



For Amarillo City Employees
Volume 4, Issue 9 • September 2014

ACE Employee Newsletter

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9/11 Remembrance Ceremony Group Effort



The City of Amarillo hosted a ceremony recognizing the 13th Anniversary of the events that forever changed the world on September 11. The ceremony was a collaborative effort including the Honor Guards of the Amarillo Police and Fire departments, with all public safety and support agencies in Potter and Randall counties. Julie Meier from Coffee Memorial Blood Center sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" while representatives from the Amarillo Fire Department played the bagpipes and drums.

Photos courtesy of Jennifer Torres, APD Photo Technician

Library Issues Read Aloud Challenge

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

Every child. Every parent. Every day. That's the watchword of a national initiative joined in October by the Amarillo Public Library.

Read Aloud 15 MINUTES is a non-profit organization dedicated to making reading aloud every day for at least 15 minutes the standard in parenting and child care. According to the **Read Aloud** mission, "When every child is **read aloud** to for **15 minutes** every day from birth, more children will be ready to learn when they enter kindergarten, more children will have the literacy skills needed to succeed in school, and more children will be prepared for a productive and meaningful life after school."

Youth Services Coordinator Cindi Wynia says joining the **Read Aloud** Campaign was an easy decision for the Amarillo Public Library.

"The science is overwhelming. Parents, grandparents and other caregivers are a child's first teachers, and reading aloud to children can make an enormous difference in a child's educational attainment."

In fact, encouraging parents to read aloud to children has always been a mission of the Amarillo Public Library. In 2005, Wynia created *Laugh and Learn*—

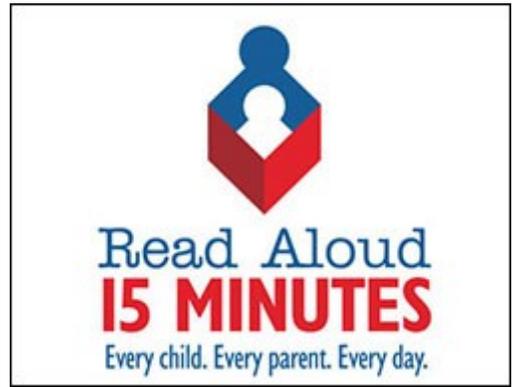
a unique Story Time especially for infants and toddlers. *Laugh and Learn* uses stories, songs and finger play to help develop pre-reading skills such as vocabulary, print awareness, letter knowledge and narrative skills.

Wynia says the program has been incredibly successful—growing to seven Story Times attended by roughly 300 parents and children every week.



"*Laugh and Learn* doesn't just teach the kids. It helps parents learn how to make the most of their reading aloud time at home. By joining the **Read Aloud 15 MINUTES** campaign we hope to encourage other parents to make the commitment to read aloud to their children every day."

Amarillo Public Library is kicking off the campaign with a *Take the Pledge*



Challenge in October. Families who visit any of the Library's five locations and commit to reading aloud to their kids for 15 minutes every day will receive a free reusable book bag along with information about how to begin—and continue—a daily reading aloud habit. All five Library locations will feature displays of great titles to **read aloud**, and families that take the **15 MINUTES** pledge will be featured on the Library's Facebook page.

Wynia says the best thing about the Read Aloud campaign is that it's proven, easy to accomplish, and absolutely free.

"All you need is a library card and the willingness to spend some quality time with your child every day. It's a very small investment with huge rewards."

For more information, call Youth Services at 378-3089. To learn more about **Read Aloud 15 MINUTES**, visit their website at www.readaloud.org.

Prevent the Flu: Get Immunized!

Local, state and federal public health officials recommend that influenza immunization should begin as soon as influenza vaccine is available in the community. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), all people **6 months of age and older** should get a flu vaccine. Vaccination is especially important for people at higher risk of severe influenza and their close contacts.

For the 2014–15 flu season, influenza vaccines in the U.S. will contain the same vaccine virus strains as those in the 2013–14 vaccine.

It is important to get the flu shot each year as protection can decrease from year-

to-year if a booster is not given. The Department of Public Health and the City's Health Plan Administration is offering seasonal flu shots at no cost to full-time and part-time employees as well as retirees and dependents who have coverage on the City's Group Health Plan. The immunizations will be provided on Monday, Sept. 29 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Amarillo Civic Center South Exhibit Hall. Bring your Employee ID or Health Card.

