



CITY OF BRYAN
The Good Life, Texas Style.™

BRAVO! BRYAN

Est 1871

City of Bryan Employee Newsletter

Summer 2015

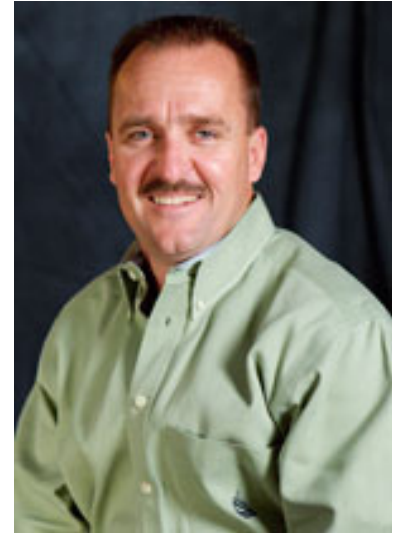
With the summer months officially upon us, there is no better time to take advantage of all that the City of Bryan has to offer! One of the things we value most at the city is maintaining a healthy work/life balance. The time you devote to your work is invaluable to our organization and is often at the expense of time with your loved ones. I hope that you are able to set time aside to spend with your family and friends this summer.

Downtown Bryan continues to be a source of immense pride for our community. Over the last 2 years alone, 20 new businesses have moved to the downtown area and more are anticipated in the coming years. In addition to restaurants and merchants, the downtown area is also home to a number of festivals and events. The 9th Annual Texas Reds Festival will take place on September 26 and 27 featuring wine, live music, and food and craft vendors from around the state. Other upcoming Downtown Bryan events include the Fiestas Patrias Mexicanas Festival and Parade on September 12, First Friday, and the Brazos Valley Farmers' Market held every Saturday from 9 a.m. until noon on 21st Street between Main Street and Bryan Street. These are all great ways to promote local businesses and keep our historical Downtown Bryan thriving.

We have had a number of successful events already this year, thanks to the hard work and dedication of our city staff. The annual Bryan City Cemetery Clean-Up Day was attended by approximately 70 volunteers, making it one of the best turnouts in recent years! The Bryan Animal Center's Pawpaloosa event at Buzz Hamilton Dog Park was a great success, leading to 3 adoptions and great exposure of our animal center to the community. During the month of July we celebrated Park and Recreation Month with Tuesday Movies in the Park at Tanglewood Park, Villa West Park, and Henderson Harbor Pool.

Family-friendly movies were featured with free admission at both parks and the regular entry fee at the pool.

The City of Bryan Parks and Recreation Department is also providing a number of classes for all ages this summer including karate, swimming, softball, basketball, and golf. As a reminder, City of Bryan employees have free access to city pools as well as Lake Bryan, and reduced fees for classes.



Finally, the City Council approved the construction of a new aquatic facility in Sadie Thomas Park to replace the pool that was closed in 2008. Public opinion is being collected, after which time the design and construction process can begin. The City Council and staff look forward to the completion of the project in 2016.

Again, I encourage you and your family to take advantage of the numerous summer events, activities, and programs the City of Bryan has to offer. The hard work and dedication you bring every day makes everything we do possible. So thank you for being a valued member of the City of Bryan family.

Have a safe, fun, and relaxing summer!

Kear

Bryan in the News

Rudder HS students donate obstacle course to Bryan Police K9 unit

Courtesy of: KAGS

Rudder High School welding students donated an obstacle course to the Bryan Police Department's K9 unit last month.

The welding students in Mr. White's class at Rudder High built the course as part of their spring project. Sergeant Chad Hanks and Officer Al Hauke repaid the students with pizza during their finals.

"It means a lot - the support of the program, the support of the department - which ultimately is going to help them - help the citizens in the long run, help their families at home," said Sgt. Hanks. "This was a huge benefit, and especially the quality of how it was built. This thing will be here long after I retire. You know, I'm not a welder, but it's very professionally made."

Police say between labor and parts, the gift saved taxpayers several thousand dollars that the department would have spent to hire someone else to build the course.

"We can put the dogs through it -- let them expend some energy and get some training value out of it as well -- and that's daily that we can get out of the course. We don't want the little obstacles that the K9 team may encounter on the way to the objective to interfere with them so that way they can go through the windows, go over walls and stuff like that with no problem," said Sgt. Hanks.

It also saves time.

The K9 team usually trains at Lake Bryan, for eight hours, once a week. With the new course, they say they can train more often. Police and dogs train together for about five months before they go out into the field.

