Dec. 31, 2013 and watching the garbage truck next to the drainage ditch between Stardust and 61st St by S. Bowie dumping a VERY loaded dumpster. I think that trash was actually around the dumpster. After he dumped the dumpster, he got out and picked up the trash around the area. I was very impressed with his work and dedication to the job ... I appreciate anyone that cares enough to keep Amarillo cleaner.”

Smile of the Month!



Are You Smiling? Share it!



A resident recently wrote in to thank Clarence Bird, a Residential Equipment Operator, for brightening her daughters’ day by simply smiling and waving back!



Steven Garcia’s work was praised when a resident noticed him take extra care to pick up trash around an overfilled dumpster from the holidays.

Generosity ...

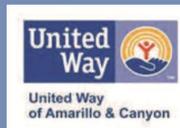
January
February
March



April
May
June



July
August
September



October
November
December



... it’s in our jeans!

- Blue Jean Fridays are back, and for great causes!
- Each Friday you wear blue jeans, it only costs you \$2.
- Turn your donation into your Department Representative, who will forward your department’s collections to Accounting.
- Each quarter, Accounting will distribute those funds to the four charities listed to the left.

Parks & Recreation Hosts Banquet

Amarillo Parks & Recreation held their annual Awards Banquet December 18 to thank all the employees for their continued service and to recognize those who have reached landmarks in their service time with the City. This year the combined service years recognized by the department totaled 165. Thirteen additional awards were given to employees who went above and beyond in their work throughout the year. Those included awards for MVP, Customer Service, Leadership, You Make a Difference and the Division Director's Award, which was won by Wendy Baca, Recreation Program Coordinator, pictured above with Parks and Recreation Director Rod Tweet.



Pat Rhodes Retires After 5-Plus Years

He was only with the City since April 2008, but in that short time span, Pat Rhodes made a tremendous impact as Director of Aviation at Rick Husband Amarillo International Airport. Not only did he oversee a \$52.2 million renovation that included a brand new passenger concourse, he and his staff graciously hosted the City's Centennial Celebration with a dinner and dance last November.

Below, coworkers honor Pat during a retirement ceremony held in December. On the right, Pat and his wife, Diane, are pictured with a retirement gift—a beagle—presented by his Administrative Assistant, Kiley Navarrete.



Airport Director Named

The City of Amarillo welcomes Sara A. Freese as the new Director of Aviation. She began her new position January 21.



Freese will plan, organize and direct all airport administration, management and operations associated with AMA, reporting directly to the City Manager's office. Additionally, she will be responsible for directing airport operations and maintenance of buildings, grounds, runways, taxiways, machinery and vehicles.

Freese has more than 14 years of experience in the airport industry and has worked in all facets of aviation including airlines, Fixed Based Operators (FBO), private airports and firefighting.

In Freese's most recent position, she served as the Director of Operations at The Eastern Iowa Airport in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She was responsible for more than \$25 million in airside and landside capital improvement projects each year and coordinated a multi-year construction and planning program.

Freese is a Past President of the Great Lakes Chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives, has served on the AAE Board of Examiners and is a private pilot. She fills a position vacated by Patrick Rhodes, who retired in December.

Join us in welcoming Freese to the COA team!



SAFETY CORNER: New Year's Resolutions

by *Charlie Sanchez, Safety Manager*

Now that the New Year's celebrations are over, it's time to say goodbye to the old year and welcome the new one with open arms. Many of us have made worthwhile New Year's resolutions like losing weight, quitting smoking or spending more time with loved ones. These aren't just great goals; they also fit the criteria that make for workable resolutions. They're specific, measurable and realistic. In any case, it feels good to start the year with a clean slate. And it feels even better when that slate is not only clean but also safe. When we make New Year's resolutions, will personal and workplace health and safety play a role?

I want to encourage you to resolve and put your health and safety first. Health and safety should represent the priority against which each of you align all of your actions. Unreasonable goals create added stress, especially when we are unable to accept the small slips along the way. I recommend that we focus on building upon the positive things in our lives. Focus on improvement not perfection. Try and keep your aspirations positive, realistic and achievable. Your resolutions needn't be an entirely private affair. Sit down with your family and decide that this resolution is one that you all share – that the health and safety culture in your own household and workplace will be your collective goal, value and priority.

