

ACE Employee Newsletter

For Amarillo City Employees

Volume 4, Issue 3 • March 2014



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Amarillo Police Chief Robert Taylor (center) presented Officer Dustin Glick and Cpl. Caleb Finsterwald with the APD's Medal of Valor.

Two Officers Awarded APD's Medal of Valor

by Chera Miller, Community Relations

Officer Dustin Glick was only on the second duty shift of his field training, five days after his December 2013 graduation from the police academy, when he and Cpl. Caleb Finsterwald, a five-year veteran of the Amarillo Police Department, were dispatched to the scene of a tragic traffic accident near I-40 and Soncy Road.

They arrived to find that a westbound vehicle had struck the back of the tractor-trailer then skidded off the road into the grass. The collision caused the engine compartment and front seat of the car to become engulfed in flames, with fire shooting up to 10 feet into the sky. A grass fire also started

around the car, and dense black smoke filled the air.

As the officers approached, they heard the hissing and popping sounds of the car as it burned. Although witnesses had already stopped at the scene, no one knew if the driver had gotten out. The officers could not tell either, since the smoke and heat kept them back, the grass fire blocked most of the car, and all of the windows they could see were darkened. They were moving closer to the passenger side when they heard a muffled shout and saw a hand reaching out of the flames from within the car.

Trying to open the door proved unsuccessful. It was locked, so the

officers used a metal baton to break the passenger-side window. They could see the driver still in her seat – her upper body slumped across the console. Frantically trying to free the woman, the officers reached into the car through the heat and flames three times, but each time they were forced to withdraw. Cpl. Finsterwald retrieved a fire extinguisher from his patrol cruiser and emptied it into the car, but even that did not control the flames enough to allow the officers to reach the woman.

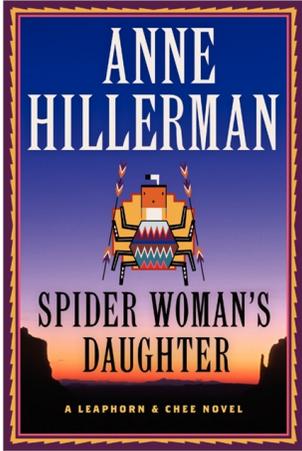
Firefighters began to arrive on the scene and soon joined in the rescue effort.

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In Her Father's Footsteps

AMARILLO READS Novelist Gives New Life to Beloved Mystery Series

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



Amarillo's Community Reading Program, AMARILLO READS, continues this spring with *Spider Woman's Daughter* by Anne Hillerman. Library Director Donna Littlejohn says the book was a natural choice given the popularity of the *Leaphorn and Chee Mysteries* written by Tony Hillerman.

"Tony Hillerman's mysteries are great reads and they focus attention on the American Southwest – an area of the country that doesn't get as much attention as big cities or the coasts," says Littlejohn. "What Anne Hillerman has done with

Spider Woman's Daughter is continue the series with a protagonist, Bernadette Manualito, who was a secondary character in the original series. That makes it new – while still retaining the Navaho setting and history that made her father's books so popular."

Reviewers have greeted *Spider Woman's Daughter* with enthusiasm. Library Journal explains, "Fans mourned when Hillerman died in 2008. Now the late author's beloved characters return in this series re-launch by his daughter, Anne. Pot hunters, archaeologists, controversy over the museum display of tribal objects, and insurance fraud culminate in a heart-stopping, action-packed conclusion as Bernadette and Jim risk their lives to bring a would-be assassin to justice. Fans of Southwestern mysteries will cheer this return of Leaphorn and Chee."

Like her father, Anne Hillerman began her career in journalism. She is the author of seven non-fiction books including *Tony Hillerman's Landscape: On the Road with Chee and Leaphorn* and *Gardens of Santa Fe*, both in collaboration with her husband, photographer Don Strel.

Anne Hillerman is a founding director of the Santa Fe-based WORDHARVEST Writers Workshops and the Tony Hillerman Writers Conference. She helped create the Tony Hillerman Prize for best first mystery novel set in the Southwest, awarded annually by St. Martin's Press.

Amarillo Public Library has planned a series of events to highlight *Spider Woman's Daughter*, culminating in a visit from the author scheduled April 29 at the Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts. Please see the complete list in the next column. For more information about AMARILLO READS, call 378-3051 or email Stacy.Yates@amarillolibrary.org.