If you are unable to attend the flu clinic on Sept. 29, you may use your Maxor card at any participating pharmacy to receive a flu vaccine at no cost to you. For more information, call 378-4235.



Safety Corner: Powered Hand Tool Safety

by Charlie Sanchez, Safety Director

The powered hand tool can be the most versatile tool in your tool box. But, unless you follow all general and safety instructions that apply to all powered hand tools, both corded and cordless, these tools can be dangerous, cause serious injuries, and possibly death. Powered hand tools range from drills, side grinders, saws, routers, planners, sanders and nail guns.

Rotating at upwards to 11,000 rpm on a 4-inch side grinder, can you imagine what type of injury could result from a grinding disk fracturing if safety devices are removed or tampered with and we are not following the safety rules? Listed below are safety rules we need to follow while operating any powered hand tool.

Start with a Safe Work Area

- Keep your work area clean and well lit. Poor housekeeping invites accidents.
- Do not operate powered hand tools in explosive atmospheres, near flammable liquids, gases or dust. Keep bystanders, children and visitors away when using these tools. Distractions can cause you to lose control of the tool.

Electricity Can be Dangerous

- Grounded tools (three pronged cords) must be plugged into a properly grounded installed outlet.
- Double-insulated tools have a polarized plug (one blade is wider than the other). This plug will only fit into the outlet one way. Do not change the plug in any way.
- Do not use AC-only rated tools with a DC power supply.



- In damp locations, only plug your tools into a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI). If the work area does not have a permanent GFCI on the outlet, use a plug-in GFCI.
- Do not abuse the cord, carry the tool by its cord, or pull the cord to unplug the tool. Keep the cords away from heat, oil, sharp edges or moving parts. Replace damaged cords immediately.
- When using a powered hand tool outside, use an extension cord marked for outdoor use with "W-A" or "W" which means the cord has a sunlight (UV) resistant outer jacket and wet location rated conductors.

Good Personal Safety is a Must

- Always read and understand the tool's operator's manual, tool markings and instructions before use of the tool.
- Do not use any powered hand tool while under the influence of medication, drugs or alcohol.
- Dress right. Do not wear loose clothing, jewelry, etc. that can be caught in any moving part of the powered hand tool.
- Always use proper Personal Protective Equipment.
- Inspect the powered hand tool before each use and correct any defective part of the tool.

When you finish using your powered hand tool, store the tool in the case. To avoid accidental starting, unplug the cord, remove batteries or lock the off switch, when the tool is not being used. Keep tools out of the reach of children and people unfamiliar with the tools.

TAKE SAFETY HOME.

FREE BOWLING PARTY AT EASTRIDGE LANES

By Emmett Autrey, Director of Utilities

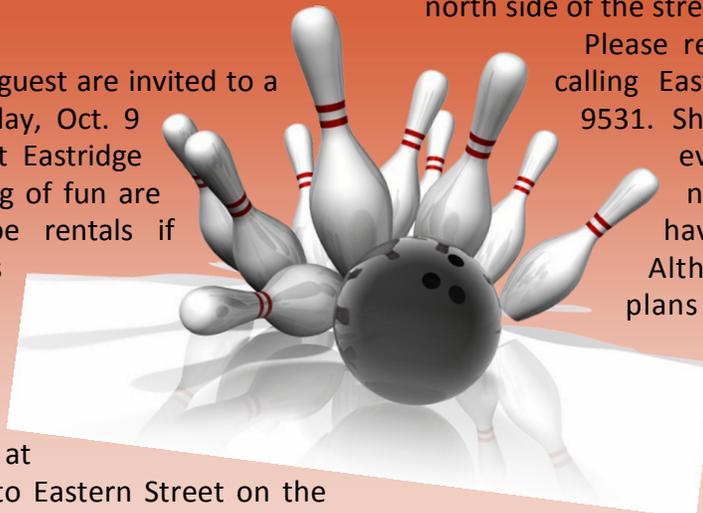
All employees and an adult guest are invited to a free bowling party on Thursday, Oct. 9 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Eastridge Lanes. Included in this evening of fun are two hours of bowling, shoe rentals if needed, light refreshments and door prizes. We hope you can make it and enjoy an evening out with co-workers and friends.

Eastridge Lanes is located at 5405 E. Amarillo Blvd. close to Eastern Street on the

north side of the street.

