



ACE Employee Newsletter

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National Community Planning Month Recognized



City Council recently presented a proclamation declaring October National Community Planning Month. Pictured front row from left are Councilmember Lilia Escajeda, Amarillo MPO Director Gary Holwick, Planner Kathleen Collins, Senior Planner Travis Muno and Planner James Bentley. Pictured back row from left are Councilmember Ellen Robertson Green, Mayor Paul Harpole, Planning Director Kelley Shaw, Planner Becky Woods, Councilmember Dr. Brian Eades, Senior Planner Cris Valverde, Planning Technician Wes Luginbyhl, and Planning & Zoning Commission Board members David Craig and Howard Smith.

The City of Amarillo's Planning Department kicked off local recognition of National Community Planning Month with a proclamation at a recent City Council meeting. The purpose is to raise the visibility of the important role of planners and planning in communities across the U.S. In addition to the proclamation, the Planning Department is offering several activities:

Rails to Trails Clean-Up

The theme for this year's National Community Planning Month is "Health and Prosperity." To honor that theme, local activities will wrap up with a Rock Island Rails to Trails Clean-Up Day on **Saturday, October 25 from 9 a.m. to Noon**. Bring your friends, family and neighbors and join us at Margaret Wills Elementary School at 9 a.m. Please wear closed-toe shoes and bring gloves. Keep an eye on weather conditions and dress appropriately! We will provide trash bags.

Favorite Amarillo Places Photos

To increase awareness of the importance of community planning, citizens are invited to capture a photograph of their favorite place(s) in Amarillo. Photographs submitted should follow these guidelines:

- High-resolution color or black and white photos are acceptable

- Landscape layout/orientation only
- Submission of 10 or fewer photographs per person
- The photographer releases copyrights for each photograph submitted and allows City staff to use images in a variety of platforms

You can share your **Favorite Amarillo Places Photos** on the City's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CityofAmarillo or on the City's Twitter page at www.twitter.com/CityofAmarillo. Use the hashtag #AMAFavoritePhotos so we can easily find your submissions!

Community Planning Crossword

If you're not on Twitter or Facebook, visit the City's website at www.amarillo.gov and under "Departments," select "Planning." There you can download a fun crossword puzzle designed to help citizens better understand planning terms.

For more information on community planning, visit the City's website at www.amarillo.gov and click on "Planning" under "Departments." You're also invited to contact the Planning Department with any questions you may have at (806) 378-6290.

Summer Recreation Program Addresses Needs

by Pam Cognasi, Recreation Supervisor

The Summer Recreation Program has consistently grown year-to-year with more than 51,000 in attendance in 2014—an 11 percent increase over 2013. One of the most valid reasons for the program's success, other than the amazing staff working at the sites daily with the children, would have to be the organizations in our community that provide additional sponsorship for the program.

In the past, we have found children throughout our city looking in dumpsters for leftover food from our Summer Lunch Program. Unfortunately, our Summer Lunch Program grant does not allow us to send any of the food home with the participants. The summer recreation staff was heartbroken over this reality and brought their concerns to the Recreation Coordinator, Wendy Baca. She listened to these concerns and went out into the community letting every person, group or business who took interest in the future of our youth know the situation. She presented the Summer Recreation Program to various businesses, organizations and non-profit groups throughout the year. Wendy explained the needs of the program and how the youth would benefit from their support. Her passion for the program was definitely received by many and has provided numerous partnerships and funding to help the program grow. After partnering with Snack Paks for Kids, Teen Leadership and Adult Leadership of Amarillo & Canyon, we were able to provide the children in our community with Snack Paks to eat over the weekend. The leadership groups contacted various restaurants who donated food to the park sites in the afternoons to ensure the children received two meals a day. All park sites were targeted (17 park sites and three evening gym programs), especially the children that attended our programs from 10 in the morning until 9 at night to remain in a safe environment.