AMARILLO READS Film Series: Hillerman Mysteries

Southwest Branch Library, 6801 W. 45th, 3 p.m.
This film series features the three Tony Hillerman *Leaphorn and Chee Mysteries* that were adapted for the screen for PBS Pictures *American Mystery*.

Skinwalkers – Thursday, April 3

Based on a novel that won an Anthony Award for Best Mystery, *Skinwalkers* features Lt. Joe Leaphorn and Officer Jim Chee. Run Time: 97 minutes.

Coyote Waits – Thursday, April 10

Tony Hillerman's novel of the same title won a Nero Award for Best Mystery. Run Time: 107 minutes.

A Thief of Time – Thursday, April 17

Leaphorn and Jim return in this film adaptation of Tony Hillerman's Macavity Award-winning. Run Time: 95 minutes.

AMARILLO READS: Navajo Weaving

Sunday, April 13, 3 p.m., North Branch Library, 1500 N.E. 24th

Judith Jones of the Palo Duro Handweavers Guild explores the ins and outs of Navajo weaving – its history, unique characteristics and how to tell pretenders from the "real deal."

AMARILLO READS: Special Screening –

The Mystery of Chaco Canyon

Monday, April 14, 7 p.m., Northwest Branch Library, 6100 W. 9th

This outstanding documentary, narrated by Robert Redford, shows the beauty and secrets of The Pueblos of Chaco Canyon and the ancient civilization that created them.

AMARILLO READS: *Spider Woman's Daughter* by Anne Hillerman

Thursday, April 24, 12:15 p.m., East Branch Library, 2232 E. 27th

The Downtown Lunchtime Book Club meets at the East Branch Library this month to discuss Anne Hillerman's debut mystery novel. Doors open at 11:45 a.m., discussion at 12:15 p.m.

AMARILLO READS: Sacred Objects to Art Objects

Saturday, April 26, 11 a.m., Downtown Library, 413 S.E. 4th

Michael Grauer, Curator of Art & Western Heritage for Panhandle Plains Historical Museum, talks about Navajo art and culture, and the struggle to protect sacred artifacts.

AN EVENING WITH ANNE HILLERMAN

Tuesday, April 29, 7 p.m., Gilliland Education Room, Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts

Join us for a conversation with the author of *Spider Woman's Daughter*. Coffee and book signing follow in the Second Floor Lobby.

Employee Milestones

Name	Department	Title	Years
Robin Malatesta-Young	AECC	Emergency Comm. Spec.	5
Monica McNutt	AECC	Emergency Comm. Spec.	5
Landon Moreland	AECC	Emergency Comm. Spec.	5
Lunberto Velasquez	Solid Waste Collection	Residential Equip. Op.	5
Elton R. Butcher	Fire Operations	Fire Lieutenant	10
Eligio D. Garcia	Street Department	Equipment Operator IV	10
Jacqueline L. Harrison	Transit Demand Response	Van Operator	10
Mikal J. Orr	Fire Operations	Fire Captain	10
John C. Russell	Fire Operations	Fire Driver	10
Jeffrey L. Spangler	Fire Operations	Fire Driver	10
Cindi J. Wynia	Library	Librarian III	10
Cody L. Anderson	Fire Operations	Fire Lieutenant	15
Jerome E. Drerup	Fire Operations	Fire District Chief	15
Wesley D. Hall	Fire Operations	Fire District Chief	15
Ryan K. James	Fire Operations	Fire Lieutenant	15
Robert R. Lowry	Fire Operations	Fire Fighter	15
Jason D. Mays	Fire Operations	Fire District Chief	15
Valisa A. McHugh	Library	Librarian II	15
Christopher Mitchell	Street Department	Street Superintendent	15
Michael J. Reese	Fire Operations	Fire Driver	15
Frank Shaw	Street Department	Utility Operator	15
David M. Ybarra	Municipal Garage Op.	Mechanic II	15
Marlene K. Ashley	WIC Administration	Nutritionist I	20
Bonnie M. Bausch	Library	Buyer I	20
Joe Don Brown	Police	Corporal	20
Kenneth W. Donais	Police	Corporal	20
James L. Ingle	Police	Sergeant	20
Gregory A. Grant	Fire Operations	Fire Fighter	25
Ramona R. Noblitt	Municipal Court	Arrestment Clerk	25
William J. Nolan	Fire Operations	Fire Captain	25
Joe D. Prater	Fire Operations	Fire Lieutenant	25

First Prime Service Pin Awarded to City Employee

Congratulations to John Lee, a City of Amarillo employee who performs maintenance at the Chamber of Commerce, for winning the first official Prime Service pin.