"So that way when it happens on the streets, they'll flawlessly execute -- or should flawlessly execute -- whatever they're supposed to do. You know, find lost drugs, find some evidence that we need to locate. They're a lot of fun to watch," said Sgt. Hanks. "It helps us a lot to continue this program without any extra burden on the budget and taxpayers and stuff like that. The community coming out and supporting us -- so it definitely means a lot to us."

The department says there are still a few pieces of the course left to finish. They say they will have two more dogs by this October, pending city council approval.

City of Bryan municipal judge retires after 12 years



Courtesy of: KAGS

The City of Bryan held a retirement reception for the municipal court presiding judge of 12 years, Judge Latham Boone III.

Judge Boone received a number of gifts from Bryan City Councilman and Mayor Pro Tem Art Hughes, including a City of Bryan seal.

"Well it's been a great opportunity to serve the City of Bryan for these 12 years. I've seen a lot of people over that time that have come to my court and I've gotten to know the city and I'm very proud to have been part of it," said Judge Boone.



Did you know? The City of Bryan K-9 teams log hundreds of hours in training every year. They train together one day every week. This training keeps the teams sharp and prepared for their patrol duties and for their annual recertification.



Bryan in the News

State of the City Report Wins Top Honors in Texas

Bryan's first ever video State of the City Report won the first place TAMI award from the Texas Association of Municipal Information Officers (TAMIO) in the category of Best Electronic Report in the State of Texas.



In addition to the first place TAMI Award, the team won the Award of Excellence in the category of Best Promotional Item for the use of the "I Am Bryan" sign in its "Bigger in Texas – Better in Bryan" campaign. The Communications and Marketing team has been photographing community members holding this sign in a variety of settings as a companion to the State of the City report.

"It's an honor to be recognized by TAMIO for the State of the City Report," said Bryan Mayor Jason Bienski. "The City of Bryan has a lot to be proud of and our communications team has done an excellent job of highlighting and promoting the city. We know everything is better in Bryan, and now the rest of the State does too."

Bryan's communication team also won three Awards of Honor for the Culinary Classes Video, Culinary Classes Poster, and Best Media Relations Program.

The TAMIO Awards are the leading recognition program in Texas honoring excellence for municipal communication strategies. Awards were presented in 24 different marketing, print, video, special events, and technological service categories. The City of Bryan took home a total of five awards, a record for the City of Bryan.

"Our communications team has done an outstanding job in promoting the City of Bryan locally and across Texas," said Mary Lynne Stratta, Bryan City Secretary and Communications/Marketing Director. "They are always looking for new and innovative ways to share information about city services and the story of Bryan. We are very proud of their accomplishments."

Bryan Water Quality Report Debuts Water Conservation Game

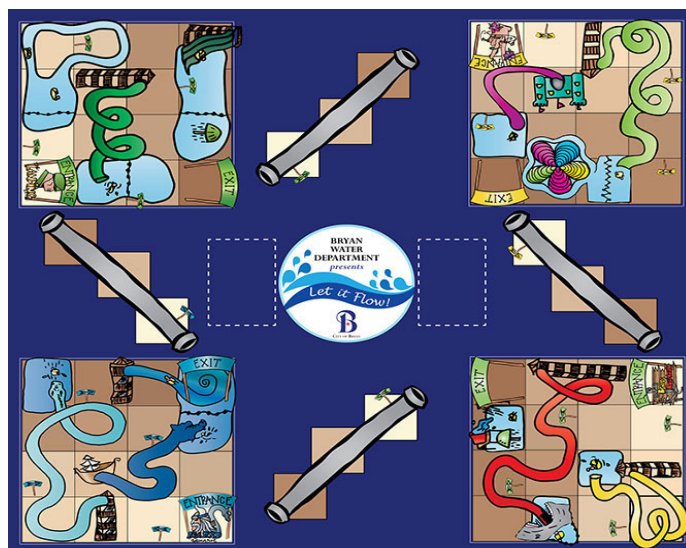
For the first time in 10 years, the City of Bryan's state-required water quality report was released in a new format. Instead of the calendar-style report, the City released an educational board game called "Let It Flow".

meeting the state law requirements to provide an annual water quality report. If children become water conservationists now, their life-long habits will have a lasting impact on our future water supply."

Water quality reports are distributed to all municipal water customers, under the Consumer Confidence Report rule. The City of Bryan Water Services Department sets out each year to creatively present the material to all water customers to encourage residents to read the report.