Please reserve a lane in advance by calling Eastridge Lanes at (806) 383-9531. Should we fill the lanes on that evening, we will offer another night so that everyone will have a chance to join the fun.

Although there is no obligation, plans are to form a short season City Employees bowling league. We will have all the details about this fun league on the night of the party.



P&R Hosts Eastridge Park Splashpad Ribbon Cutting



After several delays due to much needed rain, the City of Amarillo's Parks & Recreation and Community Development departments were pleased to finally get to host a ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the completion of the Eastridge School Park improvements project.

In addition to the new splashpad, improvements include shaded seating, restrooms, multi-use court, extended walkways and trail lighting around the perimeter of the park. The ribbon cutting featured a welcome by Parks & Recreation Director Rod Tweet and remarks from Councilmember Lilia Escajeda.

The City's community partners in this project were also recognized. They included the Eastridge Community, Chartwells, Brown Construction, Amarillo Independent School District, Community Development Advisory Committee, Kraftsman Commercial Playgrounds and Water Parks, High Plains Contractors and Management Group, Reynolds Engineering Associates, Eastridge Elementary School and several City departments including Building Safety, Community Development, Park Maintenance and Water Distribution.

Amarillo Parks & Recreation Hosts Parks Tour for Board

Did you realize the City of Amarillo has 64 parks throughout the community? That's a lot to oversee, not just for the Parks & Recreation department, but for those who serve on the Parks & Recreation Commission, too. That's why Parks & Recreation hosts an annual parks tour, where commission members get to visit selected parks and hear updates on continued park improvements and program and project updates, including several other park locations earmarked for future projects.

This year's visit included a stop at Medi Park to view the location of a proposed new barrier-free playground which will be a public-private partnership between the City and the Southwest AMBUCS.



Above: Staff and Parks & Recreation Commission Board members visit Medi Park. Pictured from left to right are: Bryan Shelhamer, Pat Westbrook, Clint Stoddard, Victor Cardenas, Elizabeth Perez, Pam Cognasi, Rachel Cunningham, Park Commissioner David Hudson, Rod Tweet, Andy Tarkington and Park Commissioner George DeCoux.

Below: Playgrounds aren't just for kids! Victor Cardenas and Brent Beam take a break at the JSM playground.



Stoughton Named New Director of Public Health for Amarillo Bi-City-County Health District

The City of Amarillo announced earlier this month that Casie Stoughton, BSN, RN, CPH, has been promoted to Director of Public Health for the Amarillo Bi-City-County Health District. Stoughton started her career with the City 11 years ago and most recently served as Assistant Director of Public Health.



Dr. Roger Smalligan, who serves as the Health Authority for Potter and Randall County, has worked with Ms. Stoughton for the past four years and is serving as her mentor/supervisor as she completes her Masters of Public Health at the University of North Texas.

“Casie shows exceptionally good judgment with regard to complex clinical situations that arise at the Health Department and her nursing training and background has proven to be a great help in that regard,” Dr. Smalligan says. “As just one example, she was recently very involved in the investigation of a botulism outbreak in Amarillo and she received praise from the Centers for Disease Control group that came to town to help with the investigation.”

Ms. Stoughton graduated cum laude with a BS in Nursing from West Texas A&M University and also graduated with honors from Amarillo College. She is currently involved in a number of projects, including the MEND program which raises awareness and prevention of childhood obesity, the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program, Community Health Improvement Coalition and Public Health Department accreditation, just to name a few.

“This is a huge honor to be selected as the next Director for Public Health for the City of Amarillo,” Ms. Stoughton says. “As an Amarillo native, I look forward to protecting the health and wellbeing of the community I call home.”

Ms. Stoughton also is involved in a variety of activities including the Texas Association of County and City Health Officials, Panhandle Child Fatality Review Team, National Association of City and County Health Officials, Texas Public Health Association, Panhandle Safe Kids Coalition, Metropolitan Medical Reserve Corps, Texas Society of Infection Control Practitioners and many more.

Away from work, Ms. Stoughton enjoys spending quality time with her husband and their son.

From the Pantry ...