Resolving to put health and safety first is a way to make all other resolutions achievable. The objective of such a resolution is to be self-motivated and to behave safely, even when no one is looking. Resolving to put health and safety first creates a safe zone around yourself, your children, your co-

workers, friends, neighbors, and strangers.

Putting health and safety first means:

1. Considering the health and safety implications of behavioral decisions. For example:
 - If I stay up late tonight, will I get enough rest to work safely tomorrow?
 - Have I packed an emergency kit for upcoming inclement weather?
2. Assessing the hazards associated with all activities, at work or home. For example:
 - Have I read the manual for this power tool?
 - What are the hazards associated with this activity and how can I reduce the risks?
3. Communicating about health and safety with your co-workers, family and friends. For example:
 - Reporting near misses at work and encouraging your family to report near misses at home.
 - Involving your family in the creation of a family emergency plan.
4. Leading by example to demonstrate your personal commitment to the value of health and safety practices. For example:
 - Wearing all necessary personal protective equipment, at home, work, and play.
 - Not taking shortcuts.

To achieve your New Year's health and safety resolutions requires strong internal motivation. "TAKE SAFETY HOME!" What could possibly be better motivation than improving the health and safety of yourself and your loved ones, and having a positive influence on the health and safety of everyone else around you?

Employees Complete Extensive Training



From left: Johnnie Miller, Certified Technician; Matthew Langford, Certified Technician/Trainer; Mickie Hastie, Certified Technician; Jackie Skaggs, Certified Technician; and Colton Carthel, Certified Technician.

Employees at the Municipal Garage recently completed extensive training, both on hand and course work, to achieve Commercial Tire Service Technician Certification.

"This is a huge change in our tire shop operation to be certified from the Tire Industry Association (TIA)," says Municipal Garage Superintendent Glenn Lavender. "As a member of the Tire Industry Association, we are able to stay current with all industry standards and training necessary in a full capacity shop environment."

The Tire Industry Association (TIA) is an international association representing all segments of the tire industry, including those that manufacture, repair, recycle, sell, service or use new or retreaded tires, and also those suppliers or individuals who furnish equipment, material or services to the industry.

An Invitation by Owl Post ...

By Stacy Clopton Yates, Public Relations Coordinator, Amarillo Public Library



For fans of *The Boy Who Lived*, the long wait is nearly over. An Evening at Hogwarts 2014 – a family event for wizards of all ages – will take place on Saturday, Feb. 22 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at the Downtown Library. That event will be followed by the after-hours program, Yule Ball 2014 – an event for Potter fans ages 13 to 19.

In the winter of 2013, hundreds of Harry Potter enthusiasts visited the Downtown Library to take part in the Harry Potter Yule Ball, and An Evening at Hogwarts. Since then, the Downtown Library youth staff has been fielding requests for a repeat of the popular programs.

Amanda Hope Shelburne, assistant coordinator of Youth Services, says fans of the young wizard show no signs of waning enthusiasm.

“Harry Potter fans love sharing the story with others and bringing it to life through games and costumes,” says Shelburne. “We’ve had so many people request a repeat of last year’s program and we’re really excited to oblige! We’ll have all new crafts and games, along with some old favorites, so there will be something for everyone. This way, it will be a whole new adventure – whether you attended last year or not.”

An Evening at Hogwarts will feature games, crafts, snacks and a Harry Potter movie. Plans for Yule Ball 2014 include music, dancing, a trivia contest, snacks and a showing of *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* – the story that introduced Potter fans to the Yule Ball.

“Patrons of all ages are welcome – and encouraged – to come in costume,” says Shelburne. “That just adds to the excitement. It’s fun to show off your costume and see what other Potter enthusiasts have dreamed up.”

It’s been more than six years since the release of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, (the final book in the series) and three years since the final film adaptation, but Shelburne says enthusiasm for the young wizard hasn’t diminished.

“There’s a whole generation of kids of who grew up reading Harry Potter, and new readers are introduced to his story every day. Those readers have carried that enthusiasm to other books. I think it’s safe to say there are a lot of kids, teens and adults who are reading more today than they would have without the Harry Potter books. It’s a great series of books and the Friends of the Amarillo Public Library throws a great party. What’s not to like?”

