

**Our Community,  
Our Home.**

I want to thank each and every one of the City of Lamar employees for the jobs that they do for the City. I am proud to say that I work for the City of Lamar and I work with some awesome people.

It's been a busy year for all departments at the City and look how much we have accomplished. We have a beautiful new ball 4-plex, a state of the arts electrical generating plant, out-standing award public safety departments, plans for a new water distribution system, a new timekeeping system, plans to upgrade the wastewater system, etc. etc... plus our normal daily routine activities. Everyone should be proud – like the plaque says the City of Lamar is “The Emerald of the Plains.”

I not only wanted to look back on what we have accomplished – I want to encourage everyone to look forward to the new year and what we're going to accomplish and the change that possibly is going to be there. Remember change is good because if we don't have some sort of change we go stagnant.

On that note I wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and glorious new year.

Bert Davis – Human Resources Director

**A NOTE FROM THE  
CITY ADMINISTRATOR**

With a nod to David Letterman, it is time for my top-ten list of things I have to do for Christmas:

10. Purchase a micro-Sony Walkman and miniature headband for hamster's gift to use on the exercise wheel.

9. Remind Chief Phillips that I still need those “get out of jail free” cards he promised me. (We're going to have a party!)

8. Remind myself, before New Year's Eve, that the City's health insurance does not cover tattoo removal.

7. Refuse to sing along when the choir sings “Dreaming of the white-powdery substance Christmas”—you can never be too careful what with testing and all.

6. Last year I picked up my Christmas turkey in June. I might want to do it a little earlier this year. They are threatening to give it to charity.

5. Did they really make a Christmas special called “No, YOU Open It—Christmas with the Sopranos.”

4. Why can't December have four paydays in it...show me where it says we can't!

3. Write a letter to Santa explaining, in detail with sufficient documentary evidence, why I should be scratched from the naughty list.

2. Visit the Colorado Beef feedlot to load up on stocking stuffers for (editor deleted reference—but you know who and if you don't just ask me).

And the number one item on my list;

1. Wish you and yours have a happy and safe Christmas and that 2010 brings your families much happiness.

And a special message to my teenager, about that Christmas gift request, I have only two words—dream on.

**CHRISTMAS EVE-DEC  
24<sup>TH</sup>**

Physicists worked out some of the logistics of Santa's gift delivery system: To give toys to say, 500 million children in more than 150 million homes, Santa's sleigh would have to hold 1 billion pounds of cargo and travel at 1,000 miles per second. This gives Santa 31 hours to finish all deliveries (crossing times zones), meaning he must visit almost 1,400 homes per second.

**OFFICIAL QUOTE**

There is little difference in people, but that little difference makes a big difference. That little difference is attitude. The big difference is whether it is positive or negative. - W. Clement Stone



**Congratulations to Kyle and Katie Kurtz on the birth of their son Krypten born October 24<sup>th</sup>.**

**Congratulations to Josh and Kayla Galloway on the birth of their daughter Carly also born on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Congrats to you too Grandma Lorna.**



### DEPARTMENT NEWS

**Police & E-911** - Officer Nathan Losa received the Employee of the Month award for August 2009. Officer Chad Miller received the Employee of the Month award for September 2009. Officer Todd Cope received the Employee of the Month award for October 2009. Detectives Juan Rodriguez and Kevin Ridder received Certificates of Achievement for their collaboration on a sexual assault case. Officers Sam Fief, Ray Macias, and Chad Miller received Certificates of Achievement for their work on solving a criminal mischief incident where there were multiple victims.

The new Spay or Neuter Grant started November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. There are \$20 off coupons to be used towards the spaying or neutering of your cat or dog. Coupons are available at all four area vets.

Welcome aboard Corey Reamy. Corey is the newest E-911 Dispatcher. Although we don't see these employees - we

know that they are there. Again Welcome Aboard Corey.

### Water/Wastewater –

Welcome back Justin Murdock. Justin took a leave of employment from the City, but has returned to the City working once again in the Water/Wastewater Dept.

