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The newest members of the Big Spring Police Department were sworn in by Police Chief Chad Williams last December.

Officer Celeste Valle, Officer Michael Graham, and Officer Noah Lozano were officially sworn in following their graduation from the Permian Basin Law Enforcement Academy in Midland, Texas. At a ceremony held at the Troy M. Hogue Law Enforcement Center, each officer took the solemn oath to uphold the laws of the commonwealth and serve the people of Big Spring.

These officers 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.

The department also welcomed a newly hired certified officer, Gary Cadigan. Officer Cadigan completed the police academy at South Plains College in Levelland, Texas.

These four officers will now be assigned to work with an experienced field training officer. Working with experienced officers at the various levels of the BSPD, these officers will learn firsthand the intricacies of everyday police work. Upon successful completion of field training, each officer 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. More information about police officer recruitment is available in the Human Resources office located at 310 Nolan Street. Information is also available online at www.mybigspring.com.

Photos courtesy of the BSPD



Left to Right: Police Chief Chad Williams swearing in Officers Celeste Valle, Noah Lozano, Michael Graham, and Gary Cadigan.

Grass Roots Advice for All Who Love Their Lawns

LAWN AND LANDSCAPE TIPS: WINTER CARE

Howdy,

Several people have inquired about what they can do to improve the quality of their lawn/landscape. Therefore, this article will provide some information on what you can do to have the best yard in town. Caring for your lawn is not difficult. It just takes a little time and dedication. There are several things that you can do during the winter months to help your grass/landscape get a good start for the next growing season.

First, and probably the most over looked, you should maintain a good soil moisture level when the grass is dormant. Especially when you know a hard freeze is in the forecast. I am not saying to keep your yard soaking wet; you just want the roots of the grass to be moist when it is going to freeze. If the roots are dry when it freezes, they can become brittle and break. This can lead to winter kill next spring when the grass is trying to green up. An easy way to tell if your moisture level is okay is to take a screw driver and stick it in the ground in several different areas around your lawn. If it is hard to get the screw driver to go in the ground, you should water your lawn. If the screw driver goes in easily then your moisture level should be fine. This also goes for the plants in flower beds and shrubs.

Second, sometime between the middle of January and February, you should apply a pre emergent to your lawn. Pre emergent is for the prevention of weeds in your lawn. Pre emergent needs to be applied twice a year, once around January and again

around September.

There are several choices of pre-emergent on the market. You want to look for is the right active ingredient. The active ingredient that I would recommend is Prodiamine. It provides a broad spectrum of emergent with Prodiamine then you can also use the active ingredient Dimension. These are usually in granular form and will need to be watered in. Always read and follow the label directions. As a side note, if you have winter weeds you can spray Round Up to control them. As long as the grass is completely dormant, you can spray Round Up and it will not kill the grass.

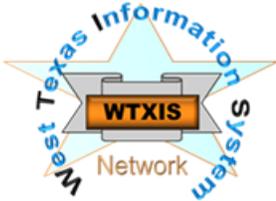
Third, deciduous trees and shrubs should be trimmed or cut back in January. If the tree goes dormant (loses its leaves) it should be trimmed in the winter. You should cut off the smaller branches/limbs that are growing close to the main trunk of the tree. If there are any branches that are growing in a downward direction, they should be cut as well. Also cut off any suckers that are growing close to the ground. When trimming shrubs that lose their leaves, you should only remove 1/3 of the plant material, keeping in mind the shape that you would like the shrub to take during the next growing season.

These are the main things you should be doing this time of year. A healthy lawn/landscape has many benefits. It can provide a cooling effect in the summer, it ups the value of your home, and it can even be a stress reliever, just to name a few. I hope this article will benefit you in your lawn care adventures. If you have questions feel free to send me an email at kmorrison@mybigspring.com. There will be future articles that will provide tips for the spring and summer. Thanks for your time!

**Kyle Morrison, Comanche Trail Golf Course
Superintendent**

Please help us celebrate the grand opening of the new Big Spring Visitors Center and Community Services offices located at 113 and 115 East 3rd Street. The newly renovated Big Spring Visitors Center is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Stop by for a visit and check out of the new, official City of Big Spring merchandise including t-shirts, glasses, bags and much more!