In the past two years of having sponsors, we have taken on multiple challenges, but every year the sponsors have gone over and beyond. Our sponsors started off by providing hot meals for the children as well as school supplies including backpacks. In 2014, sponsors were able to provide school clothes and shoes for those children and families in need. **Thank you** to all of our sponsors and partners including, but not limited to, *Snack Paks for Kids, Teen Leadership and Adult Leadership of Amarillo & Canyon, Cargill, Bank of America, Border State, Xcel Energy, Toot n' Totum, Richardson Milling Co., Wells Fargo, Education Credit Union and Amarillo National Bank.* We couldn't have done it without you! City employees, please thank these partners who help make our Summer Recreation Program a success!



Parks & Rec Hosts 37th Annual Mayor's Half Marathon

by Rod Tweet, Parks & Recreation Director

The Parks and Recreation Department hosted the 37th Annual Mayor's Half Marathon event Sept. 20. Arguably the oldest half marathon race in the state of Texas, the Mayor's Half Marathon also includes a 5-mile race and a 2-mile race for those who one day may aspire to run the full 13.1 miles.

This year, 152 runners participated in the event with 52 runners participating in the half marathon. The youngest participant in the event was 8 and the oldest was 72. Awards were presented to the top three finishers in each race for each designated age group and included an overall award for the fastest male and female time. Joe Arellano and Tess Rusk were the top finishers covering the 13.1-mile

course with blistering times of 1:27:35 and 1:47:44, respectively. Our own honorable Councilmember, Dr. Brian Eades, participated in this year's race with a solid performance finishing second in his age group and representing the city in very fine fashion.

A tremendous amount of thanks goes out to Xcel Energy and United Supermarkets for their sponsorship of the event as well as the West Rotary Club of Amarillo for their volunteers and the Lone Star Runners Club for their race timing expertise. The race security and safety was provided by the Amarillo Police Department and Amarillo Emergency Service. Mark your calendar. Next year's event is scheduled for Sept. 19.



Parks and Recreation Director Rod Tweet poses with Councilmember Dr. Brian Eades, who, in addition to serving as mayor pro tem for this year's event, participated as well!

Safety Corner: Anticipate Icy Conditions

by Charlie Sanchez, Safety Director

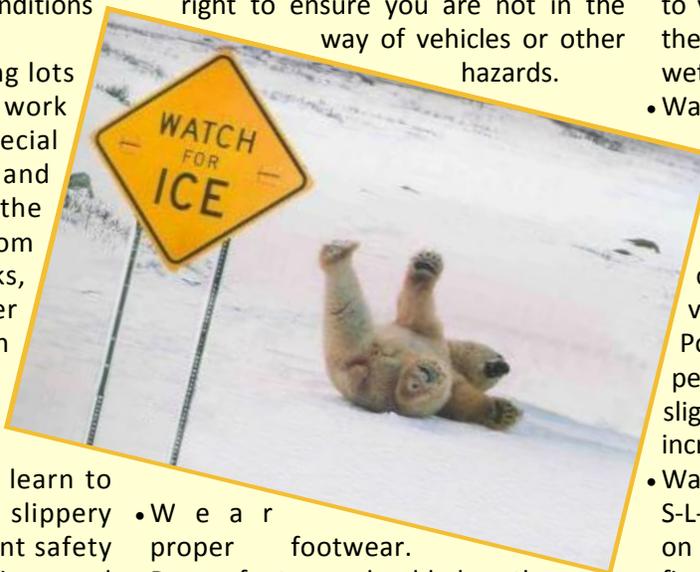
Every winter the hazard of driving in snow and icy conditions are noted, but rarely is walking on snow and ice addressed. Falls account for more than one million injuries in the U.S. annually. The most common accident is the slip and trip due to workplace clutter, uneven surfaces, spills, and conditions resulting from snow and ice.

Walking to and from parking lots or between buildings at work during winter requires special attention to avoid slipping and falling. No matter how well the snow and ice is removed from parking lots or sidewalks, employees will still encounter some slippery surfaces when walking outdoors in the winter. It is important for everyone to be able to recognize these dangers and learn to walk safely on ice and slippery surfaces. Keep these important safety tips in mind while working and walking in these conditions:

- Anticipate ice. Be cautious of thin sheets of ice that may appear as wet pavement (black ice). Often ice will appear in the morning in shady spots or where the sun shines during the day and melted snow

refreezes at night.