Welcome aboard to Mitch Slough. Mitch has been hired in the Water/Wastewater Dept. Mitch is the brother of Police Records Clerk Sam Slough and has recently returned to Lamar after living on the western slope for awhile.

Next time you see Justin welcome him back and when you see Mitch welcome him to our great team.

**Building Codes** - The asbestos inspection program was a tremendous success. There were 29 structures inspected. Approximately 25% of those structures reported on thus far had reportable amounts of asbestos containing materials. So far, four of the structures have been demolished or removed and two have had remodeling work done. Not all the reports are back but the approximate cost of the program is \$12,000.00. Perhaps we can do this program again next year.

### Parks/Cemeteries/Recreation –

Jerry Chavarria has retired after 30 years of service, from the Parks &

Recreation Department on December 11, 2009. A retirement luncheon was held on December 4 at the Community Building.

Lamar Chamber of Commerce Holiday Basketball Tournament will be held December 17, 18, & 19 at the Community Building. Teams involved include: Wiley, McClave, Springfield, Granada, Kit Carson, Eads, Holly, and Walsh.

LeGault Flooring will be here to refinish the gym floor so there will be no open gym December 20 - 23.

Get your bike out and participate in the Polar Bear Bike Ride. It will start at 12pm on January 1, 2010 at the Community Building. After the ride all participants can enjoy a pizza party. Riders are encouraged to ride only the distance that they feel comfortable doing. Youth also can do a shorter version.

**Library** – The library has purchased a Wii system with a couple of games. We will hold our first Gaming Night on December 22nd at 4:00 p.m. This is for middle and high school aged kids. We also purchased a wii fit system and hope to allow use in the CEC for City employees. Still working on this.

The Library has partnered with the Colorado Workforce Center to help clients after the center is closed. The Library can offer limited help getting clients on the correct

website, but filling out forms is something we cannot do at this time.

The Library also received a couple of nice donations in November. The Libri Foundation donated over \$1400.00 for children's books and The Gasgar Foundation (Legacy Bank) donated \$1230.00 to purchase four receipt printers for the library to replace old ones that are over five years old. The staff and board is very thankful for the support provided by the City of Lamar and Prowers County to help fund the library.

For more information call Lamar Public Library 719-336-4632

“Empowering Minds for Over a Century”

**JUST A REMINDER**

Should you or your dependents have any questions regarding employee benefits, please feel free to contact myself Bert Davis, or Brenda VanCampen in the Administrator's Office or Helen Martinez at Light & Power.

*A December Poem  
The sun that brief December day  
Rose cheerless over hills of gray.  
And, darkly circled gave at noon  
A sadder sight than waning  
moon. - John Greenleaf  
Whittier*

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

The Labor Management Committee has reinstated "On the Spot Awards". Any employee that sees a fellow employee do an

exceptional job or other duty that is beyond their daily job can get an item and present it to that employee. All the committee members will have these awards. Just ask them for one. Committee members are: Rick Akers, Mike Machone, Jeremy Burkhart, Gary McCrea, Dorothy Comer, Bill Ffeilsticker, Robbie Batdorf, David Cook, Victor Salcedo and Doug Tulloch.

**Safety Accidents  
By Department - 2009**

Administration	-	0
Library	-	0
Police	-	3
Fire	-	5
Bldg. Maint.	-	0
Light & Power	-	6
Streets	-	4
Sanitation	-	3
Bldg. Codes	-	0
Equip. Maint.	-	0
Water/Wstwtr.	-	1
Engineering	-	0
Parks	-	1
Cemeteries	-	1
Airport	-	0
Recreation	-	0
Vol. Firefighters	-	1

Congratulations to those individuals who were in groups with no accidents.

I would also like to thank the following Safety Committee members for their time and efforts:

- Houssin Hourieh – Chairman
- Pat Leonard – Vice Chairman
- Brian Phillips – Police Dept. Liaison
- Kyle Kurtz – Parks/ Cemeteries and Recreation Liaison

Steve Baca – Sts/Sanitation Liaison  
Curtis Wright – Water/Wastewater, Equip. Maint. & Engineering

If you have any suggestions on how to enhance safety in your department or anywhere within the City of Lamar, please contact a Safety Committee member.