All City employees are strongly advised to register for the I-Info mass communication system. This system will notify all registered employees of city closures or late openings, via text or email. The system also has the ability to notify participants of road closures, inclement weather, amber alerts, and other emergency notices. The registry allows you to pick and choose the alerts you wish to receive, as well as edit those choices at any time.

Please take a moment to register at <http://registry.i-info.com/bigspring>. If you have any questions, please contact the Human Resources office at 264-2346.



**STAR
EMPLOYEE**



The Big Spring City Council wishes to give special thanks and recognition to the November 2014 "Star Employee" Jeanne Wilson, Municipal Court Deputy Clerk, and the December 2014 "Star Employee" Tammy Adams, Landfill Heavy Equipment Operator.

The Texas Court Clerk's Association presented Jeanne Wilson the Excellence Award which is the highest honor awarded by the Texas Court Clerk's Association. It recognizes the exemplary performance of an individual in the court profession. Thank you, Jeanne, for the pride and professional nature you exhibit in your work.

A customer wrote in to express her gratitude to Tammy Adams for her assistance when they made a trip to the City landfill. In her letter, the customer stated "as citizens, we don't take the time to fully appreciate and express gratitude to the hard working people who make our lives easier and safer, as do the employees of the City of Big Spring." Thank you, Tammy, for bringing your positive attitude to work every day.

You have both proven to be a valuable asset to the City and we congratulate you on a job well done.

The Big Spring Fire Department recently had seven employees complete the Paramedic program at Howard College. They all successfully completed the national registry test and are a great addition to the fire department's response. Those employees are:



Lieutenant Tye Newman
Apparatus Engineer Michael Adams
Apparatus Engineer Jimmy Bond
Apparatus Engineer Jordon Barron
Apparatus Engineer Ben Attkisson
Firefighter Bryant Kleman
Firefighter Michael Miller
Firefighter Clinton Roberts

The Big Spring Fire Department also congratulates Benjamin Attkisson and Courtney Shaffer on their promotion to Apparatus Engineer.

Congratulations to each one of you!

**CONGRATS ON YOUR
RETIREMENT!**

Lt. Robert Fitzgibbons

30 years of service, BSPD

Perry Hall

35 years of service, Landfill

Daniel Silen

28 years of service, BSFD

Linda Sjogren

7 years of service, City Attorney

Throughout their respective careers, these employees provided outstanding service to the citizens 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, Lt. Fitzgibbons, Mr. Hall, Mr. Silen and Mrs. Sjogren, 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.



WELCOME TO THE TEAM

Please join us in welcoming the following new employees to the City of Big Spring family.

Monte Anderson	D&C
Allen Avant	Water Treatment
Brashara Brown	Landfill
Gary Cadigan II	Police Department
Florencio Carrillo	Streets
Michelle Cheatham	Animal Control
Wesley Davis	Police Department
Marc Echavarria	Information Technology
Blake Grantham	Police Department
Raul Hernandez	Sanitation
Jason Jorgensen	Parks
Richard Kriesen	Streets
Zachery Lopez	Police Department
Rogelio Marquez	Code Enforcement
Rodney Martinez	D&C
Gabriel Morales	Fire Department
Martin Moreno II	Senior Center
Joey Perez	Airpark
Aaron Ragle	Fire Department
Julian Rodriguez	Water Treatment
Willie Wright, Jr	Police Department

thanks! In 2015, City of Big Spring employees will donate over \$7,000.00 to the United Way of Big Spring. Thank you to those employees who pledged donations. The work of the United Way is only possible with the donations from the community it serves.

What's Happening

HOLIDAYS ON THE HORIZON

City of Big Spring offices will be closed for the following:

February 16	President's Day
April 3	Good Friday

BLOOD DRIVE

Friday, February 6, 2015, 10 a.m to 3 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Call 264-2347 to schedule an appointment or email sking@mybigspring.com. Walk-ins are also welcome!!!

HOWARD COUNTY DAY AT THE CAPITAL

February 10, 2015. Call 432-263-7641 for more information.



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