ISSUE 21

City Times
NEWSLETTER

Check out some of

WHAT'S NEXT

below!

View more events lawtoncalendar.com

- **Soulful Story & More**: Coordinated through Lawton Public Library in February
- **CIP Community Forum**: 6-8 p.m. 2/3/20 @Cameron Baptist Church
- **LPO presents *Everybody Loves a Classic***: 7:30 p.m. 2/8/20 @McMahon Memorial Auditorium

CIP STAFF MEETINGS to be held in BANQUET ROOM @City Hall:

8 a.m. 2/3/20
1 p.m. 2/4/20
4 p.m. 2/5/20

Milestone Moment

Electronics at Ridgecrest Elementary School

James Peck of Electronic Maintenance, Public Works, visited second graders at Ridgecrest Elementary in January! He shared with them some of the duties of his division and then the students got an up-close look at a storm siren!

Photo courtesy, Lawton Public Schools

FEBRUARY 2020
CITY MANAGERS OFFICE
580.581.3301

The Mission of the City of Lawton is to provide efficient, effective and responsive services; promote a quality of life based on harmony and cooperation; and create leadership and opportunity for Southwest Oklahoma.

LNB & COL partner for Performance Management Audit

The generosity and financial assistance of the Green Family Trust and Liberty National Bank will bring a longtime community endeavor to fruition this year for the City of Lawton.

Lawton City Council approved a resolution to amend the City of Lawton's budget on Jan. 14, appropriating $70,000 – a donation from the Green Family Trust and Liberty National Bank – for a performance management audit. This audit will independently and objectively analyze, assess and evaluate "various activities, processes, governance and risk management, among other facets" of the City of Lawton in order to streamline services and make government more efficient.

"We are grateful for the support and partnership of the Green Family Trust and Liberty National Bank," said City Manager Michael Cleghorn. "Our organizations have a shared vision of growing and improving the Lawton Fort Sill community."

Liberty National Bank President Mark Henry and Bank Chairman Clayton "Buddy" Green said they approached the City of Lawton with the intent of giving back to a community they have served for more than two decades.

"We are a local bank with local ties and we care deeply about Lawton," Henry said. "This is an opportunity to further growth and development, as the services provided by the City of Lawton touch every member of the community we serve."

Henry believes that identifying areas of improvement will allow citizens to better collaborate and communicate in order to tackle community issues alongside City of Lawton leadership and elected officials.

City Management will utilize Novak Consulting Group to move forward with the initiative. In total, the audit will cost $142,800, with the City contributing the remainder of funds. The audit will be carried out over a period of several months and would ultimately consist of the development of an improvement plan. Findings of the audit will be made available to the community.

HAPPY, HAPPY

BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

February Employee Birthdays:

Andrew Foreman
Carl Matthesen
Kenneth Parsons
Moira Stobbe
Brett Kelley
Erick Gonzalez
Robert Kroboth
Marcinique Walker
Christopher Blessing
Kathleen Garcia
Mincie Beamesderfer
Jon Pendergrass
Trent Ulrich
Julia Greffin
Christopher Biegler
Tammy Huffman
Alicia Redding
Brett Kelley
Terry Sell
Alicia Hainline
Dustin Bennett
David Eppler
Mario Green
Carl Gray
Adam Jung
Lisa Ziler
Craig Akard
Tika Fisher
Gary Ellis
Greg Ellis
Jorge Macias
Sydney Perry
Kasey Pitts
Charlie Martin
Debrah Dollarhite
Taylor Orosky
Charles Turner
Erika Swain
Joseph Wheeler
Rhonda Ransom
Jason Swedlund
Aaaron Malloy
Michael Jones
Barry Sullivan
Adam Morrison
Amanda Brown
Ricardo Mitchell
Austin Hudson
Justin Dipprey
William Justus
Jonathan Santiago

Learn more about this City-supported initiative by clicking here!

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR YEARS OF SERVICE!

More than 50 staffers celebrate a Work Anniversary in February! View the list by clicking HERE.

Live Well,

Work Well

View the Higginbotham Health Newsletter for Feb. 2020 HERE.

WELCOME TO OUR TEAM!

New City Hires

Don Kousman
Myykhail Shaw
Gregory Gibson
Michael Williams
James McGaughlin
Alison Shepherd
Ramiro Lyles
Taylor Lapp
Tiffany Beemer
Wayne Kennard
Garret Keating
Brian Wilkerson
Bobbie Carson
Joseph Painter
Jimmy Curtsinger

Employee SPOT LIGHT

Administrative Policy 3-01, which you can view HERE, was implemented in 2013 and establishes a program of recognizing City of Lawton employees who have made substantial contributions to their divisions or who have otherwise contributed or performed in a manner which will reflect favorably on the individual and the City of Lawton.

All regular full-time and all regular part-time employees, with the exception of department directors and division supervisors, are eligible for selection. To nominate a co-worker, reach out to the Human Resources Department (ext. 392).

