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## CLIMBING THE LADDER OF SUCCESS



Three members of the Big Spring Fire Department have been promoted to the position of Lieutenant.

A thirteen year veteran of the department, Lt. Abel Solis (top photo) is a paramedic and holds an advanced certification as a firefighter.

Lt. Jake Sparks (center photo) has been with the department since 2007. Lt. Sparks holds intermediate certifications as both a firefighter and EMT. He is also certified as an instructor by the Texas Department of Health.

Lt. Birdie Soto (bottom photo) began with the BSFD in 2004. Certified as a paramedic and intermediate firefighter, Lt.

Soto holds the honor of being the first female Lieutenant in the history of the BSFD!

As Lieutenants, they will share responsibilities over equipment and take command of a scene until relieved by a superior officer — a Deputy Chief or Chief. “They have the responsibility to ensure that firefighters conduct themselves in the proper manner and return safely to their family at the end of the shift,” said Fire Chief, Craig Ferguson.



Photos courtesy of the Big Spring Fire Department.



*On behalf of the City of Big Spring Administration and staff, we would like to take this opportunity to bid a fond farewell to Police Chief Lonnie Smith. Chief Smith retired on March 28, 2013, after thirty-five years of service with the Big Spring Police Department. Throughout his career, Chief Smith has served our community with benevolence and he has left an indelible mark. Thank you, Chief Smith, for being a dedicated leader in our community over the years. Your professional expertise will be greatly missed. We congratulate you on a distinguished career and wish you much success and happiness in your retirement.*





**STAR EMPLOYEES**

Lt. Greg McAlister  
BSFD - February 2013

Abram Aguilar & Adolfo Salazar

D&C - March 2013

We express our heartfelt thanks to each of you. You all went above and beyond your normal duties to provide excellent customer service to the citizens of Big Spring. We are proud to have you on our team and we congratulate you on a job well done.

City employees that participate in the City's group dental plan can look forward to having more options when choosing a Preferred Provider (PPO) in the Big Spring area. Familia Dental is opening an office at 1915 S. Gregg Street, formerly Blockbuster video. The office and it's dental team are listed as Preferred Providers on the City's group dental plan. How does this benefit you, the enrollee?

By visiting a Preferred Provider,

- The enrollee is charged only the patient co-pay prior to receiving services.
- Preferred Providers agree to accept the allowable amount designated in our group plan as payment in full. You, the enrollee, are only responsible for the patient co-pay.
- Preferred Providers complete and submit claims for you.

**Your life. Better.**

**REFUEL WITH WATER.**

Water should be your main drink every day, but as hard as some people try, plain water is just too plain. It's time to get creative. Try adding the following to your water:

- Fresh lemon or lime
- Fruit juices, like a splash of cranberry juice
- Fresh fruit
- Mint
- Freeze chunks of fruit in ice cubes to use as flavor



**REFUEL WITH WATER, WONDERFUL WATER**

- Aids in digestion
- Reduces the risk of kidney stones
- Aids in weight loss
- Boosts energy
- Lowers stress
- Prevents muscle cramps
- Nourishes the skin
- Flushes out impurities

**Thirsty Fact**

Did you know that if you're thirsty, you're already dehydrated?

*Drink up.*

**THIRSTY APPS**

Can't seem to remember to drink enough water? There's an app for that. The app named Drinking Water comes with pop-up messages that remind you to drink water. Other apps allow you to set the number of cups you want to drink during the day or track how much water you drink over a month or more. They all offer easy ways to see if you're coming close to your daily requirements.

**FITNESS WATERS**

There are tons of fitness waters on the market loaded with everything from vitamins to oxygen. Most are low in calories and help you meet your daily fluid needs, but make sure to read the label; some contain up to 70 calories. Limit the number of these drinks to two per day. Consider diluting higher calorie brands with plain water.



The Big Spring Fire Department proudly welcomed two new additions to its fleet. The Ferrera fire truck (*top*), housed at station no. 4, holds up to 1000 gallons of water and is capable of pumping 1250 gallons of a water per minute. It is fully equipped and can carry six firefighters. The new, improved Medic 5 (*bottom*) is a 2013 Miller McCoy ambulance. It replaces an older model and is equipped with state of the art technology including LED lighting inside and out. The patient compartment is more spacious allowing medics to facilitate an even higher quality of patient care. Chief Craig Ferguson says the department has been eagerly awaiting their arrival. Both trucks are currently up and running with the department.





The City of Big Spring is in Stage II of the City's Drought Contingency Plan with a continued emphasis on water conservation.

