

Message from the Manager:

Don't Wait

I'm certain many of you know the personal finance guru Dave Ramsey. Mr. Ramsey is a famous instructor of personal finance and particularly, debt free living. A meme was recently circulated attributed to him saying, "you can't ride a 401K, buy the motorcycle." If you know Dave Ramsey's debt free approach to all things financial, you understand the humor of hearing that statement attributed to him. He certainly would advocate for saving up and being a cash buyer if you wanted a motorcycle. Dave Ramsey's advice is sound when discussing physical possessions, but there are some things in life that we should not wait on. This truth struck me heavily this month witnessing the passing of people taken from this world way too soon. If you have read my updates over the years, you know I am big on living a life of purpose that is aligned with your personal goals and dreams. While I still hold that to be true, we can also be so busy on our journeys that we put other important things on hold.

Relationships are important. The pace of life can often distract us from moments to reinforce those relationships. We miss out on simple things like little conversations, a hug or writing a kind note. While these are all small things they are so meaningful! Think back on your own life and I know you will remember many conversations and kind gestures that are near and dear to your heart. Let those memories spur you to create new ones with those in your life that are important to you. We are not promised tomorrow, let alone the next minute. What actions will you take to make sure those you care about know how you feel about them?

I am so thankful for the encouragement that you all are to me. Your kind acts toward me spur me daily to be a better person and leader. Together we are making an impact on those that live and work in our City.

David

"In the blink of an eye everything can change. So forgive often and love with all your heart. You may not have that chance again.– Zig Ziglar

General Updates:

New Hires:

Welcome to all our new hires:

Amber Love-Clark was hired for the position of Sports and Aquatics Coordinator on August 5th

Remedios Duenas was hired for the position of Customer Service Clerk on August 19th

Gage Genthner was hired for the position of Animal Services Officer on August 19th

Emily Wallace Sammons was hired for the position of Records Clerk on August 27th

Promotions:

Congratulations to all those promoted:

Orlando Calderon De La Rosa was promoted to the position of Collections Operator on August 3rd

Darlene Prechtel promoted to the position of Executive Assistant on August 15th

Stephanie Hall promoted to the position of Planner on August 19th

Kaily Funez-Lenon promoted to the position of Deputy Court Clerk on August 19th

Jazmyne Lee promoted to the position of Juvenile Case Manager/Teen Court Coordinator on August 19th

Awards/Accomplishments:

Chris Mahlstedt and Ethan Gingerich achieve certified Fire Marshal certification.

August's Kudos Award Winners: Congratulations to Betty Delong, Mayor Michael Blomquist, Judge Billy Ray Hall and Cesar Valdez for being our August Kudos Award Winners! Wow, what great work you all do and we have many, many more kudos winners coming up!

HH-N-GO: The HH-N-GO bingo style challenge began on January 2. A new letter/number is pulled each week and there are specific things to do for that letter/number if you have it on your card. There is a game card for employees and one for citizens. The game helps us to get to know our organization better and for our citizens it helps them get to know the City better. You can still get a card and play so contact HR if you want to play! We had our first two winners in HH-N-GO in July and August brought two more winners: Angie and David Mitchell.

August Challenge – Better Beverage: The Better Beverage Challenge ends on August 30 and a drawing will be held on September 3.

Harker Heights’ Wine and Brew Festival: The Wine and Brew Festival will be held on September 14 at the 2410 Community Park from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Citizen Police Academy: Registration begins early September through September 30. The sessions will be Monday and Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., October 14 through November 20.

KISD Freedom Walk: This year’s Killeen ISD Freedom Walk will be on September 11 at 9:30 a.m. at Killeen High School.

Beginner Mexican Folklorico Dance: Registration for session two is now open! The class will be held on Mondays (September 23 – October 21). Class times are 6 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. for ages 9 to 13 and 7:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. for ages 14 to adults. The fee is \$45.

Fall Sports Registrations: Ability Soccer registration is now open. Fall Basketball registration opens September 2nd.

Basketball Camp: There will be a Basketball Camp hosted at the Recreation Center during the ISD Fall break. The dates are October 13 to 18 and registration begins on September 9.

Fall Community Garage Sale: The Fall Community Garage Sale will be held on Saturday, October 5.

National Night Out: National Night Out will be held October 1.

Farmers Market: The Harker Heights’ Farmers Market has hit its summer break. Look for more exciting Farmers Market action when the Market resumes on October 5!

Spotlight on Service:

Kiarrah Carlisle and Crystal Thomas Represent: HR's Kiarrah Carlisle and PD Officer Crystal Thomas were thanked by Police Chief Hawkins. Chief Hawkins wrote, "*I wanted to reach out to give a special thanks to your team and community services for the great work that has been done with recruiting potential employees. Our candidate pool has expanded, and I know it is a direct result from the efforts put in by the team. During the most recent hiring process, several of the candidates were very complimentary of Kiarrah Carlisle and Officer Crystal Thomas during their recent visit at a job fair that was conducted in Belton. They both have been a great representation of our city.*"

Parks Gets the Love: Parks recently had a citizen stop by to thank them for all they do by providing them with a case of Gatorade.

