

CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE

June 30, 2022

Message from the Manager:

I greatly enjoyed our time together at the Employee Recognition Ceremony! We have so much to be proud of! So many long tenured employees were honored with service pins. The number of certifications and other awards were immense since the last time we were able to hold a ceremony. The event culminated with the naming of our Employees of the Quarter for the first and second quarters of 2022.

The Employee of the Quarter Committee always has such a tough choice as so many of you are deserving. They did an outstanding job in selecting our two awardees – Adam Trujillo and Rose Ramon! I've mentioned before that leaders and mentors are found at every level of our organization and these two team members are that. For my message this month I leave you with the words of the committees that selected the two awardees. I find rebirth, energy, and lessons for my own walk of service within them.

Employee of the Quarter – 1st Quarter 2022

The committee voted for the selection of Adam Trujillo, Activities and Special Events Manager, as the Employee of the Quarter for the first quarter of 2022.

Adam has proven himself invaluable to the City of Harker Heights, and he does it with such good humor and no expectations in return. From filming story times and events, building a wall for artwork, creating a balloon archway, and staying late to help keep library staff and patrons safe during a tornado warning, Adam has served the City well beyond his everyday tasks. And what's more – he always finds a way to bring levity into just about any situation, any day, and that alone does wonders for everyone's morale.

It is without reservation that we select Adam Trujillo Employee of the Quarter.

Employee of the Quarter – 2nd Quarter 2022

The committee voted for the selection of Rose Ramon, Pet Adoption Coordinator, as the Employee of the Quarter for the second quarter of 2022.

Rose is an incredible asset to not only the Pet Adoption Center, but the City as a whole. She takes the time to talk to staff in other departments throughout the City and gets to know people individually because she truly cares about people. She makes coworkers feel appreciated with small gifts and favorite treats just to brighten their day. Rose goes out of her way to make everyone feel welcome.

Rose recently started bringing shelter dogs on field trips when she goes to City Hall, and often stops in at other departments as well, just to give everyone a chance to meet some of the dogs we have at the shelter. We've received great feedback about how much staff enjoys these visits from the shelter dogs! Rose is passionate about animal welfare and makes sure that potential pet owners know the responsibilities of owning a pet. She knows each shelter animals' story and what type of home or family would be a good fit for them.

Rose is dedicated and hardworking, often staying late to make sure work is completed. Rose goes above and beyond every single day, and we are incredibly thankful to have her as part of our team.

It is without reservation that we select Rose Ramon as Employee of the Quarter.

David

“I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy.” - Rabindranath Tagore

General Updates:

Welcome to Our New Hires:

Madeline Sims – Lifeguard on June 1st
Elizabeth Lim – Water Safety Instructor on June 1st
Richard Fierro – Wastewater Maintenance Technician on June 1st
Dalen Jones – Wastewater Maintenance Technician on June 2nd
Marcus Maple – Part Time Recreation Aide on June 6th
Ivan Vilchez – Water Service Worker on June 7th
Zoe Johnson – Lifeguard on June 22nd
Dylan Plake – Lifeguard on June 22nd
Bailey Greene – Aquatics Supervisor on June 22nd
Kylee Sharp Gonzalez – Part Time Student Clerical Assistant on June 28th

Fire Battalion Chief David Ayer to Retire: Fire Battalion Chief David Ayer announced his retirement effective July 29. A retirement celebration will be held on July 29th at 2 p.m. in the training room at FD’s Central Station.

Library Receives CAPS grant: The Library is thrilled to announce that it has received a Community Advancement Packages (CAPS) program grant from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission for the Library’s “Heights Heals” program. The Library will purchase items to make some spaces in the Library more comfortable for those patrons suffering from trauma and anxiety.

Fitness Challenge: Don’t forget to turn in your logs for June’s “walk to Chicago.” Even if you didn’t fully complete the journey you may still get some partial credit for your activities! It was a tough one! Look for more fun challenges in the future!

Parks and Rec Fest: Parks and Rec Fest will be on July 7 at Carl Levin Park from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Come out and celebrate all things Parks!

Splash Bash: Splash Bash will be held on July 30 in Kern Park from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Join in water slides, fun activities, and the largest water balloon fight of the season!

New Game Room: The Activities Center is offering a new Game Room on Mondays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The room includes fun board games, ping pong, and video games.

Hike Dana Peak: The GO Heights Program is offering a hike on Wednesday, July 6 at 6 p.m. at Dana Peak Park.

