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## **BSPD Welcomes New Officers**

The Big Spring Police Department would like to officially welcome Wesley Davis, Blake Grantham, and Dustin Thomas as new officers in the Patrol Division. They graduated from the Permian Basin Law Enforcement Academy (PBLEA) in Midland, Texas and were sworn into the department on May 11, 2015, by Police Chief Chad Williams. Each officer took a turn raising his right hand in solemn promise to uphold the laws of the commonwealth and serve the people of Big Spring.

The PBLEA is a rigorous, paramilitary sixteen week basic police training program that provides classroom lectures, physical fitness training, practical exercises including firearms and defensive tactics training.

Officers Davis, Grantham, and Thomas will enter the Field Training program at the department. Working with experienced officers at the various levels of the department, they will learn firsthand the intricacies of everyday police work. Upon completion of field training, each officer will be assigned to one of the three 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.

Certified Police Officers are eligible for a relocation incentive payment in the amount of \$2,400.00, payable on the day of hire. Additionally, a certified officer, hired by the Big Spring Police Department, is eligible for reimbursement in an amount not to exceed \$1,500.00, for tuition expenses incurred within the twelve (12) months preceding the date of hire.

More information about the police officer hiring process is available in the Human Resources office or on the city's website at [www.mybigspring.com](http://www.mybigspring.com).



*Pictured are: (left to right) Officer Wesley Davis, Police Chief Chad Williams, Officer Blake Grantham, and Officer Dustin Thomas.  
Photo courtesy of the Big Spring Police Department*

## Big Spring FD Introduces "Song" the Arson Dog

The Big Spring Fire Department is very proud to welcome their new arson dog, K-9 Song. Song is a two year old black lab that join the department about a month ago. Song was a shelter rescue dog that has been trained to detect ignitable liquids such as gasoline. Song's partner is Deputy Chief Dan Hendrickson who is a member of the BSFD. DC Hendrickson became a certified arson K-9 handler when he was partnered with K-9 Song during a five week class in Alfred, Maine sponsored by State Farm. Dan and Song are certified according to the Maine Criminal Justice Academy standards.



Photos: (top) Song and DC Dan Hendrickson; (bottom) Song is pictured with DC Hendrickson, Adrian Calvio, State Farm Big Spring, and Chris Belchik, Public Relations, State Farm of Texas. Photos courtesy of the Big Spring fire Department

## Grass Roots Advice for All Who Love Their Lawns

It's time again for another article on lawn and landscape maintenance. Summer is here and in full force. The spring rains were greatly appreciated and did wonders for everyone's lawn; however, now it has stopped raining and we are getting back to the norm of hot and dry. This article will talk about caring for your lawn in the summer, fertilizing your grass, and weed control.

First, lets talk about watering your lawn. As I said before, you do not have to water your grass everyday! You want to water your grass deep and infrequent. This will cause the roots to chase the water as it moves down through the soil profile. This time of year, you can usually water your yard every 3 to 4 days (or twice a week) and be fine. You will get more benefit from the water if you water heavily a couple times per week. For example, water for an hour or two on Monday night and Thursday night. The timing of the water application is also important. You should not water your grass during the heat of the day. You will lose some of the water to evaporation and the wind can keep it from getting to the ground. The best time to water is late in the evening or early in the morning. This is when the wind is usually calm and the evaporation rate is lower.

Second, you should be fertilizing your yard once a month at a rate of 1 pound of nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. If you have a 50 pound bag of fertilizer and the ratio is 10-10-10, that means there are five pounds of nitrogen in that bag of fertilizer. Therefore, that bag would cover a 5,000 square foot lawn. Almost all of the fertilizer sold now has a setting on the bag that will tell you how to set your spreader to the right rate. The three numbers represent N-P-K, Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium. You should apply fertilizer at that rate once a month through September or October, depending on how long the grass is actively growing. My fertilizer recommendation is a general purpose 13-13-13.

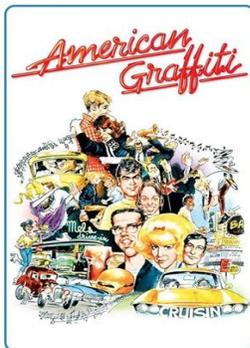
Third, everyone wants to get rid of weeds and there are a few ways to do that. One way is to mow them as often as possible. If you mow the weeds two or three times a week, it will keep the weeds from growing and making seed heads that end up producing more weeds. It will also cause your grass to grow laterally and get thicker. This will also choke the weeds out. Another way is to spray the weeds with herbicide. The best way to control weeds is to pre-emerge your lawn twice a year in the fall and spring.

Kyle Morrison, Golf Course Superintendent

## Summers on the Green Outdoor Movie and Entertainment Series Celebrating the Bankhead Highway

Hotel Settles Lawn  
7pm July 11

Car Show by Domestic  
Performance, ALSA, and  
Big Spring Cruisers



The third and final installment of Summers on the Green will be held on July 11, 2015, on the Hotel Settles Lawn (east side of the hotel adjacent to Johnson Street). Festivities begin at 7 pm, with the movie, "American Graffiti" beginning at dusk. There will be a car show, food vendors, performances by the Howard College Theater Department will be out again. Don't miss out on this family event because it's the last one for the summer!! For more information call the Community Services office at 263-8235.