For more information about An Evening at Hogwarts or Yule Ball 2014, call the Downtown Library Information Desk at 378-3089.

Windows 7 Shortcuts!



The City’s Information Services Department is working feverishly to upgrade computers citywide to the Windows 7 operating system. If you’re having trouble finding your way around, don’t fret! There are some shortcuts that can make your life easier. You’re probably already familiar with some of these:

Ctrl+A: Select everything

Ctrl+B: Bold

Ctrl+C: Copy a selected item

Ctrl+D: Indent

Ctrl+P: Print

Ctrl+V: Paste a selected item

Ctrl+X: Cut a selected item

Ctrl+Y: Redo what you undid

Ctrl+Z: Undo an action

Win+Up: Maximize the current Window

Win+Home: Minimize all but the current Window

Win+Pause/Break: Open System Properties

Win+D: Show/Hide desktop

Win+F: Search

Win+L: Lock Computer

Win+M: Minimize all Windows

Win+R: Launch Run Command

Do you have a favorite tip or trick you would like to share? If so, simply send an e-mail to:
newsletter@amarillo.gov

Promotions/Transfers for December 2013

OLD			NEW	
Name	Title	Department	Title	Department
Silvia Shaver	Admin Assistant-hrly	Library	Admin. Asst. 1	Library
Dashia Manuel	Insstrument Operator	Engineering	Engineering Assistant II	Engineering
Jordan Nelson	Utility Worker	Street	Equipment Operator 1	Street
Cameron Johnson	Airport Police Officer	Dept of Aviations	Police Recruit	Police
Bryan Shelhamer	Park Dev. Manager-hrly	Park Administration	Park Dev Manager	Park Administration
Francisco Cantu	Utility Worker-hrly	Park Maint.	Utility Worker	Park Maint.
David Carter	Utiltiy Worker-hrly	Park Maint.	Utility Worker	Park Maint.
Jluis Lora	Utility Worker-hrly	Park Maint.	Utility Worker	Park Maint.
Kurtis Neel	Utility Worker-hrly	Park Maint.	Utility Worker	Park Maint.
Eric Andersen	Firefighter	Fire	Fire Driver	Fire
Mitchell Armstrong	Firefighter	Fire	Fire Driver	Fire
Samuel Baucom	Dist. Chief	Fire	Assistant Fire Chief	Fire
Christopher Briley	Fire Driver	Fire	Lieutenant	Fire
Jim Farrow	Lieutenant	Fire	Captain	Fire
Wesley Hall	Captain	Fire	District Chief	Fire
Dale Henderson	Fire Driver	Fire	Lieutenant	Fire
William Klusmeyer	Lieutenant	Fire	Captain	Fire
Dee LaGrone	Lieutenant	Fire	Captain	Fire
Jason Mays	Captain	Fire	District Chief	Fire
Manuel Rosales	Firefighter	Fire	Fire Driver	Fire
Umeka Johnson	Admin. Asst. IV	Comm. Devpt.	Supportive Housing Coord.	Comm. Devpt.
Elizabeth Perez	Admin. Asst. 1	Water Distribution	Admin Assistant III	Dir of Utilities
Robbie Anderson	Mechanic Apprentice	Municipal Garage	Mechanic 1	Municipal Garage

Employee Milestones

Name	Job Title	Department	Years
Gerald L. Ashely	Nurse Practitioner	City Care Clinic	5
Teri Britton	Administrative Assistant III	City Care Clinic	5
Lorraine Lucero	Administrative Assistant V	City Care Clinic	5
Jamie S. Moore	LVN	City Care Clinic	5
Michael Kevin Clayton	Police Officer	Police	5
Kevin Korinek	Corporal	Police	5
John Nicholson	Police Officer	Police	5
Rafael Quiles	Police Officer	Police	5
Erick Quirk	Police Officer	Police	5
John M. Stephenson	Police Officer	Police	5
Joshua Woodroffe	Police Officer	Police	5
Brandon Worley	Police Officer	Police	5
Stephen C. Pacheco	Airport Police Sergeant	Airport Operations	10
Kyle C. Anthony	Fire Fighter	Fire Operations	10
E. Sue Duck	IT Analyst	IT Infrastructure & Support	10
Becky F. Whitehead	Administrative Assistant I	Municipal Court	10
Jeannetta Fields	Custodian I	River Rd. Water Reclamation	10
Rick L. Redman	Senior IT Analyst	IT Public Safety	15
Tony Dee Robinson	Fire Lieutenant	Fire Operations	25

Congratulations December Retirees!