Water customers are requested to voluntarily limit the irrigation of landscaped areas and to follow the

current watering schedule as follows:

- Customers with a street address ending in an even number (0, 2, 4, 6, or 8) may water on Sundays & Thursdays.
- Customers with a street address ending in an odd number (1, 3, 5, 7 or 9) may water on Saturdays & Wednesdays.
- All customers are asked to only irrigate between the hours of 12:00 midnight until 10:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight on their designated watering days.
- Irrigation of landscaped areas is permitted at anytime if it is by means of a hand held hose, a faucet filled bucket, or watering can of five (5) gallons of less, or drip irrigation system.

Water customers are requested to refrain from washing cars and to continue to practice water conservation. Customers are asked to minimize or discontinue water use for non-essential purposes. Wasting of water is still prohibited at all times.

If you observe any violation of these restrictions, please call the Water Hotline at 264-2548. If you have questions regarding the Drought Contingency Plan, please contact the City Manager's office at 264-2401.

# Happy birthday

## APRIL

Courtney Shaffer	4/10
Jesus Murillo Jr.	4/13
Susan Conder	4/14
Kevin Arant	4/14
Alonso Carrasco	4/19
Tye Newman	4/22
Cpl. Marcus Fernandez	4/24
Carl Condray	4/28
Julie Bass	4/28

## MAY

Kelly Seales	5/2
Cpl. John Haynes	5/3
Anthony Acosta	5/10
Cpl. Amie Soles	5/11
Terrah Fryar	5/14
Bruce Broughton	5/17
Gary Fuqua	5/18
Kenneth Hoffman	5/20
Yolanda Bryant	5/22
Stacie King	5/24
Abram Aguilar	5/25
Judy Westbrook	5/26
Leslie Whitten	5/26
Lt. Jose Cazares	5/26
Benjamin Davila	5/27

## JUNE

Lt. Birdie Soto	6/3
Cpl. Terri Clark	6/3
Sgt. Chris Mahurin	6/13
Jace Williams	6/14
Debbie Wegman	6/16
Jeanne Wilson	6/17
Cathy Ontiveros	6/21
Mary Jo Toomire	6/26
SuZanne Allensworth	6/16
Lt. Chris Glenn	6/26
Ray Bryant	6/29
David Armstrong	6/30

# CONGRATS ON YOUR RETIREMENT!

As you head into the next chapter in your lives, we would like to thank you for your continuous hard work over the years and your loyalty to the City of Big Spring.

**Frank Rodriguez**

*Streets Department*

**Jack Birdwell**

*Golf Course Manager*

**Lt. Terry Chamness**

*Big Spring Police Department*

On behalf of the city administration and staff, we offer each one of you our congratulations and best wishes on your retirement!

## Wellness...Meet Safety

When we are without injury, we are, in one sense, well. When we are calm, we tend to make choices that keep us safe. Avoid shortcuts and take time to do the job right, use the right tools and precautions. Slow down if you're moving too fast.

# Welcome New Employees

Shaun Pollard	Sanitation
Veronica Gutierrez	Water Office
Jimmy Saint	Police Department
Herman Hokes	Landfill
Justin Daniels	Sports Complex
David Guette	Golf Course
Michael Chandler	Golf Course
Holly Walker	Purchasing
Joe Macias	Information Technology
Jarrett Reyna	Parks
Tony Baker	Distribution & Collection
Jose Ortega	Distribution & Collection
Armando Salgado	Wastewater Treatment Plant
Nathan Henley	Police Department
Kyle Morrison	Golf Course
Russell Butts	Wastewater Treatment Plant

*This newsletter is put forth by the City of Big Spring for City employees. If you would like more information or would like to submit information to be placed in the newsletter, please forward the information to the Human Resources office or email to [sking@mybigspring.com](mailto:sking@mybigspring.com).*



The City of Big Spring offers its employees FREE CPR Certification training. The training is a one day, eight (8) hour course completed at Big Spring Fire Station No. 1. If you are interested in this training, please contact Human Resources at 264-2347 or email [sking@mybigspring.com](mailto:sking@mybigspring.com).

## What's Happening

### HOLIDAYS ON THE HORIZON

**May 27th**  
Memorial Day

April 24th is  
Administrative  
Professionals  
Day

### BLOOD DRIVE

JUNE 21, 2013  
9 A.M. TO 3 P.M.

### CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

PLEASE CALL  
HUMAN  
RESOURCES AT  
264-2347 TO  
SCHEDULE AN  
APPOINTMENT.



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