Prepared by Margaret Payton, MBA, RD



ROASTED PEPPER PIZZA

Serving Size: 1 slice

Total Servings: 8

- 1 pound frozen bread dough, thawed
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- ¼ teaspoon garlic powder
- ¼ teaspoon onion powder
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- 3 medium bell peppers (red, green, and yellow, or any combination), sliced into 1-inch strips
- ⅔ cup light spaghetti sauce
- 1½ cups (6 ounces) shredded mozzarella cheese

1. Preheat the oven to 450° F. Coat a 12-inch pizza pan with nonstick cooking spray. Using your fingertips or the heel of your hand spread the dough so that it covers the bottom of the pan.
2. In a small bowl, combine the oil, garlic powder, onion powder, and black pepper. Add the bell peppers and toss to coat, then place in a 9" x 13" baking dish. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes, or until peppers are fork-tender.
3. Spread the sauce over the dough and sprinkle with mozzarella cheese.
4. Place the roasted peppers over the cheese and bake for 13 to 15 minutes, or until the crust is crisp and brown. Cut and serve.

*Exchanges: 2 Starch; 1 Vegetable; 1½ Fat
 Calories 256; Calories from Fat 76; Total Fat 8g (sat fat 3g); Cholesterol 12mg; Sodium 533mg; Carbohydrate 34g; Dietary Fiber 3g; Sugars 5g; Protein 11g*

Promotions/Transfers for August 2014

OLD			NEW	
Name	Title	Department	Title	Department
Ricardo Barrera	Communication Technician	Communications	Electrician I	Facilities
Alton Hancock	Instrument Operator	Engineering	Engineering Aide II	Engineering
Jesus Valdez	Utility Worker	Street	Equipment Operator I	Street
Henry Leal	Transfer Truck Driver-hrly	Solid Waste Disposal	Residential Equipment Operator	Solid Waste Collection
Jon Monroe	Utility Worker-hrly	Solid Waste Collection	Utility Worker	Solid Waste Collection
Matthew Watts	Utility Worker	Wastewater Collection	Utility Worker	Solid Waste Collection
Rosa Duran	Bus Driver	Transit	Transit Dispatcher	Transit
Katherine Thomas	Admin. Assistant I	Community Development	Housing Technician	Community Development
Christopher Sierra	Utility Worker	Street	Utility Worker	Wastewater Collection
Carlton Waterhouse	Treatment Plant Operator-hrly	River Road WWT Plant	Treatment Plant Operator	River Road WWT Plant
Jason Williams	Industrial Waste Inspector	Laboratory Administration	Environmental Technician	Laboratory Administration

Employee Milestones

Name	Department	Title	Years
John Duke	Airport Operations	Electrician I	5
Chris Kleinpeter	Airport Operations	Building Mechanic III	5
Thomas Oscarsson	Airport Operations	Airport Operations Manager	5
Kevin Scot Plunk	Athletic Administration	Athletic Specialist	5
Larry Zamora	Building Safety	Chief Plans Examiner	5
Robin Crow	Library	Administrative Assistant I	5
Jake Medrano	Municipal Court	Deputy Court Clerk & Adm. Asst.	5
Terry Herndon	AHD Public Health	Management Analyst	10
Dina Lill	Box Office Administration	Asst. Box Office Mgr.	10
Dwight Garrison	Comanche Trail	Greenskeeper II	10
Toni Berry	Health Plan Administration	Administrative Assistant V	10
Randall Highsmith	Hollywood Rd. WW Treatment Plant	Utility Maint. Mechanic II	10
Patti Owen	Legal	Administrative Assistant V	10
Cahterine Hughes	Park Maintenance	Utility Worker	10
Joie Taylor	Parks & Recreation Administration	Administrative Assistant II	10
Ronald Skeen	Solid Waste Collection	Commercial Equipment Operator	10
Jose Valdiviezo	Solid Waste Disposal	Transfer Truck Driver	10
Hugh Fowlkes	Civic Center Promotions	Asst Civic Center Mgr	15
Sallie Coffman	Housing Assistance	Asst Comm Develop Admin	15
Cary Younger	Park Maintenance	Park Horticultural Supervisor	15
Travis Muno	Urban Transportation Planning	Senior Planner	15
Jorge Rivero	Waste Water Collection	Water & Sewer Supervisor II	15
Michael Jones	Fire Operations	Fire Driver	20
Terrance Ford	IT Print Services	Office Administrator	20
Peter Young	Solid Waste Collection	Route Supervisor	20
Dewey Mincey	Fire Civilian Personnel	Fleet Manager	25
Leslie Ray Albright	Fire Operations	Fire Driver	25
Kevin Brown	Fire Operations	Fire District Chief	25
David Dunn	Fire Operations	Fire Driver	25
Jeffrey Kimbrell	Fire Operations	Fire Captain	25
Barry Leon Robinson	Fire Operations	Fire Captain	25
Marcus Lusk	Fire Support	Deputy Chief	25
Howard Harlowe	Municipal Garage Operations	Assistant Shop Superintendent	35