Louie Black
AFD — 30 years

Tracy James
AFD— 20 years

Kerry Phengphachanh
Civic Center—13 years

Patrick Rhodes
Airport—5 years

Johnny Saunders
AFD— 33 years

Richard Strouse
Solid Waste Collection— 11 years

Mike Turner
IT— 8 years

Welcome to the COA Team!

Name	Title	Department
Robert Cowell, Jr.	Asst. City Mgr. (Public Serv.)	City Manager
Kristi Choate	Emerg. Comm. Specialist-hrly	AECC
Tiffany Norris	Emerg. Comm. Specialist-hrly	AECC
Amy Fritsch	Emerg. Comm. Specialist-hrly	AECC
Monica Pacheco	Emerg. Comm. Specialist-hrly	AECC
Kathleen Beck	Admin. Assistant IV	Municipal Court
Matthew Poston	Accountant II	Accounting
Whitney Spencer	Admin. Assistant-hrly	Purchasing
Jascon Ritchie	Utility Worker-hrly	Street
Samuel Cisneros	Utility Worker	Street
Cole Dahl	Utility Worker	Street
Zachary Lynn	Police Recruit	Police
Cameron Johnson	Police Recruit	Police
Amanda Williams	Police Recruit	Police
Kraig Stockstill	Police Recruit	Police
Gage Stephenson	Police Recruit	Police
Jacob Roybal	Police Recruit	Police
Danielle Rocha	Police Recruit	Police
Travis Moore	Police Recruit	Police
Micah Meurer	Police Recruit	Police
Zachary Matlock	Police Recruit	Police
Michael Maeker	Police Recruit	Police
Johnny Hoggatt	Police Recruit	Police
Josh Faul	Police Recruit	Police
Chase Dockins	Police Recruit	Police
Steven Deal	Police Recruit	Police
Craig Cothrin	Police Recruit	Police
Guy Capra	Police Recruit	Police
Aaron Callaway	Police Recruit	Police
Nicholas Burns-Dieringer	Police Recruit	Police
Matthew Brown	Police Recruit	Police
Matthew Biernacki	Police Recruit	Police
David Mata	Animal Control Officer	Animal Control
Landry Ward	Plans Examiner	Building Safety
Haley Houghton	Registered Nurse	Public Health
Phyllis Buckley	Registered Nurse	Public Health
Reyna Villalon	WIC Tech-hrly	WIC
Francisco Rojero	WIC Tech-hrly	WIC
Shawn Carlisle	Meter Reader 1	Utility Billing
Marco Bravo	Civil Engineer 1	Dir. of Utilities
Troy Hopkins	Water Production Supt.	Surface WT
Destiny Chitty	Treatment Plant Op.-hrly	River Road WWT
Jimmy Finley	Treatment Plant Op.-hrly	Hollywood Rd. WWT

FROM THE PANTRY:

EGG & VEGGIE PITA



4 large eggs
 2 tablespoons low-fat milk
 Cooking Spray
 2 whole grain pita pockets cut in half
 ½ cup low-fat shredded cheese
 ⅓ cup thinly sliced zucchini
 ⅓ cup thinly sliced red pepper

Mix eggs and milk together in a bowl.

Heat a small frying pan on the stove.

Lightly coat pan with cooking spray, and pour in egg mixture.

Cook for 2 to 3 minutes, stirring constantly.

Place scrambled eggs in pita halves, and top with cheese and vegetables. You can also add vegetables to eggs while cooking.

SERVES 4



Visit panhandletickets.com for a complete list of upcoming events!

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PUBLICATION POLICY

The ACE employee newsletter is distributed by the City Secretary's office monthly through e-mail, print copies and the City's Intranet site. It is designed to help keep you informed of events and accomplishments throughout the organization you serve. If you have ideas for future stories, features or photo opportunities, or to receive this newsletter electronically, contact:

newsletter@amarillo.gov
378-3549

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

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

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