Family Hike at Millers Springs: The Library will offer a Family Hike at Millers Springs on Saturday, July 9 at 8 a.m. Start the day off right with a morning hike and exploration!

Adaptive Chair Yoga: Parks is offering a new class addition: Adaptive Chair Yoga. Adaptive Chair Yoga will be on Mondays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. and centers around using a chair, wheelchair, or other mobility device and is one of the gentlest forms of yoga.

Farmers Market: The Harker Heights Farmers Market is ongoing! Come out to the City Hall parking lot for fresh vegetables, crafts and much, much more! The Market is every Saturday morning from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Spotlight on Service:

Firefighters Read and Byrne Thanked: A citizen called to thank Tanner Read and Joe Byrne for a job well done. He said he called emergency services for his son who was not feeling well. He stated that after his son denied transport to a hospital, he was encouraged by paramedics to agree to transport and it saved his life. He is very thankful to our crew for doing such an awesome job.

Gratitude for FD's A Shift: A patient expressed her gratitude to the service provided to her by FD's A Shift.

City Assists: KISD wrote to the City to thank us for investing in their KISD Career Center. This was what KISD had to say: On behalf of the Killeen Independent School District and the KISD Career Center, thank you for taking the time to participate in our 2022 Graduating Senior Job Fair and investing in the futures of our Killeen ISD Seniors. We believe that the education the young men and women received during the job fair has better prepared them to be successful, productive citizens of our community. We received many positive comments from the staff, students, community members and our local businesses about the meaningful experience the fair was for everyone that attended, especially the students. Our success was in no small part due to business partners such as yourself.

PD's Wallace and Jenks Appreciated: Lieutenant Jack Wallace and Detective Heather Jenks were recently recognized by the Austin Police Department for their assistance in an investigation of a murder that occurred in Austin. Austin PD stated that their case would not be as strong as it is without the assistance of Wallace and Jenks.

Parks' Quinton Amerson Complimented: A resident called to compliment Quinton Amerson's work while mowing a City property. He really appreciated that Quinton walked the grounds before mowing to prevent damage to City equipment.

FD's Eunice Myers Serves: FD's Eunice Myers recently brought sweet cold treats to the Library staff. Library Director Lisa Youngblood wrote to thank Eunice for her kindness.

Public Works' Nate Nesbit Goes the Extra Mile: Admin recently made a stop by the City's drop site to deliver some cold treats to staff. While at the site a citizen approached Admin staff to let us know how much they appreciate the hard work of Nate Nesbit!

Parks' John Leivan is Responsive: Fire Chief Paul Sims wrote to give kudos to John Leivan. He states that John was responsive and has a can-do attitude. The FD appreciates John's knowledge and ability to fix problems. John communicates well and is always friendly.

IT's Lorissa Byse Helps HR: IT's Lorissa Byse recently helped HR put together calendars for "jean days" for the City. HR Director Leona Clay wrote to thank Lorissa for her assistance!

Court's Garners Award: A big thanks to Catharina Hoffman, Andrea Contreras, Genelle Rodriguez-Otero, Brittany Sanchez, Aaliyah Giadoo and April Edwards for working hard to garner the 2022 Municipal Traffic Safety Initiatives Award!

Admin Helps Stay Cool: Recently, Admin visited many of our outdoor crews during a hot day to deliver cold drinks and treats. This program was the brainchild of our HR Director Leona Clay and we all had a blast in serving our employees. Zach Dees and Henry Nash both thanked Admin for the treats.

Parks' John Leivan And Billy Stevens' Great Job: Assistant HR Director Melonie Matthewson wrote to thank John Leivan and Billy Stevens for their great work in installing the Rollok units for HR that secure employee files. Mel wrote that it looks awesome and that she appreciated them taking care of HR.

Customer Acclaims Finance Staff's Customer Service: A customer asked to speak with Finance Director Ayesha Lealiice about her staff. The citizen stated that the staff really knows customer service and how to ensure customers leave happy. She stated that she had always been served with extremely wonderful customer service from Finance staff and that she was very thankful for them.

Burl Lewis' Many Talents: The City Council Chambers was recently upgraded with new audio/visual equipment. The renovations left some unsightly areas around the dais monitors. Public Works' Burl Lewis looked at the issue and designed and built some metal plates that cover those areas. The work looks very professional and is much appreciated by City Hall staff!