



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Retirement News
- BSPD Welcomes Officer C. Dominguez
- BSFD Santa Express
- Star Employees
- BSPD and BSFD Promotions
- Directive No. 59— Employee Transfers
- BSFD Entry Level Testing
- Big Spring Municipal Court Moves to Howard County Courthouse

## CONGRATS ON YOUR RETIREMENT!

2013 brought the departure of a key member of the Big Spring Fire Department. On November 8, 2013, members of the BSFD gathered to offer their well wishes to Deputy Chief David Armstrong after serving the Big Spring community for over three decades. DC

Armstrong began his career with the BSFD on August 29, 1980, as a firefighter and was promoted over the years, earning his certifications as a Master Firefighter and Paramedic.

Last year also brought the retirement of Gussie Brown who retired after twenty-four years as the City of Big Spring's Custodian. City Administration honored Mr. Brown at a surprise send off held on Friday,



Fire Chief Craig Ferguson presents Deputy Chief David Armstrong with a retirement plaque.



City Manager Todd Darden looks on as Mayor Larry McLellan presents Gussie Brown with a retirement plaque.

December 13, 2013, in City Council Chambers. Big Spring Mayor Larry McLellan and City Manager Todd Darden presented Mr. Brown with a retirement plaque and service award check.

2014 also brought the departure of a long time member of the Big Spring Police Department. On January 3, 2014, Lt. Drew Bavin retired after three decades of service to the BSPD. Beginning his career in 1983 as a Patrol Officer, Lt. Bavin worked his way up the ranks to Patrol Lieutenant. Police Chief Chad Williams presented Lt. Bavin with a commemorative plaque at a reception held in his honor at the Troy M. Hogue Law Enforcement Center.

Throughout their respective careers, these gentlemen have provided outstanding service to the community of Big Spring. Their dedication over the years and the leadership they have provided to City of Big Spring staff has enhanced the excellent service provided to Big Spring residents.

On behalf of City Administration and staff, we thank you, Deputy Chief Armstrong, Mr. Gussie Brown and Lt. Bavin for your dedication and professionalism over the years. We congratulate each one of you on a distinguished career and wish you all much success and happiness in your retirement.

**NEW**  
**OFFICER**  
**SWORN IN**

The newest member of the Big Spring Police Department was sworn in on December 16, 2013, by Police Chief Chad Williams.

Officer Christopher Dominguez was officially sworn in after his graduation from the Permian Basin Law Enforcement Academy in Midland, Texas. At a ceremony held at the Troy M. Hogue Law Enforcement Center, Officer Dominguez took the solemn oath to uphold the laws of the commonwealth and serve the people of Big Spring.

Officer Dominguez successfully completed the rigorous, paramilitary sixteen week basic police training program that provides classroom lectures, physical fitness training, practical exercises and firearms and defensive tactics training.

Officer Dominguez will now be assigned to work with an experienced field training officer. Working with experienced officers at the various levels of the BSPD, he will learn firsthand the intricacies of everyday police work. Upon successful completion of field training, he will be assigned to one of the four patrol shifts and assume the role of patrolman.

The City of Big Spring has a procedure in place for hiring non-certified police officer recruits which includes the financing of police academy tuition as well as providing transportation to and from the academy. More information about the police officer hiring process is available in the Human Resources office or online at [www.mybigspring.com](http://www.mybigspring.com).



Police Chief Chad Williams presents Officer Christopher Dominguez with his badge.



Firefighters from the Big Spring Fire Department made the holiday special for a group of less-fortunate children with the first annual "BSFD Santa Express." BSFD firefighters arrived at the Big Spring Wal-Mart on December 19th, ready to make Christmas a little brighter for a group of very lucky kids. Each child was allowed to select and purchase gifts for the holidays. It gave the kids an opportunity to spoil themselves as each child was allowed to spend \$250.

One child was selected from each of the local elementary schools. Children were selected based on nominations from school staff. The program was made possible with donations from the members of the BSFD. Job VERY well done gentlemen!

Top photo: FF Justin Wolfe looks on as a young boy enjoys his new bike.