Students from the Bryan High School game club and the Rudder High School graphic design club helped with the concept and design process. "Bryan ISD students are very creative, and we saw this as a good way to share their talents with the entire community," said Mayor Jason Bienski.

"Let It Flow" combines water conservation tips with a family-friendly board game that is suitable for all ages.



"Let it Flow" will also be supplied to Bryan ISD fourth grade classrooms as a teaching tool to help educate children on the importance of water conservation.

"We hope that residents will find the game interactive and engaging," said Jayson Barfknecht, City of Bryan Public Works Director. "It's a great way to bring fun and education into the home to learn about saving our resources, while

To read or download a full version of the water quality report visit: www.bryantx.gov/water-services.

An online version of the game can be found at www.bryantx.gov/letitflow.

Developing the Future

➤ Special Training Event:

Using Mediation Techniques to Manage Drama in the Workplace: Consider All the Angles – Employees and Managers

Thursday, August 12, 8:00-9:30

Dysfunctional workplaces occur when conflict gets out of hand. Many of us prefer to avoid it completely, or compromise when we truly do not want to just to keep the peace – but sometimes that leads to anger and resentment, and even more tension. Come learn tips, tools and techniques for the best ways to handle drama and conflict, and reach respectful resolution, from an expert mediator who has resolved over 1000 workplace conflicts.

➤ 8 Tricks to Help You Stay on Task at Work:

- 1. Change your environment.** Create a kind of cocoon by stacking books or moving files to make yourself less accessible, when appropriate.
- 2. Be honest with yourself.** Accepting that distractions are out there is half the battle in keeping them at bay when your mind is tempted to stray.
- 3. Make a plan.** Preparing a list of what you need to get done or setting a timer can help you focus.
- 4. Take a walk.** When you do need a break, don't hop online—hop out of your chair and get some fresh air. Doing so provides a different kind of brain stimulation that can leave you refreshed.
- 5. Let others know when you're buckling down.** Put a sign on your workspace saying "on task" or "on deadline" when appropriate. Talk to your supervisor and team about everyone adopting the practice.
- 6. Send it to email.** "Can you email me that?" is a good way to get someone to stop talking to you while you're focused on working.
- 7. Hold your line.** If people ignore your sign or keep talking, defend the boundary you've set. Acknowledge that what they're saying is important and explain you want to give it your full attention when you're able to do so.
- 8. Bring it up off deadline.** Set up check-in times so you can communicate when it works for you.

-By Julie Morgenstern, professional organizer and author of *Time Management from the Inside Out*

-Adapted from "8 Ways to Destroy Workplace Distractions," Laura McMullen, *U.S. News & World Report*

➤ Special Training Event:

The Value of Psychic Income When Funds Are Limited - Managers Only

Thursday, August 12, 10:00 - 12:00

When resources are limited, it is not possible to resolve employee complaints and concerns with monetary solutions. So what can managers do to resolve such complaints? Come learn about the five core issues in workplace conflict: respect, trust, fairness, communication and psychic income, and gain new insights into options for resolution that are immediately and surprisingly successful.

Please register via the Learning Management System (LMS) or email Teresa McGinnis at tmcginnis@bryantx.go

➤ Summer Onsite Classes:

Register for summer training courses via the HR training & talent development webpage.

JULY						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

July 21st The City Organization Workshop 8:30-12:30 Relational or Job Specific Development Tracie Chapman, Power + Systems Inc.
July 23rd People Working Together 8:00-12:00 Relationship Development Marcel Brunel, The Brunel Group

AUGUST						
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30	31					

August 6th Managing Workplace Anxiety: Got Stress? - "1 Hour Class" 3:30-4:30 Job Specific Development Human Resources
August 12th Using Mediation Techniques to Manage Drama in the Workplace: Consider All the Angles 8:00-9:30 Leadership or Relational Development Amy Lieberman, Insight Employment Mediation
The Value of Psychic Income When Funds Are Limited - Managers Only 10:00-12:00 Leadership Development Amy Lieberman, Insight Employment Mediation

SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

September 3rd Customer Service Series <small>Required</small> Module 4: 8:00-10:00 Module 4: 1:00-3:00 Module 3: 10:15-12:15 Module 1: 3:15-5:15 Job Specific Development Kevin Tutt, Tutt & Daggis
September 17th Crucial Accountability 9:00-12:00 Leadership Development or Relational Development Greg Stephens, Vital Smarts (\$4,000)
Change Anything (Career Development) 1:00-4:00 Job Specific Development Greg Stephens, Vital Smarts

Employees are Better in Bryan

Congratulations!

Derek Merta has been promoted to BTU Electrical Engineering Supervisor.