- Plan ahead. While walking on snow or ice on sidewalks or in parking lots, walk consciously. Instead of looking down, look up and out and see where your feet will move next to anticipate ice or an uneven surface. Scan from left to right to ensure you are not in the way of vehicles or other hazards.



- Wear proper footwear. Proper footwear should place the entire foot on the surface of the ground and have visible treads. Avoid boots or shoes with smooth soles and heels. Instead, wear shoes or boots that provide traction on snow and ice; boots with a heavy treaded sole and a flat

bottom work the best. Mechanical slip-on over the sole devices i.e. Yak-Trak®, and ice cleats should be considered. Caution should be exercised while using these types of devices when transitioning from outdoors to indoors. Enter a building carefully. When you get to your destination, be sure to look at the floor as you enter, the floor may be wet from melted snow and ice.

- Walk in designated walkways as much as possible. Taking shortcuts over uncleared sidewalks, over snow piles, and other frozen areas can be extremely dangerous. Use special care when entering and exiting vehicles; use the vehicle for support. Point your feet out slightly like a penguin. Spreading your feet out slightly while walking on ice and snow increases your center of gravity.
- Watch where you are stepping and GO S-L-O-W-L-Y!! When going down or up on stairs, be sure to grip the handrails firmly and plant your feet securely on each step.

By following these tips, our quality of life will not be impacted due to injuries sustained from falling especially during the upcoming winter conditions.

TAKE SAFETY HOME.

Civic Center Complex Hosts Two Sold-Out Shows!

Bill Cosby

America's favorite funnyman, Bill Cosby, returned to Amarillo for his sold-out performance at the Civic Center Complex Auditorium on Sept. 20.

Cosby has captivated generations of fans with his comedy routines, iconic albums and best-selling books such as "Fatherhood". His comedy transcends age, gender and cultural barriers. As always, Cosby crafts stories around topics such as marriage and parenting with his singular point of view and renowned sense of humor.

Casting Crowns

As part of their *Thrive Tour*, Casting Crowns played to a sold out crowd on Oct. 4 at the Civic Center Complex Coliseum. The concert featured GRAMMY® nominee Mandisa and Dove Award nominees Sidewalk Prophets.

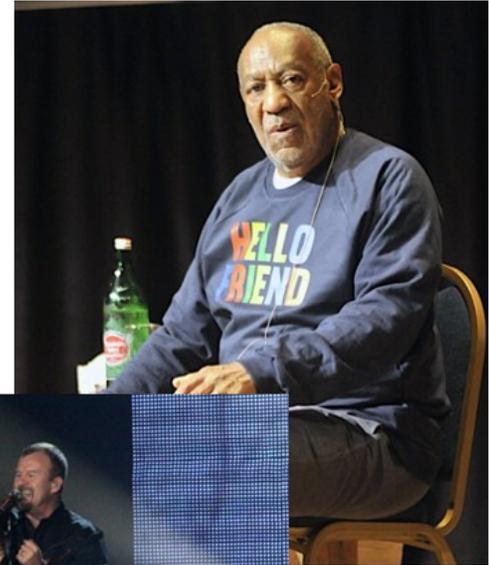
Casting Crowns has won numerous awards, including two American Music Awards, one GRAMMY® Award, 17 GMA Dove Awards and two Billboard Music Awards.

The songs on *THRIVE* are an extension of what lead singer/songwriter Mark Hall has been teaching his students at Eagle's Landing First Baptist Church in Atlanta, where he serves as youth pastor. The heart behind the project is for these songs to encourage believers to dig down into the roots of who they are in Christ so that they are fully equipped to reach out and share their faith with others.

For more information on great events hosted at the Amarillo Civic Center Complex, visit www.panhandletickets.com.



Meet. Play. Celebrate.



