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BSFD VETERAN RETIRES

Lt. James Smith of the Big Spring Fire Department celebrated his retirement after thirty-two years of service to the City of Big Spring and its citizens. Lt. Smith began his career with the BSFD in September 1982. He was honored at a luncheon where Deputy Chief Chris Glenn presented him his helmet and a commemorative flag.

Throughout his career, Lt. Smith has provided outstanding service to the City of Big Spring. His dedication over the years and the leadership he has provided to the Big Spring Fire Department has enhanced the excellent service provided to Big Spring residents. Lt. Smith, we offer you our heartfelt congratulations on your retirement and wish you the very best in your retirement endeavors.

BSPD STAFF LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Administrative Lieutenant Brian Gordon and Support Services Lieutenant Lance Telchik, both of the Big Spring Police Department, recently graduated from the Leadership Command College – of the Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas. The program, taught by a consortium of universities throughout Texas, provides law enforcement administrators and executives with the skills necessary to effectively manage police agencies and deliver a high level of service to their communities.

Each of the three 3-week modules attended by participants in the program is taught by top national and international law enforcement experts. Topics include leadership, professional ethics and integrity, communication, and personnel management issues. The Command College curriculum also strives to keep participants on top of contemporary issues in Criminal Justice.

This program is one of many offered by the Bill Blakwood Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas. The Institute, known as "LEMIT," offers numerous seminars, training for police chiefs, and the leadership program, which is one of the premiere law enforcement academies in the nation. No tax monies are necessary to support LEMIT, which is funded by a surcharge on criminal court costs; affording eligible Texas Law Enforcement managers and executive's essential professional development.

Congratulations to Lt. Gordon and Lt. Telchik for this accomplishment!!



Lt. Brian Gordon (left) and Lt. Lance Telchik (right)



UPDATE! Have you moved? Do you have a new phone number? Got married or divorced? Don't forget to contact Human Resources to update your personnel file. You may miss vital data if we don't have your correct contact information.





As part of the effort to improve ease of access to your healthcare services, TML MultiState Intergovernmental Employee Benefits Pool (TMLIEBP) has undergone a systems upgrade and has now gone paperless for many of your healthcare services. You can access your explanation of benefits (EOBs) electronically through your secure online account on myHealth instead of receiving paper EOBs, which can be cumbersome and extensive depending on your medical service.

Once you've enrolled for electronic EOBs, TMLIEBP will send an email alert whenever a claim has been processed, and you can access and view your EOBs whenever it's convenient. For your dependents, you may view their EOBs electronically if they are under age 18; if they are age 18 or older, you will need to have a Health Authorization on file on the myHealth portal to view their EOBs.

You'll save valuable time by getting your processed claim information electronically (and immediately) instead of having to wait for your EOB to arrive in the mail—and you'll help the environment by reducing paper waste, too. TMLIEBP takes great pride in offering innovative ways to save you and your dependents time while you manage your healthcare needs. If you have any questions or issues accessing your electronic EOBs, please contact the TMLIEBP Customer Care department at 1-800- 348 -7879, or email us at csmail@iebp.org.



The City of Big Spring and the Big Spring Fire Department congratulate Connor Brinson (top) and Grant Burrow

(bottom) on their promotion to the position of Apparatus Engineer. They both successfully completed the promotional exam and are a great addition to the fire department's response.





NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

*"Remembering the Fallen,
Honoring those who Serve."* -anonymous

REMEMBER THEIR SACRIFICE

President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation in 1962 to designate May 15th as Peace Officers Memorial Day. The week surrounding that date is known as "Police Week". Last year, 124 officers lost their lives in the line of duty. Texas led the country with twelve of those line of duty deaths. The Big Spring Police Department celebrated Police Week to honor and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice. This year's events included Coffee with a Cop at the Corner House Coffee Shop and the first annual 5-0 5K Color Run at Comanche Trail Park. These events would not have been possible without the Big Spring Police Association, the department's dedicated employees and their families, and support from the community.

The events wrapped up with the annual appreciation dinner where the following awards were presented: Lieutenant Phil Whitten, Supervisor of the Year; Narcotics Investigator Lanny Swanson, Detective of the Year; Officer Clifford Graham, Officer of the Year; and Identification Property Specialist Marcus Fernandez, Civilian of the Year.

Congratulations to all !!!