The Prime Service program, sponsored by the Amarillo Convention and Visitor Council (CVC), recognizes superior service by an Amarillo employee. John has been called “the epitome of prime service, always asking how he can help and making sure everyone is safe when they leave at night.” He often does extra tasks that aren’t required of him, from emptying coffee mugs that have been left on desks, to handing brochures out to visitors.

John’s excellent service and good attitude certainly deserve to be recognized. Keep up the good work, John!



John Lee (left), is joined by Mindy Bradley, convention services director for the CVC, Gary Molberg, Chamber of Commerce president and Dan Quandt, vice president of the CVC.

Thanks, Tony!



What could have turned into a dreadful day actually turned into a delightful experience for a recent visitor to the Rick Husband

Amarillo International Airport.

Vince DiPiazza sent a note that said when he returned to the long-term parking area, his truck wouldn't start due to a weak battery. He went back to the terminal for help when he encountered Tony Minetti—who readily offered his assistance.

“I was coming in from Dallas and I'm reasonably certain I wouldn't have received this kind of service there,” wrote DiPiazza, who happens to be the Dumas City Manager. “I’m always glad when one of our employees goes out of his way to help a customer. I just thought you should know.”

Thanks, Tony, for taking the time to help out a neighbor!



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

SAFETY CORNER: Make Sure the Grass is the Only Thing That Gets Cut!

by Charlie Sanchez, Safety Manager

Spring means the beginning of yard work chores. Yes, as spring flowers and trees begin to bloom, we get the itch to get outside, shake off the remnants of cabin fever and begin to work in our yards. One of the first tools we bring out of storage and one of the most dangerous tools around the home is our power lawn mower. Each year, more than 60,000 injuries are treated by hospital emergency rooms in the United States because of unsafe operation of power lawn mowers. More than 9,000 of the people hurt were younger than 15. Older children and adolescents were most often hurt while cutting lawns as chores; some, as a way to earn money. Children should never ride as passengers on riding mowers or be towed behind.

Lawn mower injuries include deep lacerations, amputations of fingers and toes, broken and dislocated bones, burns, eye injuries, and others. Some of these types of injuries are very serious, but even worse is that the potential for fatality is very high. Those mowing and those who are nearby can also be hurt. Mowing your lawn should always start with safety preparation and awareness.

Although many of us have years of mowing experience, sometimes safety precautions are overlooked and the end result can be dangerous or fatal. Staying aware of your lawn conditions and knowing your machine by being alert can help you avoid accidents and injury. Always refer to the operator's manual for routine maintenance schedules and safety tips.

In fact, before we get started, mowing safety begins with the clothes you wear. Choose close-fitting clothes and long pants, hearing protection, eye protection, work boots with traction and a good pair of leather or equivalent gloves.

Here are some more general mower safety guidelines to help you get started.

BEFORE MOWING:

- Check the safety guards and devices to ensure that they are in proper working condition
- Adjust the cutting height; NEVER adjust the mower height while the engine is running
- Check your mower's fuel level and fill if necessary so that you start your day with a full tank of fuel. If you need to refuel, make sure you are on a level surface and turn the engine off to allow the engine to cool first



Rick McGhee, Tech. I, Park Maintenance, performs a safety check on his mower.

- Never smoke around gasoline or while filling the mower. Avoid filling the gas tank right to the top; leave an air space for expansion of the fuel and fumes

WHILE MOWING:

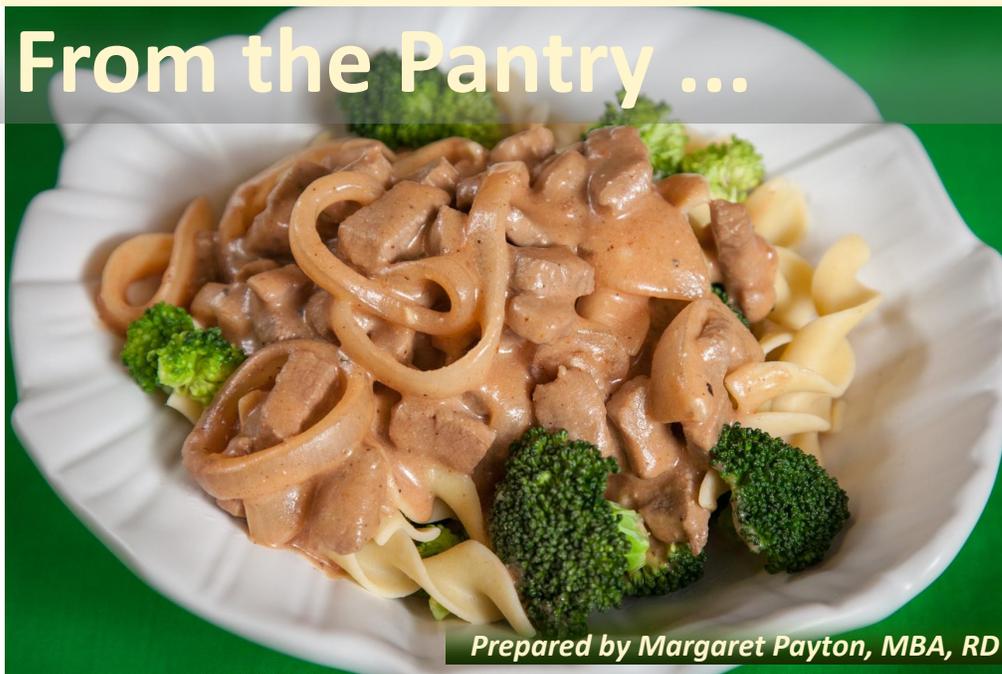
- Never leave a running mower unattended. If you leave, ensure with the operator's presence switch will automatically kill the engine when you release the handle. Most of the newer mowers have that safety switch in the handle
- Do not attempt to clear the deflection chute if it becomes clogged while the engine is running
- Never place your hands or feet near the cutting blades, or stick anything near the blades with the engine running
- Use extreme care when mowing on slopes; if it looks dangerous, it almost certainly is dangerous, so use caution

AFTER MOWING:

- Make sure that the mower is completely stopped and the engine is off before you begin your cleanup maintenance
- Lingering debris can cause unwanted buildup and potential malfunctions or breakdowns
- Store your lawn mower properly so it will be ready for your next lawn mowing project.

"TAKE SAFETY HOME"!

From the Pantry ...



Prepared by Margaret Payton, MBA, RD

Stroganoff-Style Beef with Broccoli

Start to Finish: 30 minutes

- ½ cup light dairy sour cream
- ¼ teaspoon dried dill
- 1 pound boneless beef top round steak, trimmed and cut into bite-size strips
- 1 tablespoon cooking oil
- 1 small onion, cut into ½-inch thick slices
- ½ teaspoon bottled minced garlic
- 3 cups dried wide noodles (6 ounces)
- 3 cups broccoli florets
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 (14-ounce) can beef broth
- 3 tablespoons tomato paste
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- Ground black pepper

1. In a bowl, stir together sour cream and dillweed; set aside. In a skillet, cook beef in hot oil over medium-high heat until desired doneness. Remove beef; set aside. Add onion and garlic to the skillet; cook 8 to 10 minutes or until onion is tender.
2. Meanwhile, cook noodles according to package directions, adding broccoli for the last 3 minutes of cooking; drain well. Cover noodles and broccoli and keep warm.
3. Sprinkle flour over onion mixture in skillet. Stir to coat. Add broth, tomato paste, and Worcestershire sauce. Cook and stir until thickened and bubbly. Return beef to skillet; heat through. Season to taste with pepper. Remove from heat. Stir in sour cream mixture. Serve on top of noodles and broccoli.

Makes 4 servings.

Per serving: 440 cal, 12 g fat (4 g sat. fat), 96 mg chol., 513 mg sodium, 45 g carbo., 4 g fiber, 37 g pro.

Above & Beyond! Correction



Robert Hernandez

Remember last month when we shared the story of the City employee who helped rescue a dog that ran when it became frightened of the garbage truck? Unfortunately, we pictured the wrong person! Help us once again congratulate Robert Hernandez on a job well done!

Claytor Promoted



We are pleased to announce the promotion of Tim Claytor to the position of Assistant Water Production Superintendent.

He previously held the position of E & I Tech for the Osage Water Treatment Plant, Water Production and Water Transmission Departments.

In this new position, Tim will assist in the supervision of the operations and maintenance of the Osage Water Plant, the well fields, the elevated storage tanks and the booster pump stations for the Water Treatment Department. Please join us in congratulating Tim on his promotion!