Vahue Scholarship Recipient Graduates Cum Laude

Congratulations to Monica Y. Ybarra, daughter of David and Elena Ybarra of Amarillo. David is employed by the City of Amarillo, and Monica was a recipient of the L. Ray Vahue Scholarship Fund in 2000, a fund designed to benefit City of Amarillo employees and their families.

Monica recently graduated *cum laude* from Oklahoma City University School of Law, receiving her Juris Doctor degree. She entered OCU Law as a Merit Scholarship recipient in 2011. During her first year, Monica was admitted into Phi Delta Phi, a prestigious legal honors fraternity. She focused her studies on energy law, earning a Certificate in Energy

and Natural Resources Law. She was heavily involved in law school leadership, serving as a class officer for three years and as president of the Second Amendment Shooting Club.

Monica passed the Oklahoma Bar Exam in July 2014 and was sworn in by the Oklahoma Supreme Court in September 2014. Monica now practices in the area of commercial litigation at Phillips Murrah P.C. in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The Ybarra Family is grateful for the support of the Amarillo community in helping Monica achieve this lifelong goal and would like to take this opportunity to say thank you!



Monica and David Ybarra share smiles after her graduation. David Ybarra is a Mechanic 2 at the Municipal Garage.

Hastings Named to Top Twenty Under 40



The Chamber of Commerce's Business Council and awards committee recently completed the judging and scoring of the more than 130 nominees for one of the prestigious Business Excellence Awards and Top Twenty Under 40 Young Professional awards. All of this year's winners were officially recognized at the Chamber's Annual Banquet Oct. 23 at the Amarillo Civic Center.

Among those recognized as a Top Twenty Under 40 honoree was Laura Hastings, Finance Director for the City of Amarillo. In order to be named a Top Twenty Under 40 winner, a person must be employed with an Amarillo-area company for at least three consecutive years, reside within 30 miles of Amarillo since 2011, and be younger than the age of 40 as of July 2014. These winners exemplify future leaders in our community based not only on their job performance, but on their commitment to community service and involvement.

Congratulations, Laura!

Quash Cyber Crime!

E-mail can be a powerful collaboration and productivity tool. Unfortunately, it also presents a convenient method



for cyber criminals to wreak havoc on computers and networks. These criminals attempt to trick an e-mail recipient into providing passwords or other sensitive information using a technique called "phishing." The fraudulent e-mail may also direct the recipient to a website where viruses or malware can infect the computer.

October is Cyber Security Awareness Month and with the rash of phishing attacks against City e-mail accounts, it seems like an opportune time to revisit this topic. There are a number of points which help to identify possible phishing attacks, but perhaps the most important thing to remember is to **BE SUSPICIOUS**. You can learn about Cyber Security Awareness Month on the City's intranet. Please take time to review the cyber security tips and give special consideration to our "Week 1" posting which covers phishing attacks.

As always, direct your questions or concerns to the Helpdesk by calling extension 4288 or by e-mailing @Helpdesk.

From the Pantry ...

Prepared by Margaret Payton, MBA, RD



APPLE-STUFFED ACORN SQUASH

Serving size: 1/6 squash

Total servings: 6

1 acorn squash, cut in half lengthwise and seeded
 1/2 cup unsweetened applesauce
 2 tablespoon butter, melted
 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
 1/4 teaspoon salt

1. Preheat the oven to 400°F. Place the squash halves cut side up on a rimmed baking sheet.
2. In a medium bowl, combine the remaining ingredients; mix well. Distribute the mixture evenly in the squash halves.
3. Bake for 1 to 1 1/4 hours, or until tender. Cut each squash half lengthwise into thirds, and serve.

Exchanges: 1/2 Starch; 1/2 Fat

Calories 62; Calories from fat 37; Total Fat 4g, Saturated Fat 2g; Cholesterol 10 mg; Sodium 138mg; Carbohydrate 7g; Dietary Fiber 2g; Sugars 3g; Protein 0g

2014 Open Enrollment Information

This year the Health Plan Administration Department initiated open enrollment during the month of October. Many of the presentations to departments have been completed, but as a reminder:

- If employees do not wish to make any changes to your health, dental, vision, or life insurance coverage, you do not need to return any forms.
- If you wish to participate in the Flexible Spending Account program, you must return the completed form to the Health Plan Administration department.
- Forms are due back the Health Plan Administration Department no later than Nov. 10, 2014 at 5 p.m.