Preparing For Open Enrollment

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Every year the City of Big Spring distributes insurance open enrollment notifications to all employees. **Open enrollment is the time to look over available insurance options. The choices made during this period will determine the health care benefits that the employee is entitled to for the next year as well as the cost for this coverage.**

This year, the open enrollment period for insurance will be offered to all City of Big Spring employees from August 1st to August 26th. During open enrollment, employees can make changes to their insurance coverage. All employees are strongly encouraged to look carefully at all of the available insurance plan options before deciding to change coverage options.

What can employees do during open enrollment? The open enrollment period offers employees the opportunity to make changes to their insurance benefits including:

- Health Insurance
- Dental Insurance
- Vision Insurance
- Life Insurance
- Flexible Spending Plan
- AFLAC

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

If you 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 coverages outside of open enrollment.

What is a "qualifying event?" A qualifying event is an occurrence that dramatically changes the employee's insurance needs. The purpose of a qualifying event clause is to allow adjustments to your insurance coverage to accommodate significant changes without waiting until the next annual enrollment period. The following are common qualifying events:

- Marriage
- Divorce
- Adoption
- Birth of a child
- A spouse's loss of employment
- Death of a dependent

Generally, employees must report the qualifying event to Human Resources and make any necessary changes within thirty (30) to sixty (60) days of the event.

Where can I get information on the benefits I currently have? Benefits information (current enrollment, premiums, plan

booklets etc.) is available in the Human Resources office in City Hall or by calling the Benefits Coordinator at 264-2347, or emailing sking@mybigspring.com. We have booklets that outline each plan (health, dental, vision, etc.) Requests for changes to health, dental or life insurance coverage must be made in person in the Human Resources office or at one of the open enrollment meetings.

The Human Resources office can tell you what benefits you currently have and what you pay for those benefits. If you are thinking of changing your benefits, the Human Resources office can calculate how changes in benefits can affect the employee's portion of premiums and answer any questions you may have.

What should I do to prepare for open enrollment? Research. It is recommended that employees research their coverage ahead of time to prepare for open enrollment. Employees should also review his/her family's health care expenses over the last year. Having the right information will allow the employee to assess the value of the plans offered based on the cost of premiums, the amount of required co-pays, and anticipated annual spending and his/her family's current situation.

What about life insurance?

It's estimated that over 68 million Americans have no life insurance. Fortunately, city employees are covered under the employer provided life insurance policy. Each employee should check that the coverage amounts are sufficient and verify the beneficiaries listed to make sure his/her family is financially protected in case of death. Additional life insurance options are available to employees.

If I add or cancel coverage, when do those changes take effect? Changes made during open enrollment will take effect on October 1, 2016.

OPEN ENROLLMENT EDUCATION MEETINGS FOR EMPLOYEES WILL TAKE PLACE IN AUGUST 2016, 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. ALL EMPLOYEES MUST ARRANGE TO BE PRESENT FOR A CLASS.

A representative from the Texas Municipal League, the City's group plan administrator, will be available to answer questions about the medical, dental, and vision plans. Please prepare properly for this meeting. You will need to have a full name, date of birth and social security number for eligible spouses and children. If you have questions about coverage, benefits, claims, etc. bring that information with you to your scheduled meeting. The TML representative will be able to help employees with those inquiries.

QUESTIONS?
Call Human
Resources at
264-2347.



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

Krystal Lozoya	Senior Center
Daniel Silen	Sanitation
Blain Matthews	Streets
Karen Reagan	Fire Department
Veronica Gutierrez	Water Office
Amanda Wheeler	Police Department
Audrey Key	Sports Complex
Clinton McDaniel	Fire Department
Tomas Rodriguez	Golf Course
Gregory Johnston	Sports Complex
Trent Newton	Parks
Nathan Jimenez	Parks
Jessie Gonzalez	D&C
Dusty Kirby	D&C
Jeremiah Griff	Police Department

What's Happening

HOLIDAYS ON THE HORIZON

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

<i>Independence Day</i>	<i>July 4th</i>
<i>Labor Day</i>	<i>September 5th</i>
<i>Veteran's Day</i>	<i>November 11th</i>

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

Friday, August 12, 2016, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in City Council Chambers. All employees who donate will be entered into a drawing for a FREE DAY OFF WITH PAY!!!! To schedule an appointment, please call 264-2347 or email sking@mybigspring.com. WALK INS ARE ALSO WELCOME!!!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! The 2016 Employee Appreciation Picnic will be held on October 14, 2016, at 12 noon at the Dora Roberts Community Center. Lunch will be served and service awards will be presented. Those in attendance will also be eligible to win door prizes!!!



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