### TEXAS VEHICLE INSPECTION AND REGISTRATION STICKERS ARE PARTNERING UP!

As of March 1, 2015, your vehicle will no longer be issued an inspection

sticker. Your registration sticker will serve as combined proof of inspection and registration.

#### How It Works: Do the Two Step

**Step 1:** From March 1, 2015 through February 29, 2016, you may renew your registration if your vehicle has a current, passing inspection. However, if your inspection and registration stickers both expire in the same month your vehicle will need to pass inspection prior to registration renewal. **Step 2:** Renew your annual registration online, by mail, or in-person at your county tax office. At the time of registration, your inspection status will be verified electronically. A current, passing inspection is required for registration renewal.

Starting March 1, 2016, you will have a convenient 90-day window to complete both your inspection and registration. Remember, your registration is valid through the last day of the registration expiration month.

## Preparing For Open Enrollment

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Every year the City of Big Spring conducts open enrollment for of it's employees. Unfortunately, many employees make the mistake of not taking the time to prepare for the Open Enrollment period. Open enrollment is the time when employees should review insurance options.

This year, the open enrollment period for insurance will be offered to all City of Big Spring employees from August 1st to August 19th. During open enrollment, employees can make changes to their insurance coverage, i.e. health, dental and life. Employees are encouraged to look carefully at all of the available insurance plan options before deciding to change coverage options.

The open enrollment period offers employees the opportunity to make changes to their insurance benefits including:

- Health insurance
- Dental insurance
- Life Insurance
- Flexible spending plan
- AFLAC

During open enrollment employees can add coverage, terminate coverage or make changes to an existing policy.

If employees do not make the desired changes during open enrollment, you may not be able to make those changes until open enrollment the following year. Employees must have a "qualifying event" to make any changes to benefit coverage outside of open enrollment.

## CONGRATULATIONS!!!

*Hayley Lewis - Tourism Coordinator*  
*Royal Brawley - Traffic Signal Technician*  
*John Haynes - Sergeant, BSPD*  
*Joe Macias - GIS/CAD Specialist*

These employees graduated from the Leadership Big Spring program. Leadership Big Spring is designed to increase leadership skills, and teach participants more about the community. Program participants commit one full day each month for ten months. This program is designed for those who are new to the community, have demonstrated management and/or leadership ability, have shown an interest in community affairs, and have time and talent to offer the community.

The City of Big Spring sponsors attendance for three to four employees every year. The Human Resources office will begin accepting nominations for the 2015-2016 Leadership Class. If you are interested in participating in the Leadership Class, please notify your supervisor.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR.** ON AUGUST 4-5, 2015, CITY EMPLOYEES WILL ATTEND OPEN ENROLLMENT EDUCATION CLASSES AT THE DORA ROBERTS COMMUNITY CENTER. IN AN EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT ALL EMPLOYEES HAVE THE ESSENTIAL INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR HEALTH AND DENTAL BENEFITS, ATTENDANCE AT THE CLASS WILL BE MANDATORY. A SCHEDULE OF CLASSES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO DEPARTMENT SUPERVISORS AT A LATER DATE. ALL EMPLOYEES MUST ARRANGE TO BE PRESENT FOR A CLASS.

A representative from the TMLIEBP, the group health/dental plan administrator, will be available to answer questions about your health/dental plan. Please prepare properly for this class. **If you have questions about coverage, benefits, claims, etc. bring that information with you to your scheduled class.** The TMLIEBP representative will be able to help employees with those inquiries.

Employees will need the following information for any dependents they wish to add to their health, dental or life plan:

- Full name
- Date of Birth
- Social Security Number

#### QUESTIONS?

Call Human Resources at  
264-2347



# WELCOME TO THE TEAM



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

Rudolph Gutierrez	Distribution and Collection
Dominique Green	Fire Department
Jimmie Hawkins	Water Treatment
James Long	Senior Center
Robert DeForest	Water Treatment
Jeremiah Simmons Jr.	Water Treatment
Benjamin George	Fire Department
Skyler Rider	Distribution and Collection
Chad Hennesay	Fire Department
Alberto Belez	Purchasing
Vidal Chapa, Jr.	Sanitation
Kelly Seales	Airpark
Juan Enriquez	Seasonal Sports Complex
Eusebio Gonzales	Water Treatment
Joshua Horelica	Fire Department
Christopher Berry	Parks
William Bailey	Animal Control
Jarred Rodriguez	Human Resources
Raymond Castillo	Sanitation
Devon Craven	Golf Course
Robert Ramsey	Seasonal Parks
Nathan Jimenez	Seasonal Parks

# What's Happening

## HOLIDAYS ON THE HORIZON

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

**September 7**                      **Labor Day**

## CITY EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION PICNIC

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2015, AT NOON AT THE DORA ROBERTS COMMUNITY CENTER. ALL CITY EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES ARE INVITED FOR LUNCH, THE AWARDS PRESENTATION AND DOOR PRIZES!!!

## **2015 OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR EMPLOYEES**

MANDATORY Employee Education meetings will be held August 4-5, 2015, at the DRCC. Changes made during open enrollment take effect on October 1, 2015.



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