Promotions/Transfers for September 2014

Name	OLD		NEW	
	Title	Department	Title	Department
Anthony DeLaCruz	Mechanic Intern-hrly	Transit	Communication Tech Asst.	Communications
Shaun McDonald	Library Assistant	Library	Librarian II	Library
Robin Malatesta-Young	911 Operator	AECC	Support Services Coord.	AECC
Zachry Allen	Utility Worker-hrly	Street	Utility Worker	Street
Anthony Castro	Utility Worker	Solid Waste Collection	Residential Equip. Op.	Solid Waste Collection
Jordan Melendez	Utilitiy Worker	Wastewater Collection	Residential Equip. Op.	Solid Waste Collection
Billy Cooper	Park Technician II	Park Maintenance	Bus Driver	Transit
Casie Stoughton	Asst. Dir. of Public Health	Public Health	Public Health Director	Public Health
Alex Ary	Utility Worker	Water Production	Utility Maint. Mechanic	Water Production
Consuelo Cruz	Utility Worker-hrly	Surface Water Treatment	Utility Worker	Surface Water Treatment
Trent Stephens	Custodian I	Surface Water Treatment	Treatment Plant Op.	Surface Water Treatment
Margarito Benitez	Utility Worker	Wastewater Collection	Utility Operator	Wastewater Collection
Angel Hernandez Jr	Utilitiy Worker-hrly	River Road WWT Plant	Utility Worker	Dept. of Aviation
Jason Ritchie	Utility Worker-hrly	Street	Equipment Operator III	Drainage Utility

Employee Milestones

Name	Department	Title	Years
Lisa Fisher	AECC	Senior Comms. Sup.	5
Gloria Johnson	AECC	Emergency Comm. Specialist	5
Raymond Cross	Airport Operations	Security Operations Agent	5
Christopher Russell	Municipal Garage Ops.	Mechanic I	5
Linda Carroll	Street Department	Administrative Asst. I	5
Roderick Kenneybrew	Street Department	Equipment Operator I	5
Larry Hubbard	Transit Maintenance	Utility Worker	5
Thomas Hightower	Police	Sergeant	15
Wes Hill	Police	Sergeant	15
Robin James	Police	Corporal	15
Charles Jewett II	Police	Corporal	15
William Lang	Police	Corporal	15
Michael Mogelinski	Police	Corporal	15
Robert Mussyal	Police	Police Officer	15
James Peoples	Police	Police Officer	15
Angelica Perkins	Police	Sergeant	15
Dustin Ponder	Police	Sergeant	15
Paul Ware	Police	Corporal	15
Justin Young	Police	Sergeant	15
Vernie Lyons, Jr.	Solid Waste Collection	Residential Equipment Op.	15
Angela Venhaus	Utilities Office	Administrative Asst. II	15
Jan Sanders	Planning	Administrative Tech.	25

CHANGE YOUR CLOCK



CHANGE YOUR BATTERY

Does your family have an action plan in the event of a fire? Learn more at the Amarillo Fire Department's website dedicated to providing fire safety tips at <http://fire.amarillo.gov>

Also, remember to test your smoke alarms once a month to ensure they are working. Plus, replace the batteries in your smoke alarm once a year. In fact, the time change (spring or fall) is the perfect time to do so. Don't forget, we fall back next week—on **Nov. 2!**

Welcome to the COA Team!