Promotions/Transfers for February 2014

OLD			NEW	
Name	Title	Department	Title	Department
Stacy Conway	Building Attendant	Civic Center	Events Supervisor	Civic Center
Gary Sain	Electrician I	Facilities	BAS Controls Technician	Facilities
Thomas Zion	Building Mechanic III	Facilities	Electrician I	Facilities
Alexina Berry	Emerg. Comm. Spec.-hrly	AECC	Emergency Comm. Spec.	AECC
Kristi Choate	Emerg. Comm. Spec.-hrly	AECC	Emergency Comm. Spec.	AECC
Amy Fritsch	Emerg. Comm. Spec.-hrly	AECC	Emergency Comm. Spec.	AECC
Tiffany Norris	Emerg. Comm. Spec.-hrly	AECC	Emergency Comm. Spec.	AECC
Monica Pacheco	Emerg. Comm. Spec.-hrly	AECC	Emergency Comm. Spec.	AECC
Sarah Sawyers-Martin	Emerg. Comm. Spec.-hrly	AECC	Emergency Comm. Spec.	AECC
Aty Thongboutsady	Emerg. Comm. Spec.-hrly	AECC	Emergency Comm. Spec.	AECC
Travis Burton	Utility Worker-hrly	Street	Utility Worker	Street
Jason Ritchie	Utility Worker-hrly	Street	Utility Worker	Street
Stephen Aragon	Utility Worker	Street	Residential Equipment Op.	Solid Waste Collection
Francisco Esparza	Environ. Compliance Tech.	Solid Waste Disposal	Asst. Landfill Supervisor	Solid Waste Disposal
Daniel Johnson	Utility Worker	Street	Transfer Truck Driver	Solid Waste Disposal
Jose Valdiviezo	Bus Driver	Transit	Transfer Truck Driver	Solid Waste Disposal
Derrick White	Treatment Plant Op.	Hollywood Road WWT Plant	Housing Technician	Community Develop.
Amy Lofton	Health Planner-hrly	Public Health	Health Planner	Public Health
Amber Sable	Admin. Asst. II	Public Health	Admin. Tech.	Public Health
Manuel Hinojos	Utility Worker	Park Maintenance	Electrician I	Surface Water Treatment
Erik Ammons	Utility Worker	Water Distribution	Utility Operator	Water Distribution
Michael Hammonds	Water & Sewer Sup. II	Water Distribution	Asst. Water Distribution Sup.	Water Distribution
Mercedes White	Custodian I	Dept of Aviation	Custodian II	Dept of Aviation
Clifton Hughes	Utility Worker	Water Distribution	Mechanic Apprentice	Municipal Garage

Covey & Bonner Recognized



Amarillo Women's Network honored two City of Amarillo employees with Career Achievement awards during a ceremony held March 6 at Amarillo National Bank. Those recognized were Deputy City Manager Vicki Covey and Assistant City Manager/Finance Michelle Bonner. The Career Achievement Award honors women who make major career advancements or receive recognition in their professions during the previous calendar year and this year.

Covey was named deputy city manager for the City in March 2013. She is the first woman to serve in this position. With the city of Amarillo for more than 35 years, Covey's oversees the Office of Emergency Management, Amarillo

Emergency Communications Center, Rick Husband Amarillo International Airport, Human Resources and Facilities.

Bonner has 21 years of experience with the City and was promoted to assistant city manager over finance in early 2013. She holds a certified public accountant certification and is a graduate of West Texas A&M University with bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration.

Initiated in 1981, the Career Achievement award was set up to encourage women to seek higher career goals and recognize firms and organizations that support and promote women. Join us in congratulating both Covey and Bonner.

Welcome to the COA Team!

