

CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE

July 31, 2023

Message from the Manager:

You all wrote my message for me this month, and what a beautiful story of service it is! Thank you all for all you do in service to our citizens and businesses. Now, let's talk about you!

Employee of the Quarter – 1st Quarter – Parks' John Leivan

This committee voted unanimously for the selection of John Leivan of the Harker Heights Parks and Recreation, as the Employee of the Quarter for the first quarter of 2023. John's service to the city has been impacted by everyone he encounters. He is loyal, trustworthy, dependable, hard worker, and most of all represents the City in the most professional manner. He is a great asset for the City of Harker Heights. It is without reservation that we select John Leivan for Employee of the Quarter.

Employee of the Quarter – 2nd Quarter – Public Works' Nate Nesbit:

This committee voted unanimously for the selection of Nate Nesbit of the Harker Heights Sanitation Department, as Employee of the Quarter for the second quarter of 2023. Nate sets the standard of a public servant. He is admired for his level of customer service as he leaves his impact on the community every day at the drop site. He greets our residents with a friendly face and is eager to help all those who come to the facility. Nate is trustworthy, dependable, and always happy to assist other Public Works employees without hesitation. It is without reservation that we select Nate Nesbit for Employee of the Quarter.

Administration

- Wilson Riley----- Human Resources Support Clerk (*new employee*)
- Melonie Matthewson----- 25 Year Service Pin
- Human Resources Department received the "We Hire Vets" award from the Texas Workforce Commission
- City Secretary's Office received the 2023 Achievement of Excellence Award

Superlatives:

- Little Miss Sunshine Award – Greatest lasting smile - Sara Clark, Records Management Coordinator
- The Invisible Cloak Award –Most likely to appear out of nowhere. - Clyde Hicks, Building Security Officer

Courts

- Tracy Zynda----- Deputy Court Clerk (*new employee*)
- Angela Lloyd-----PT Juvenile Case Manager (*new employee*)

- Promoted to FT Juvenile Case Manager on July 10th
- Melissa Chevalier Duenas ----- Achieve Level 1 Court Clerk Certification
- Municipal Court received the MTSI Traffic Safety Award

Superlatives:

- Light at the End of the Tunnel Award - Most Likely to See the Positive - Catharina Hoffman, Court Administrator
- Notetaker Award – Best Notetaker - Andrea Contreras, Clerk of the Court

Pet Adoption

- Sue Ellen Reynaga -----Kennel Technician (*new employee*)
 - Fear Free Shelter Training
- Kayla Seymour ----- Vet Technician (*New Employee*)
 - Fear Free Shelter Training
 - Euthanasia Certification
- Latasha Canton-----Animal Services Officer (*new employee*)
 - Basic Animal Control Certification
 - Euthanasia Certification
- Israel Acuna-----Animal Services Officer (*new employee*)
 - Basic Animal Control Certification
 - Fear Free Shelter Training
- Ethan Phillips-----Animal Services Officer
 - Herpetology Familiarization
 - Urban Wildlife of Texas
- Johnny Widener-----Animal Services Officer
 - Euthanasia Recertification
- Victoria Ellis-----Kennel Tech (*promotion*)

Superlatives:

The Paw Patrol Award – Most likely to make work fun and put in the hard work - Johnny Widener, Animal Services Officer

Finance

- Chelsea Jennings ----- Finance Customer Service Clerk (*new employee*)
- Nichole Ratliff ----- Utility Billing Clerk (*new employee*)
- Kelsey Coffman ----- 10 Year Service Pin
- Finance received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

- Finance Received the GOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the FY 2023 Budget

Superlatives:

- Vampire Award- Most Likely to Arrive Earliest and Leave Latest - Susan Crawley, Finance Analyst
- Dewey Decimal Award- Most Organized - Eve Vasquez, Utility Billing Clerk

IT

- Joshua Delong-----15 Year Service Pin

Superlatives:

- The Almost a Cop Award – Most likely to help the Police Department - James Miller, System Support Technician