Thanks again to everyone for making the City of Lamar a safe place to work.

**WEATHERING WINTER STORMS**

According to the National Weather Service, 70 percent of all fatalities related to snow and ice occur in an automobile, and 25 percent of all winter weather-related fatalities are people who were caught off guard by storms. If a winter storm strands you on the road:

- Tie a bright cloth to your antenna of door handle.
- Get out of your vehicle to look and make sure that the exhaust pipe is not plugged. After that, stay in your vehicle.
- Run the vehicle at 10 minute intervals for heat.
- Leave a window slightly open to ensure ventilation.

**REMINDER - IF YOU'RE SICK - STAY HOME**

With flu season on us – I would like to take this moment to encourage employees who are having flu symptoms to stay home until you no longer have symptoms - approximately 7 days or 24 hours following a break in fever.

Precautions include washing hands, staying in good health (e.g. getting enough sleep, being physically active, managing stress, drinking plenty of liquids, and eating nutritious foods) and avoiding those people who are sick. If your family member you're caring for exhibits flu symptoms, don't come to work to expose others. Self quarantine except for visits to a health care provider and pharmacy is the way to limit contagion.

Additionally the City will again as in past years, be paying for seasonal flu shots this year for City employees.

For more information on flu symptoms go to: [http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/general\\_info.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/general_info.htm)

### ***Eat Yogurt While on Antibiotics***

Antibiotics are wonderfully effective in killing off bacteria that cause illness and infections. Unfortunately, they also destroy the body's normal, beneficial bacteria, leading to such side effects as diarrhea and yeast infections. To maintain the "good" bacteria and prevent side effects, the Cleveland Clinic recommends eating eight ounces of yogurt with active cultures during each day that you take antibiotics and for another week or two after you have completed the course. Not all brands of yogurt contain active cultures, so read the container carefully.

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU**

Happy Birthday to those with birthdays in November/ December.

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

Thank you to employees who work so hard and who are celebrating anniversaries with the City:

#### **NOVEMBER**

Heather Burkhart – 10 yrs.  
Dorothy Comer – 16 yrs.  
Samuel Fief – 1 yr.  
Chris Jara – 5 yrs.  
Gilbert Longoria – 1 yr.  
Eldon Longworth – 43 yrs.  
Luis Madrid – 2 yrs.  
Gary McCrea – 1 yr.  
OJ Pierce – 1 yr.  
Evan Smith – 9 yrs.  
Misty Warren – 6 yrs.

#### **DECEMBER**

John Arial – 6 yrs.  
Steve Baca – 4 yrs.  
James Gill – 1 yr.  
Shawna Hodge – 1 yr.  
Anthony Lane – 1 yr.  
Pat Martinez – 2 yrs.  
Ed McKinley – 16 yrs.  
Kevin Ridder – 3 yrs.  
Victor Salcedo – 3yrs.  
Brandley Stonerock – 2 yrs.  
Bret Werle – 2 yrs.

**Way to go Eldon** and all employees who are celebrating anniversaries with the City of Lamar. We appreciate all you do for the City!!!!

### **FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

As of January 1, 2010 all City employees, while operating any City of Lamar vehicle, must wear a seat belt - as per state law and the City of Lamar's Safety Policy and Procedures Page 13 – V. Safe Working Practices and Policies, Section 5-07

**Equipment Operation :** "C. Seat belts shall be worn and secured at all times when the vehicle is moving. D. All drivers of City vehicles shall comply with all state, county and local rules and regulations governing the safe and legal operation of vehicles." If an employee is observed by a Lamar Police Officer not wearing a seat belt while operating a City vehicle, the employee will be warned the first time and will be ticketed thereafter.

### **JUST A REMINDER**

Remember the use of the Community Building is free to all City employees. There is a reduced annual pass rate for family members at the Community Building; a second family member is \$50.00 a year and an employee's family membership (3 or more) is \$125.00 a year.

### **OFFICES CLOSED**

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day - Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> and Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009

New Year's Day – Friday, January 1, 2010