Name	Title	Department
Stephen Detten III	Communications Tech.	Communications
Shelly Buckaloo	Building Attendant 1	Civic Center
Oscar Martinez	Building Attendant 1	Civic Center
Cipriano Ulibarri	Building Attendant 1	Civic Center
Elizabeth Clark	Custodian 1	Facilities
Jackie Byrum	Building Mechanic II	Facilities
Todd Stavenhagen	Asst Facilities Manager	Facilities
Brittany Paulson	Admin Assistant-hrly	Library
Penpan Rasavong	Admin Assistant-hrly	Library
Michael Mendoza	Emergency Comm. Spec.-hrly	AECC
Kelly Swinney	Emergency Comm. Spec.-hrly	AECC
Brittany Perez	Emergency Comm. Spec.-hrly	AECC
Vicky Marshall	Emergency Comm. Spec.-hrly	AECC
Becky Shaw	Emergency Comm. Spec.-hrly	AECC
Debra Menefee	Emergency Comm. Spec.-hrly	AECC
Jessica High	Emergency Comm. Spec.-hrly	AECC
Robin Sanders	Emergency Comm. Spec.-hrly	AECC
Donna Gonzales	Emergency Comm. Spec.-hrly	AECC
Larissa McClellan	Emergency Comm. Spec.-hrly	AECC
Tabitha Norvell	Emergency Comm. Spec.-hrly	AECC
Misty Brown	Emergency Comm. Spec.-hrly	AECC
Jennifer Hollingshead	Emergency Comm. Spec.-hrly	AECC
Travis Burton	Utility Worker	Street
Jason Ritchie	Utility Worker	Street
Pete Castaneda	Utility Worker	Street
Christopher Sierra	Utility Worker	Street
Jamon Friar	Utility Worker	Solid Waste Collection
Phillip Dedman	Residential Equip. Operator	Solid Waste Collection
Faustino Terrazas	School Crossing Guard	Traffic Administration
Brittany Bowling	Sanitarian 1	Environmental Health
Lillie Lemley	Admin Assistant V	Transit
Michael McPherson	Bus Driver	Transit
Robert Phipps	Golf Equipment Mechanic I	Comache Trail Golf Course
Elsa Jimenez	Event Coordinator-hrly	Parks & Recreation
William Manning	Utility Worker-hrly	Park Maintenance
Jerold Stewart	Crew Leader-hrly	Park Maintenance
Benjamin Close	Park Technician 1	Park Maintenance
Jared Tuma	Park Technician 1	Park Maintenance
Free Hawkins	Gate Attendant/Admissions-hrly	Zoo
Kathie Brown	Admin Assistant IV	Community Development
David Saavedra	Admin Assistant I	Public Health
Le Phuong	Registered Nurse	Public Health
Ingrid Briles	Admin Assistant II	Utility Billing
Keith Freeman	Utility Worker	Water Distribution
Jaman Williams	Utility Worker	Water Distribution
Willie McKinnon	Utility Worker	Wastewater Collection
Jordan Melendez	Utility Worker	Wastewater Collection
Juan Portillo	Utility Worker	Wastewater Collection
Sandra Tarango	Custodian 1	Dept of Aviation
Juan Carrasco	Custodian 1	Dept of Aviation
Arthur Cordova II	Custodian 1	Dept of Aviation
David Gragg	Mechanic Apprentice	Municipal Garage

Congratulations February Retirees!

Bill Blaylock
Surface Water Treatment – 6 years

David Brandt
Park Maintenance – 11 years

Betty Devereaux
Facilities – 11 years

Danny Dwight
Fire Fleet – 5 years

Theresa Hook
Building Safety – 33 years

John M. Faulkner
Amarillo Fire Department – 27 years

Joe Lindvay
Surface Water Treatment – 20 years

Smile of the Month!



Are You Smiling? Share It!

AVAILABLE!

Did you know the best way to promote your department's services is through the City's utility bills? Community Relations will design your utility bill insert and all you have to do is pay the print cost. For more information, please contact Sonja Gross in Community Relations at 378-3549 or sonja.gross@amarillo.gov.

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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.

CITY OF AMARILLO

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(continued from cover)

Despite their protective gear, the heat radiating from the flames was too intense for them to reach the driver. They had no choice but to wait until the flames had been extinguished enough for them to get closer. Once the fire was successfully controlled, rescuers were able to pull the 65-year-old woman from her car and transport her to the hospital. Unfortunately, despite the many heroic actions of Cpl. Finsterwald, Officer Glick and the firefighters, she later succumbed to the injuries sustained in the fire.

Because of the courage displayed by the two officers, their supervisors

requested that the Amarillo Police Department recognize them with the Medal of Valor. One letter of recommendation stated that the two "certainly acted with valor in risking their own lives in an attempt to save the victim" and remarked on the demonstration of "unflappable determination" in their continuing efforts to rescue the trapped driver. Another letter described how the patrol car video showed the officers repeatedly placing themselves in danger of being burned while also taking the risk that the car would suddenly burn more intensely or even explode. In spite of obvious danger, the officers stayed at the car and refused to give up on saving the woman.

During roll call on Feb. 11, 2014, before their friends and peers, Chief Robert Taylor presented both Cpl. Finsterwald and Officer Glick with the Amarillo Police Department's Medal of Valor. The two officers undoubtedly displayed the qualities necessary to receive the award, exhibiting "exceptional bravery and courageous action at great risk of life or bodily injury." They remind us how fortunate we are to have men and women in our City Police and Fire Departments who are willing to put themselves before others, no matter the risk to themselves. These selfless people deserve our gratitude.