Michael Beard Impresses: A citizen wrote to share how impressive Building Official/Administrator Michael Beard was. The citizen had a concern with their home and Micheel "*responded incredibly quickly and provided a thorough explanation that put my mind at ease.*" The citizen stated they have "*never encountered a code inspector as responsive, thorough, and knowledgeable as Michael. His dedication and professionalism are truly exceptional.*"

Cesar Valdez is on the Case: PD Officer Cesar Valdez recently assisted a citizen with a traffic incident that the citizen was thankful for. The citizen wrote on social media about an incident where their vehicle was struck by a vehicle that left the scene. The citizen was happy with Cesar's quick response!

Heather Heilman Provides Joy: Library's Heather Heilman received a thank you email from a citizen. The citizen stated that writer's group lead by Heather had meant so much to her and that Heather helped her "*laugh and chat.*" She also stated, "*you are a light and a joy. I'm so grateful for you. So thank you for leading – I mean guiding – us. It really is such a joy.*"

Michelle Smart is Thoughtful: Finance's Annette Hammon wrote to give a kudos to Michelle Smart. Annette stated, "*I'm giving kudos to Michelle Smart. She took it upon herself to get the new customer service desk ready. She cleaned, organized and stocked supplies. A big thank you to her for thinking of it.*"

Officer Louis Hill Gets a Shout Out: A citizen wrote to thank Officer Louis Hill. The citizen wrote that Officer Hill was "*super nice and talked to me like a person, not down to me. He has a good sense of humor...He takes his job seriously without losing his humanity. Thank you, Officer Hill, for setting a perfect example of a law enforcement officer.*"

City Supports Students: A citizen wrote on social media of their appreciation of the City's Back to School Drive. The citizen stated, *"That's awesome, love my lil city, and all y'all do for the community."*

Streets and Drainage Impresses: A citizen called to thank Public Work's Streets and Drainage departments for mowing an area. The citizen stated the work looked great.

Heather Jenks Brings the Energy: Commander Ben Duiker wrote to thank Detective Heather Jenks. Commander Duiker wrote, *"For the Healthy Homes Back-to-School donation drive, Det. Jenks came up with a way to gain more participation from the entire Police Department. She designed promotional materials for the event and posted them in the PD. As a direct result the Department was able to increase the total number of assembled backpacks. The energy and enthusiasm for the donation drive was a direct result of Det. Jenks' efforts."*

Karry Fow is Noticed: Healthy Homes Coordinator Destinee Henderson wrote to thank PD's Karry Fow. Destinee stated, *"I want to say thank you to Karry for always going above and beyond to be a lending hand to Healthy Homes. She is eager to help in any way possible. Her efforts do not go unnoticed. Thank you, Karry for all that you do!"*

Library Collaborates: The Neurodivergent Friends thanked the Library for collaborating for materials, volunteers and space. The Friends stated, *"we are so lucky to have a community that supports one another."*

Ursula Paddie Goes Above and Beyond: HR Director Leona Clay wrote to thank Admin's Ursula Paddie stating, *"I wanted to give a shout out to Ursula for her assistance on Friday. I was the only person working in Human Resources Friday afternoon and was in the middle of out processing an employee, when an individual arrived and asked for an application. Ursula attempted to help the individual but there were no applications up front so she made me aware of it. Since I was wrapping up, I told her to let the person know I would be right with them. After I finished, I went up front, and Ursula told me she went online and printed the application so that the person would not have to wait. Kudos to Ursula for going above and beyond to locate and print an application so the person would not have to wait. Her assistance was truly appreciated."*

Crystal Thomas and Kiarrah Carlise Appreciated: The City received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Texas Workforce Commission for the assistance of PD Officer Crystal Thomas and HR's Kiarrah Carlise at a recent job fair.

Ursula Paddie and Sara Clark are Superstars: City Secretary Julie Helsham wrote to thank Admin's Ursula Paddie and Sara Clark for organizing the budget retreat. Julie wrote, "*multiple Councilmembers, Directors and staff members approached me expressing gratitude for your outstanding job organizing today's budget retreat. Your hard work and attention to detail did not go unnoticed. Thank you for all that you do!*"

Catharine Hoffman is Thoughtful: Court Administrator Cat Hoffman received a kudos from Finance's Susan Crawley. Susan wrote, "*she made the cutest little bouquet of roses just to brighten my day...I've kept the flowers on my desk all week and every time I look at them, it reminds me of how thoughtful she is. She truly warmed my heart and I could not thank her enough.*"

PD Makes the Cut: HR Director Leona Clay wrote to thank Chief Hawkins and the entire PD for their second annual Cuts with Cops. This program provides free haircuts/styles for students about to go back to school. Leona wrote, "*Kudos to you and your staff for doing a great job!*" I could not agree more. This is one of those programs that puts on display the heart for service that our team has.