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www.facebook.com/CityofAmarillo



www.twitter.com/CityofAmarillo



[www.youtube.com/City of Amarillo](http://www.youtube.com/CityofAmarillo)

Welcome to the COA Team!

Name	Title	Department
Isiah Nolan	Communications Tech Asst.	Communications
Jennifer Freel	Accounting Assistant	Accounting
Harold Bedell	Project Representative II	Engineering
Earl Keys Jr	Watchguard	Street
Kelton Long	Utility Worker	Street
Dominic Quintana	Utility Worker-hrly	Street
Jose Moreno	Animal Care Worker-hrly	Animal Management & Welfare
Carlos Cartagena	Bus Driver	Transit
Tyler Fischbacher	Mechanic I	Transit
Maxine Lofton	Admin. Assistant I	Community Development
Matthew Braden	Utility Worker	Water Distribution
Bruce Runels	Utility Worker	Water Distribution
Ronald McFalls	Utility Worker	Wastewater Collection
Robert Salazar	Utility Worker-hrly	Hollywood Road WWT Plant
Natali Zubia	Custodian I	Dept. of Aviation
Sherry Sanders	Attorney I	Legal
Luis Hernandez	Custodian I	Facilities
Naser Almufti	Building Mechanic III	Facilities
Jacob Thomas	Building Mechanic III	Facilities
Mary Escobar	Admin. Assistant-hrly	Library
Valerie Kuhnert	City Auditor	Accounting
Jayne O'Donnell	Admin. Assistant II	Street
Nick Valadez	Utility Worker	Street
Anthony Castro	Utility Worker	Solid Waste Collection
Francisco Jimenez	Utility Worker	Solid Waste Disposal
William Lutz	Utility Worker-hrly	Solid Waste Disposal
Kathy Camacho	Admin. Assistant IV	Police Civilian Personnel
Elisa Yara	Admin. Assistant V	Animal Management & Welfare
James Baze	School Crossing Guard-hrly	Traffic Engineering
Doris Dominie	School Crossing Guard-hrly	Traffic Engineering
Stephen Torok	School Crossing Guard-hrly	Traffic Engineering
Clarence Bolton	Bus Driver	Transit
Diane Chandler	Bus Driver	Transit
Jacob Ewing	Cart Attendant-hrly	Ross Rogers Golf Course
Taylor Lowe	Utility Worker	Water Distribution
Jimmie Wallace	Senior Programmer Analyst	IT

Congratulations August Retirees!

Laura Blount
Emergency Management
20 years

Municipal Garage Awards



You may have gotten a notice saying that the Municipal Garage was closed on the afternoon of Sept. 17. That's because they took a short break to hold an awards ceremony, recognizing employees for outstanding service. Among those honored:

SAFETY:

Sidney Webb

10 years of Safe Work Practices

James Umphress

10 Years of Safe Work Practices

DRIVER:

Corey Fletcher

5 Years of safe driving

Douglas Lemons

25 Years of safe Driving

SERVICE:

David Ybarra

15-Year Service Award



2ND ANNUAL POLICE BENEFIT FUNDRAISER

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3RD

Proceeds go to the Amarillo Police Benefit Fund which uses donations to assist Amarillo Police Dept. Employees and their families in times of extreme need.

11 a.m. • 3rd & Fillmore • \$7 Donation • Call 378-4257 or 378-9468 for more info

Smile of the Month!



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

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Amarillo 101 Class Gets Sneak Peek

The fifth installment of our Citizens Academy—Amarillo 101—is well underway and during a tour to the Service Center earlier this month, participants got a sneak peek inside the Public Health Department's new mobile health clinic. Staff is currently undergoing training and once in use, the mobile health unit will give residents of Potter and Randall counties increased access to medical services like HIV and STD testing, blood and urine sampling, immunizations and other services.