ELECTION DAY is FEBRUARY 11th!

View a **CIP Overview**

View a **Sample Ballot**

View **Voter Information**

PROPEL LAWTON
Pursuing Renewed Opportunity and Projects to Elevate Lawton

Beloved Lawton Police officer remembered for his heart, humanity, service to community

BY SCOTT RAINS, PUBLISHED 1/22/20 – The Lawton Constitution

When the name of C.H. Brazzel is mentioned, three words conjure the spirit of the man: compassion, integrity and humanity.

Since the 1970s, Brazzel's mischievous-yet-warm smile, kind personality and ever-present law enforcement uniform embodied the connection between law officers and the community.

From his decades as a Lawton Police Officer and, later, a reserve officer, he served his hometown. He embodied Robert Peel's oft-cited reminder that "the police are the public and the public are the police."

The 70-year-old Brazzel's death Monday morning from a wreck southeast of Lawton struck many in the community hard. The life-long lawman made a difference in many lives through his ongoing service.

Lawton Police Chief James T. Smith spoke highly of Brazzel. Although the two didn't serve together a long time in the scheme of things, an impression was made on the chief.

"He helped any way, anyone and anytime that he could," Smith said. "He truly was one of the best and most dedicated officers that the Lawton Police Department was privileged to have serve."

Sgt. Jeremy Coe said the loss of Brazzel continues to be absorbed within the department. And it hurts. "We are all still in shock," he said. "His loss left a void in our lives."

Coe said he hopes that Brazzel is remembered through the naming of the new public safety building under construction at Railroad Street and Gore Boulevard. He said the long-time officer made an impact on every officer he worked with and it would be a fitting honor.

"C.H. was a mentor to the rookie officers and showed us how to be compassionate towards others," he said. "He was a wonderful and caring man."

Brazzel knew a lot of people on both sides of the law. Coe said it had to do with the fact his senior officer cared about others like a family member "who saw the good in people."

A wicked sense of humor and fun was as much a part of Brazzel's character as any of the characters encountered throughout his life.

"He loved coffee and conversation; free food was probably his favorite," Coe said. "He had a great memory. He could remember the date, time and weather and what everyone was doing that day."

Comanche County Sheriff's Deputy Bobby Dodd, a retired member of the Lawton Police Department, remembered his friend of the past 34 years. He knew the senior officer through several names including Officer Brazzel, C.H., and Joe Friday in honor of the key cop in the old "Dragnet" TV series.

"I loved him," Dodd said. "I've got a lot of good memories of old Joe, about three-quarters of them I can't tell."
Dodd recounted the first time he really got to know who Brazzel was as, both as a man and an officer. It was while undergoing field training in 1986 and he was assigned to serve with Brazzel for two days.

"The very first morning I got in the unit with him, he said, 'Bear with me, I need to go check on some folks," he said. "We left the police station and drove straight to the Greiner School to visit all the special needs people attending the school."

Dodd said Brazzel introduced him to Col. Greiner as well as the late-Raymond McAllister.
"Little did I know they would both impact my life throughout my law enforcement career," he said.
After about 30 to 45 minutes spent at the school, spent hugging

and conversing with the students, Brazzel and Dodd then went to a local church that served breakfast to the homeless.

"We sat down and, C.H. didn't mind free food, me either at that," he said. "But we spent about the same amount of time as at the school chatting with these homeless folks. You get to know people and about people that way."

Brazzel's relationship with McAllister was something special. Two of the most recognizable Lawtonians around, when McAllister died in 2018, Brazzel's tribute to his late-friend at the funeral service remains a favored memory to many. Their bond was a familial as it was friendly. That was another trait of the late-officer's.

Comanche County Sheriff Kenny Stradley spoke of his friend of over 45 year's death. He was there to help carry Brazzel one last time from the wreckage Monday morning and said the emotions were thick.

"It still doesn't seem real," he said.

Stradley said he and Brazzel became friends while both served on the police department. It continued faithfully in the years since.

"He was a great friend," Stradley said. "There's friends and then there's friends you can always depend on. He was an above-and-beyond good guy."

Stradley said the friendship continued through Brazzel's run against him for sheriff. They decided that no matter who won, their friendship wouldn't be lost in the election's wake.

"The day after I won I went with him to pick up his campaign signs," he said. "We were such good friends. He's not a guy to lose that friendship for something like that. That's what kind of friends we were."

Brazzel was a friend to all in the community, Stradley said. Being kind and spreading it forward reaps that reward in return.

"No matter who you were, he was your friend, always taking the time to stop and say hello," he said. "That's a rare quality nowadays. He will be truly, truly missed by me and this whole community."

Stradley noted that Brazzel rarely had down time. Along with his law enforcement work, he was always working an odd job. He wasn't a man to stay idle for long, he said.

CONTINUE READING HERE