Police Department

- Randy Stefek ----- 20 Year Service Pin
- John Moseley ----- 15 Year Service Pin
- William Greenwood --- 10 Year Service Pin
- Ryan Raben ----- Police Officer Trainee (*new employee*)
- Savannah Christopher ----- Police Officer Trainee (*new employee*)
- Michelle Fowler----- Police Officer Trainee (*new employee*)
- Melanie Ross ----- Telecommunicator (*new employee*)
- John Howell ----- Police Officer (*new employee*)
- Diana Lopez ----- Police Officer Trainee (*new employee*)
- Paige Land ----- Telecommunicator (*new employee*)
- Massoud Howayeck----- Police Officer (*new employee*)
- Brianna Daniel ----- Police Officer (*new employee*)
- Jose Villacorta ----- Police Officer (*new employee*)
- Leslie Itibus ----- Records Clerk (*promotion*)
- Dennis McAfee -----Police Lieutenant (*promotion*)
- Kelly Metress ----- Police Sergeant (*promotion*)
- Russell Dunagan ----- Police Sergeant (*promotion*)
- Louis Hill ----- Police Officer (*promotion*)
- Pablo Virgen ----- Police Officer (*new employee*)

- Matthew Enos ----- Police Officer (*new employee*)
- Police Officer of the Year – Officer Dustin Weaver

Superlatives:

- Skydiving Award - Most Likely to Take Risks - Cesar Valdez, Police Officer
- Fashion Week Award -Best dressed - Lawrence Stewart, Admin officer to the Chief

Planning

- Dan Phillips----- 5 Year Service Pin
- Eric Moree----- 10 Year Service Pin
- Richelle Otero ----- Administrative Assistant (*new employee*)
- Fabian Brooks ----- Code Enforcement Officer (*promotion*)
- David McCoy---
 - Passed the Texas Code Enforcement Officer Exam
 - Achieved Code Enforcement Officer in Training Certification from TDLR
- Michael Beard----
 - Awarded the ICC Bluebonnet Chapter’s Walker, Childers, and Muns Member of the Year Award
 - Installed as the Treasurer for the Bluebonnet Chapter of the International Code Council
- Courtney Fye-----
 - Installed as the Secretary for the Bluebonnet Chapter of the International Code Council
- Cen-Tex Sustainable Communities Partnership recognized as Phantom Warrior (Yvonne Spell is the Chairperson)

Superlatives:

- The Mary Poppins Award – Greatest helper - Courtney Fye, Building Official Secretary
- The Sorry Not So Sorry Award – Best De-escalator - Calvin Fleming, Code Enforcement Officer

Fire

- Brad Alley ----- 30 Year Service Pin
- Jacob Cardona -----15 Year Service Pin
- Jason Moore -----5 Year Service Pin
- Betty Delong-----20 Year Service Pin
- Michael Licavoli-----15 Year Service Pin

- Zachary Gauthier -----5 Year Service Pin
- Isaac Perez ----- Firefighter/EMT (*new employee*)
- Jeremy Albright -----Firefighter/Paramedic (*new employee*)
- Mark Mata ----- Firefighter/Paramedic (*new employee*)
- Daniel Regan-----Firefighter/Paramedic (*new employee*)
- Luke Furness-----Firefighter/EMT (*new employee*)
- Kellie Mozek ----- Driver/Pump Operator (*promotion*)
- Justin Elliott -----Fire Lieutenant (*promotion*)
- Justin Read ----- Driver/Pump Operator (*promotion*)
- Jacob Cardona ----- Battalion Chief (*promotion*)
- Charles Brummett ----- Lieutenant(*promotion*)
- Nicholas Olson ----- Driver/Pump Operator (*promotion*)
- Rene Fernandez-----Lieutenant (*promotion*)
- Jonathan Gutz-----Driver/Pump Operator (*promotion*)
- Firefighter of the Year – Stuart Kiefer (Driver/Pump Operator)

Superlatives:

Squirrel Award – Greatest Stash in their Desk - Betty Delong, Executive Assistant

Library

- Angela Sabino ----- Library Executive Assistant (*new employee*)
- Library received the Texas Municipal Director’s Association Excellence Award for 2022

Superlatives:

I Was Blown Up for Science Award - Encouraging science exploration - Heather Heilman, Library Clerk

Public Works

- Charles Adams ----- 15 Year Service Pin
- Chris Hanson-----5 Year Service Pin
- Eric Alton-----5 Year Service Pin
- Davin Dick ----- Drainage Light Equipment Operator (*new employee*)
- Alejandro Gonzalez Salcedo----- Water Service Worker (*new employee*)
- Alexander Lujan ----- Water Service Worker (*new employee*)
- Isaak Llorente ----- Water Service Worker (*new employee*)
- Jamorion Stanford-----Wastewater Maintenance Technician (*new employee*)

- Leslie Stevens----- Utility Specialist (*promotion*)
- Benjamin Becerril----- Crew Leader (*promotion*)
- Patrick Wilson----- FOG/Collections Operator (*promotion*)

Superlatives:

Knight Award - Most Likely to Save the Day - Todd Maxon, Water Field Supervisor

Parks

- Casey Brazzil-----25 Year Service Pin
- Sabrina Jackson-----15 Year Service Pin
- Henry Nash-----10 Year Service Pin
- Duston Wilson -----Light Equipment Operator (*new employee*)
- Karina Bueno -----Part Time Recreation Aide (*new employee*)
- Kiarrah Carlisle -----Athletics Coordinator (*new employee*)
- Wesley Alvarez -----Athletics/Aquatics Coordinator (*new employee*)
- Alexandra Beaver -----Recreation Manager (*new employee*)
- Billy Stevens -----
Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPI) Designation

Superlatives:

- Leslie Knope Service Award - Tireless dedication - Adam Trujillo, Activities Center & Special Events Manager
- Ron Swanson Ingenuity Award – Most likely to share resourcefulness - Billy Stevens, Crew Leader

David

“Hang on the walls of your mind the memory of your successes. Take counsel of your strength, not your weakness. Think of the good jobs you have done. Think of the times when you rose above your average level of performance and carried out an idea or a dream or a desire for which you had deeply longed. Hang these pictures on the walls of your mind and look at them as you travel the roadway of life.” – James Whistler

General Updates:

New Hires:

Welcome to all our new hires:

Ileana Alexander hired for the position of Lifeguard on July 3rd
Shannon Stephens hired for the position of Fire Chief on July 10th

Joshuah Larremore hired for the position of Firefighter/EMT on July 10th
Miranda Jones hired for the position of Part Time Receptionist on July 28th

Promotions:

Congratulations to all those promoted:

Tamara Williams promoted to the position of Part Time Library Clerk on July 1st
Patrick Morris promoted to the position of Part Time Library Clerk on July 8th
Angela Lloyd promoted to the position of Juvenile Case Manager on July 8th
Davin Dick promoted to the position of Mechanic on July 24th

Fire Marshal Brad Alley Retires: Fire Marshal/Deputy Fire Chief Brad Alley retired on July 28 after 30 years of service with the City. A retirement celebration was held on Friday, July 28, for Brad at the Central Fire Station. We wish Brad all the best in his retirement!

July Kudos Award Winners: Congratulations to our July Kudos Award Winners Planning's Kristina Ramirez and Admin's Sara Clark. These fine employees' work was noted and acknowledged by others. We are so proud of them and how they represent the organization. They are role models for us all. Many more Kudos Awards to come throughout the organization!

Recess Challenge Team Winners: Our most recent challenge was a group relay called the Recess Challenge. Teams were comprised of five employees from various departments. The winning team was I Will Sur-Five which was led by Calvin Fleming. Congratulations to team I Will Sur-Five and to all who participated!

July Challenge – Great Work Staying Healthy Cards: This fun challenge was a way for us to be mindful and to express the healthy behaviors we see our co-workers doing. 30 employees received a "Great Work Staying Healthy" card!

August Challenge – 10 Minutes to Stretch: Ready to be stretched?? August's challenge is a 10 minute per day stretch challenge. This can be done even at work! Check your email or contact HR if you don't have information on the challenge. I know I'm looking forward to being more purposeful in stretching!

Parks Bash: July 29 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. is Parks Bash at Purser Park. Join the Parks and Rec staff and Public Library staff for a fun day of archery, bounce house, Nerf wars, and more.

Cuts with Cops: PD's Healthy Homes Division is hosting a Cuts with Cops event on August 6th for KISD students to receive free back to school haircuts.

Back to School Supplies: PD's Healthy Homes Division is collecting donations of Back-to-School supplies for KISD students who need supplies for the upcoming school year.

Farmers Market: The Harker Heights Farmers Market is ongoing and runs through October. The Market is held in the City Hall parking lot. Come out and get fresh vegetables and other interesting and unique crafts!

Variety's iCanShine Bike Camp: The Recreation Center partnered with Variety's iCanShine Bike Camp this month utilizing adaptive bicycles and a specialized instructional program to help local children with special needs become lifelong independent riders. Thank you to HH Mayor Michael Blomquist and Officer Howayeck for stopping by the camp to shake hands and pose for pictures.

Spotlight on Service:

Sara Clark Impresses: Citizen Richard Keagle wrote to thank Admin's Sara Clark. Mr. Keagle wrote, "Stopped by City Hall this morning and Sara – works in the Administration Office – was extremely helpful and polite when I asked for assistance. What really impressed me was when a citizen asked her where the Utility Department was and Sara, without hesitation, said "let me show you" and escorted the person to the Utility Department. Impressive. Our City is fortunate to have staff such as Sara."