Bottom photo: Pictured from left are FF Chad Pederson, FF Jimmy Bond, Lt. Chanley Delk, Lt. Jay Holt, Lt. Jake Sparks, FF Justin Wolfe, and (bottom, from left) FF Tyler Moss and FF Blake Brown.

# Christmas Through the Ages



Thank you to all the volunteers who worked on the City's float, "The Fabulous Fifties," for the annual Community Christmas parade in December!



Thank you to those COBS employees that so generously donated gifts to the Salvation Army Christmas Angel Program. This annual program provides Christmas gifts for underprivileged children and senior citizens in our community.



## STAR EMPLOYEE



The Big Spring City Council wishes to give special thanks and recognition to the December 2013 "Star Employee" Firefighter Michael Fangman.

In October of 2013, Mr. Fangman was scheduled to attend the Texas Interagency Wildfire and Incident Management Academy in Bastrop, Texas. In the three days leading up to the start of his classes, Mr. Fangman took it upon himself to volunteer his time around the park, performing various janitorial duties, supply delivery, and logistical support. Mr. Fangman chose to lend a much needed hand and went above and beyond his duties as a firefighter.

We express our heartfelt thanks to you, Michael, for the pride and professional nature you showed in this situation. We are proud to have you as a member of the Big Spring Fire Department. You have proven to be a valuable asset to the City and we congratulate you on a job well done.



On November 27, 2013, the Big Spring Police Department held a promotional exam for the rank of Corporal. The department is pleased to announce that five officers passed the written exam with a minimum score of 80. Congratulations to the following officers (listed alphabetically) who promoted to the rank of Corporal.

- Cpl. Michael Calley
- Cpl. Simon Elizondo
- Cpl. Kevin King
- Cpl. Jimmy Saint
- Cpl. Lanny Swanson



On August 1, 2013, the Big Spring Fire Department held a promotional exam for the rank of Deputy Chief. The department congratulates Lt. Mark Heinis on his promotion to Deputy Chief.

# Policies & Procedures

Per Administrative Directive #59, any City employee, in good standing, wishing to transfer to a vacant position in a different department may do so only in the event that he/she has remained in his/her current position for twelve (12) months and only if he/she is qualified for the desired position. Prior to transferring he/she must submit a complete Employment Application for the Human Resources for consideration for the vacant position. Any time a City employee transfers or is promoted to a new position, he/she is subject to a probation period lasting no fewer than six (6) months. The City Manager may approve or disapprove any transfer or promotion if it is determined to be in the best interest of the City.

# Welcome New Employees

LOPEZ, ROSEMARIE	Water Office
GAY, JOHN D	D&C
HERNANDEZ, ZACHARY	Parks
SIMMONS, CECELIA N	Senior Center
COKER, LORI A	Senior Center
HARDING, SHEENA K	Legal Department
BUDKE, GLENDA M	Senior Center
HAGINS, KENENETH R	Parks
BARTON, ERIC C	D&C
GUTIERREZ, BEATRICE E	Landfill
BURROW, MATTHEW G	Fire Department
DAVIS, PARKER R	Fire Department
REYNOLDS, JOHN M	Fire Department

The Human Resources office has received updated Member Benefit Booklets for the group health and dental insurance provided by the Texas Municipal League. Employees may pick up a copy Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. To request a copy, please contact Human Resources at 264-2347 or email [sking@mybigspring.com](mailto:sking@mybigspring.com). These booklets outline your health and dental benefits under the City's group plan.



## We Have Moved!

The Big Spring Municipal Court has relocated their office to the third floor of the Howard County Courthouse. Judge Tim Green and his staff welcome anyone interested to stop by and tour the new offices. The Municipal Court is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**2014!**  
Happy New Year!

I want to extend my best wishes for a Happy New Year to every City of Big Spring employee.

We have seen our city grow over the past year. With new citizens and businesses moving in daily, it is my hope for the coming year that our community will continue to grow and that we can all work together to make Big Spring better. Here's wishing everyone a wonderful 2014 full of great achievements and experiences.

Todd Darden, City Manager



310 Nolan Street  
Big Spring, Texas 79720  
Phone: 432-264-2346  
Fax: 432-264-2387