Name	Title	Department
Barbara Wentworth	Custodian I	Facilities
Charles Diaz	Admin. Asst.-hrly	Library
Felicia Jordan	Admin. Asst. V	Accounting
Tanner Howery	Utility Worker-hrly	Street
Derrian Pena	Utility Worker-hrly	Street
Kevin McGill	Utility Worker	Street
Angel Martinez	Utility Worker	Street
David Gutierrez	Commercial Equip. Op.	Solid Waste Collection
James Felts	School Crossing Guard-hrly	Traffic Engineering
Verone Dyer	School Crossing Guard-hrly	Traffic Engineering
Janet Thomas	School Crossing Guard-hrly	Traffic Engineering
Emily Attebury	Enviromental Health Inv.-hrly	Environmental Health
Brianna Whitehead	Food Safety Specialist I	Environmental Health
Jose Carrillo	Cart Attendant	Ross Rogers Golf Course
Damien Salas	Utility Worker-hrly	Park Maintenance
Justin Hunter	Utility Worker-hrly	Park Maintenance
Tiffany Smith	Admissions/Concessions-hrly	Zoo
Monica Sanchez-DeLaCruz	Admissions/Concessions-hrly	Zoo
Umeka Johnson	Admin Assistant-hrly	Community Devpt.
Uriel Diaz	Meter Reader 1	Utility Billing
Jessica Solis	Treatment Plant Op. I	Surface Water Treatment
Dennis Henley	Utility Worker	Water Distribution
Cory Warren	Utility Worker	Water Distribution
Ethan Clark	Utility Worker	Wastewater Collection
William Nelson	Utility Worker	Wastewater Collection
Kyle Drake	Utility Worker	Wastewater Collection

Congratulations September Retirees!

Peter Young
Solid Waste
20 years

Alma York
Accounting
25 years

Kay Shelton
Payroll
27 years

Max Romero
APD Civilian
33 years

Smile of the Month!



One of the unique aspects of our jobs as City of Amarillo employees is the opportunity to make a difference in people's lives. You never realize what people remember about the service we provide until something as simple, yet gracious, as a thank you note makes it way to Human Resources.



One recent note was from an Oklahoma woman who was picking up a birth certificate so her son could get a passport. Her note stated "Again, I found the staff helpful and with very pleasant, helpful attitudes. They even printed off a map with directions to Canadian, Texas." She used the word "again" because about six to eight years ago, she needed help obtaining a birth certificate from another county for her granddaughter. Our actions and our attitudes always leave an impression—many of which last for a long time. What kind of impression will you leave on the people you encounter today?

Firefighters Fight Breast Cancer



At a recent meeting of the City Council, Amarillo firefighters showed off T-shirts they are selling throughout the month of October to help raise funds for cancer research. Get yours at stations 5, 7, 8, 9, 12 & 13 for only \$10. Proceeds will benefit the Harrington Cancer Foundation and Komen Greater Amarillo.

CITY SECRETARY'S OFFICE

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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

P. O. Box 1971
Amarillo, TX 79105-1971

Court is in Session

Municipal Court Week is Nov. 3-7

By Karla Abernethy-Thetford, Juvenile Services Coordinator

Amarillo Municipal Court is gearing up for Municipal Court Week. Not only will court employees be thanked for their service, they also will take this opportunity to educate and give back to the community.

"The mission of the Amarillo Municipal Court is to efficiently process and administer all matters coming into and before the Municipal Court," says Court Administrator Victoria Medley. "The Municipal Court strives to promote a high level of public confidence."

Informational materials will be available to the public throughout the week of Nov. 3—7. Tables will be placed in the court lobby with brochures and flyers about a variety of topics including traffic safety, car seat safety, court structure and distracted driving. The public will be invited



to submit entries for a booster seat, as well, and the winner will be selected Friday, Nov. 7.

A food drive will be conducted throughout the week with proceeds going to High Plains Food Bank.

"We felt this was a great opportunity to give back to our community," says Karla Abernethy-Thetford, Juvenile Services Coordinator. "High Plains Food Bank is one of our Community Service agencies and we know the need and work that needs to be done to make sure the people of Amarillo have food. We want to be part of the solution."

Food donations will be collected at the court building beginning Monday, Nov. 3 and continuing through Thursday, Nov. 6. All City departments are invited to participate.