Richelle Otero Shows Initiative: Planning Director Kristina Ramirez thanked Richelle Otero recently. She specifically was appreciative of Richelle's initiative to learn how to get information and not just seeking answers to questions.

Lyndsey Amundson is Noticed: Assistant City Manager Jerry Bark wrote to thank HR's Lyndsey Amundson. Jerry wrote, "Lyndsey Lou – Oh how much I appreciate YOU!!! Thank you for taking time out of your schedule to be a part of the Employee Recognition Ceremony. Your work did not go unnoticed and I for one KNOW how much work & stress it can be on top of our everyday duties. You help make this place a wonderful City and I'm glad that you chose us a LONG TIME AGO!"

Ursula Paddie Works Hard: Assistant City Manager Jerry Bark wrote to thank Admin's Ursula Paddie. Jerry wrote, "Thank you for being a part of the team that HIGHLIGHTED our employees yesterday. I wanted to let you know that all the hard work behind the scenes, DID NOT go unnoticed. Thank you again for being a part of Team Heights."

Lorissa Byse Brings Joy: Assistant City Manager Jerry Bark wrote to thank IT's Lorissa Byse. Jerry wrote, "Thank you for the work that you put into our Employee Recognition Ceremony. Our City employees enjoyed themselves at the event and it's because of teammates like you!"

Wilson Riley Rocks: Assistant City Manager Jerry Bark wrote to thank HR's Wilson Riley. Jerry wrote, "Thank you for bringing that smile to the Employee Recognition Committee! I wanted you to know that the work put in to make this a special day for the Departments and Employees was well received. You Rock!"

Kelsey Coffman Makes it Special: Assistant City Manager Jerry Bark wrote to thank Finance's Kelsey Coffman. Jerry wrote, "I know that there is not a ton of downtime within the Finance Department, so I want you to know how much we appreciate the time and effort spent to make it a special Employee Recognition Ceremony. Teamwork makes the Dream Work and you are definitely a vital part of that team."

Adam Trujillo is Handy: Park's Adam Trujillo was recently recognized by Assistant City Manager Jerry Bark. Jerry wrote, "We appreciate the work that you put into the Employee Recognition Ceremony!! Your event logistics came in handy and it made for a special afternoon for all of your fellow City employees."

Melonie Matthewson is a Lifesaver: The Carter BloodCare Team wrote to thank HR's Melonie Matthewson for her help on a recent blood drive. 13 donors were able to give blood through the drive!

Lyndsey Amundson Makes it Fun: HR Director Leona Clay recently thanked Lyndsey Amundson. Leona wrote, "I wanted to take a minute and tell you how much I appreciate the hard work you are putting into making these challenges fun and ensuring that we are including the public and the City council. Great job! Keep up the good work!!"

Ursula Paddie and Sara Clark Support: I recently shared my thanks for Admin's Ursula Paddie and Sara Clark for their assistance with the Employee Recognition Ceremony. I wrote, "Thank you both for all you did in support of the Employee Recognition program! Sara, I appreciate your ability to be flexible in how we set up for the service pins and for doing such a good job keeping them all straight!"

Lyndsey Amundson and Wilson Riley are Creative: I recently shared my thanks for HR's Lyndsey Amundson and Wilson Riley. I wrote, "Thank you both for all you did to make sure our Employee Recognition was extra special and meaningful for all involved. I had several employees come up to me at the end and express that this was the best recognition event we have had. That is a testament to your creativity and hard work! From a grateful City Manager – thanks!"

Gary Bates Makes Time: Gary Bates received a thank you note from Assistant City Manager Jerry Bark. Jerry wrote, "Not that you have all this free time on your hands but I wanted to thank you for taking time out of your schedule for the Employee Recognition Ceremony. Making sure that all the audio and video was up and running is never an easy task – especially when it's not our equipment. Thank you again for making it a special afternoon."

Sara Clark Provides Innovation: HR Director Leona Clay wrote to show her appreciation for Sara Clark's assistance. HR needed to find new file labels that match the system we use and Sara was able to create the label template for HR. Leona wrote, "Thank you so much for your hard work on creating the template for the colorbar labels. We appreciate you so much."

Jay Leach Serves It Up: HR Director Leona Clay wrote to thank Lieutenant Jay Leach with the PD for bringing by a lunch casserole for administration staff. Leona wrote, "From all of us in HR, we thank you from the bottom of our bellies, for such a delicious meal. Your kindness is truly appreciated by the Team."