

MEET THE TEAM TUESDAY

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHT OF CITY OF LAWTON EMPLOYEES



Christine James
*Administrator
Housing & Community
Development*



City employee helps improve community, home lives

Christine James is the Administrator of the City of Lawton's Housing and Community Development Division. The division is in charge of managing two federal grants, a HUD grant and a CDBG grant.

The mission of the division is "to improve the quality of life for the community we serve by providing assistance to public service organizations; developing low-income neighborhood parks, streets, and utilities; and, through advocating for the development of affordable, safe and decent housing, provide rehabilitation, emergency repairs, and home-ownership opportunities to low- and moderate-income clients."

James said one of the programs her division is excited about and are doing more of are community improvements. So far the division has replaced the fencing and added a shade structure to the Clement Washington Sr. Spray Park, replaced the gym floors at all three Lawton recreational centers, and constructed an ADA ramp outside the Owens Multipurpose Center.

"We are planning to do some sidewalks in town, rehabilitate some bathrooms at the public facilities and community shelters and things like that," she said. "We're trying to expound what have been doing and come up with new programs and new products to spend our funding on."

The division recently acquired a dilapidated home on NW Cherry Avenue that will be renovated and sold to a first time home buyer at a reduced rate. James believes the division is important to the community because it fills in a niche where the City may not be able to.

"We can help with things like the replacing of the gym floors in the community centers or sidewalks in low income neighborhoods," she said. "We don't have a lot of money, they are small repairs, but they may not be gotten to by the City for several, several years, so we can go in and make that difference."