David Dickerson has been promoted to Full Time Assistant Golf Course Maintenance Manager.

Melanie Tigerina has been promoted to the position of Buyer in the Purchasing Department.

Nick Koski passed his Residential Building Inspector exam.

Kyle and Kristen Rabe

Newest addition to the family:
Kayleigh Faye Rabe
Born: June 3, 2015

Kyle is an employee in our IT department at BTU.

Dave and Christina Cabrera

Newest addition to the family:
Cecilia Annalynn Cabrera
Born: July 7, 2015

Christina is the Assistant City Secretary

The **City of Bryan** received the MCCi Municipal Excellence Award to recognize the **Municipal Court/Laserfiche Document Management System** that has digitized and redesigned the workflow of municipal court case records.

Bryan Municipal Court was recognized in the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center Best Practices Magazine.

The **City of Bryan Parks and Recreation Department** has received the Certified Park and Recreation Professional certification. The Bryan Parks and Recreation Department continues to provide our community with wonderful facilities and programs to help make everything better in Bryan!



The Bryan Thunderbolts Track and Field Team has been a huge success this year. The Thunderbolt coaches are from BISD coaching staff and eight members from the Texas A&M University Track & Field Team. One of the coaches from the Texas A&M Track and Field Team was a 2015 Outdoor National Champion.

Welcome New Hires to City of Bryan

April - BTU

Customer Service:

Customer Service:

QSE:

Fleet:

Library

Bryan:

College Station:

Wastewater Collection:

Wastewater Collection:

Wastewater Collection:

Water Production:

Michele Kimich

Jacqueline Vasquez

Ayobola Fagbola

Christopher Davidson

Elaine Platt

Ashley Staff

Erin Dimas

Oscar Rodriguez

Darick Swan

Julian Davis

May -

Fire:

Fleet:

Library

College Station:

College Station:

Police:

Solid Waste:

Streets and Drainage:

Water Collection:

Water Distribution:

Water Distribution:

Water Production:

Joshua Meenach

Steven Kehlenbrink

Eileen Hager

Twila Johnson

Alexander Tran

Pablo Cortez

Michael Patrick

Brett Jurica

Bret Alvarado

Oscar Diaz

Edgardo Garcia

June -

Animal Services:

Animal Services:

BTU

Fiscal:

Production:

City Secretary:

Development Services:

Engineering:

Finance and Accounting:

Library

College Station:

Municipal Court:

Dana Swearingin

Paul Tollison

Amber Bureson

Sergio Maldonado

Bubba Bean

Stephanie Killam

Joseph Marino

Alicia Kenney


Katya Harris

Albert Navarro

On June 18, over 200 City of Bryan employees attended the Health and Safety Expo. This year's event featured 75 health and safety related booths. Scott Brooks, City of Bryan's Warehouse Supervisor, won the grand prize and went home with a FitBit Flex. Ismael Martinez, from City of Bryan's Water Services, won 2nd place in the Backhoe Rodeo. Thank you to all of the employees who came out to the expo to represent the City of Bryan!




Upcoming Events




Event Host:
TEXAS ROADHOUSE

Join Us For Our
TIP-A-COP FUNDRAISER
July 21-23, 2015
Texas Roadhouse
Dinner Time 5:30 - 10:00 p.m.



ALL TIPS PROVIDED TO THE OFFICERS SERVING YOUR MEAL WILL BENEFIT SPECIAL OLYMPICS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

Special Olympics Texas
specialolympicstexas.org




Start a New Tradition
Kick off your football weekend - or any weekend - with food, fun, friends and family! Unique dining and shopping in a historic small town atmosphere makes Bryan the perfect place to get the fun started.



bryantx.gov/kickoff

Get a Clue: Solving the Mystery of Who Rescued Who!



Join the Bryan Animal Center for a life-size game of Clue! You'll find out who-dun-it, and maybe even a new best friend!

Bryan Animal Center
2207 Finfeather Rd
August 1, 12-4 p.m.



Saturday
July 25, 2015



Enjoy the opportunity to *sample* a variety of craft beers at more than 12 locations in *Downtown Bryan!*

Visit DowntownBryan.com for more information

Do you have a question, comment, interesting fact, employee accomplishment or other story to tell?
Send it to comm@bryantx.gov

Save the Date



TEXAS WINERIES
*
STEAK COOKOFF
*
CRAFT BEER
*
ARTIST SHOWCASES
*
FOOD VENDORS

SEPTEMBER 26 & 27
TEXAS REDS
2015