



ROCK BEATS

MONTHLY EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



YOUR MONTHLY PULSE ON
WHAT'S HAPPENING
AT THE CITY OF ROUND ROCK

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ON THE COVER

A **Round Rock Fire Department New Hire Academy cadet** extinguishes a fire during cadet training at the Round Rock Public Safety Training Center last month. Seven cadets have their eyes on Graduation Day ceremonies, set to take place July 16 at City Hall.

Interns in the Field

Round Rock welcomed its **2026 Summer Internship Program** participants on May 26. View EmployeeNet for more coverage on what the interns have been up to so far.



Selena Velez Vidal (right)



Sofia Bernal



Amber Yang



Victoria Muller



Rakiah Williams



Karen Sarkis (right)



Addison Partin (left)

Get to Know Our Interns



AMBER YANG

Public Works - Utilities

Q: What drew you to intern for the City of Round Rock?

A: I feel like it's a great way to show responsibility, and get some work experience.



FRANCISCO DE LA GARZA

General Services - Facility Management

Q: Describe your internship in three words:

A: Insightful, learning and helpful. I'm looking forward to doing more!



KAITLYN BRADLEY

Finance

Q: Any accomplishments so far?

A: I wrote a report, and then I got to sit in on a meeting with higher-ups about the report.



KAREN SARKIS

Planning & Development Services

Q: Any unexpected challenges?

A: I'm focusing less on challenges and more on that it's a great environment to learn from.



RAKIAH WILLIAMS

Human Resources

Q: What's been your biggest accomplishment so far at work?

A: I was tasked with creating templates for offer letters. I didn't want to mess it up, but they gave me some good feedback, and they really liked it.



VICTORIA MULLER

General Services - Fleet

Q: What's been your favorite moment so far?

A: Just the supportive environment. People just don't see me as an intern, but see me more like, as a person.

Note: All interns not pictured — be sure to check last month's edition for a full list and stay tuned for next month's update!

THE HR HUB

▶ Update your beneficiary designations today

Keeping your beneficiary designations up to date is important to ensure benefits are distributed according to your wishes. If you'd like to verify your current beneficiary designations, contact Sang Dhar (sdhar@roundrocktexas.gov) or Tyler Jarl (tjarl@roundrocktexas.gov) in Human Resources.

To update your beneficiary designations for life insurance, your final paycheck or Texas Municipal Retirement System (TMRS), complete the **Beneficiary Designation Form** at rrtx.info/hrforms and return it to Sang or Tyler.

▶ Nationwide adds self-directed retirement brokerage account

The Schwab Personal Choice Retirement Account (PCRA) is now available to City employees through the Nationwide Retirement Deferred Compensation Program, providing employees with additional investment options.

A self-directed brokerage account, the PCRA allows additional flexibility with investments, freeing investors to select and manage options including mutual funds, exchange traded funds, stocks listed on all major exchanges and fixed income investments.

Please contact Wilson Heacock with Nationwide Retirement for additional information or to enroll at **361-887-1978** or wilson.heacock@nationwide.com.

▶ Extra health-related support available through United Healthcare

City employees with insurance from United Healthcare are eligible for after-care assistance, program enrollment, condition assistance, maternity support and more.

Contact United Healthcare at **888-787-4112** for details.

▶ Jet Dental clinic in June gives employees squeaky clean smiles

Human Resources teamed up with Jet Dental in June to host an **on-site dental clinic** for City employees. Twenty-eight appointments were booked, and employees provided positive feedback about the experience. Thanks to all who participated!

▶ Benefit Reminder:

- Present your City ID badge to enjoy **free admission to Lake Creek and Micki Krebsbach pools**. Lake Creek Pool is at 800 Deerfoot Drive, while Krebsbach Pool sits at 301 Deepwood Drive, adjacent to Round Rock High School.

Celebrating Juneteenth

Round Rock Parks and Recreation celebrated **Juneteenth** with music, food and community at the new Lakeview Stage and Pavilion on June 20. The annual event was made possible through the dedicated work of City employees, especially those in Round Rock Fire, Police and Parks and Recreation Departments.



UPCOMING EVENTS

EMPLOYEE WEBINARS

Tuesday, July 7

- **Leading With Curiosity: Recognizing the Human Story Beneath Workplace Conflict** – 11-11:45 a.m. | Participants will learn how to move beyond assumptions, respond with empathy and curiosity, and create workplace cultures where people feel seen, supported and able to thrive. rrtx.info/WebLeading

Wednesday, July 29

- **Burnout or Break Time? Navigating Work Stress this Summer** – 1-1:30 p.m. | Join this 30-minute, clinician-led virtual support group focused on recognizing and managing burnout at work during the summer months. rrtx.info/WebWorkStress

EMPLOYEE EVENTS

Tuesday, July 28

- **Personal Health Assessments** – 6-10 a.m. | Bob Bennett Utilities and Transportation Facility Training Room, 3400 Sunrise Road | Available at no cost to all employees (and dependents age 18 and above). Enrollment with our health insurance plans is required. Schedule your appointment in the CareATC mobile app, online at www.careatc.com/patients or by calling RockCare at **512-843-0697**.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Saturday, July 4

- **Sertoma Independence Day Parade** – 8:30 a.m. | Mays Street | The parade features floats, giant balloons, community groups and more along a 1.5-mile route.
- **Frontier Days** – noon to 11 p.m. | Lakeview at Old Settlers Park, 1501 Harrell Parkway | The event includes pig races, a pepper eating contest and ballet folklorico performances before music by the Spazmatics and fireworks at dark.

Friday, July 17

- **Moonlight Movie Nights: “Zootopia” (PG)** – 7:30-10 p.m. | Lakeview at Old Settlers Park, 1501 Harrell Parkway | Enjoy the movie under the stars, with food and beverages.

Friday, July 24

- **Friday Fun Nights: Texas Luau** – 7:30-10 p.m. | Lakeview at Old Settlers Park, 1501 Harrell Parkway | This free event includes beverages, food, hula dancers and more.

Find more community events:

roundrocktexas.gov/events

Building a Stronger Workforce

City employees recently completed a six-week strength training program at the City Wellness Center, taking part in guided workouts designed to improve strength, cardiovascular fitness, mobility and overall wellness.

Led by Strength and Conditioning Coach Carlos Vega from the Parks and Recreation Department, the small-group program welcomed employees of all fitness levels and focused on building healthy habits in a supportive environment. Vega, an ISSA Master Trainer, brings more than 25 years of experience in strength, speed, agility and athletic development.

Participants reported increased energy, improved strength and mobility, reduced stress and greater confidence in maintaining an active lifestyle. In response the program's strong participation, Human Resources is exploring opportunities to offer future strength training sessions. Interested in more info? Email Sang Dhar (sdhar@roundrocktexas.gov) in HR.



The City continues to offer free yoga classes for employees Monday and Wednesday evenings through a partnership with Soul Strong Yoga in Downtown Round Rock. City employees can also receive a 15% discount off classes, memberships, events and merchandise at Soul Strong Yoga. Sign up at soulstrongyogatx.com using promo code **CORR**.



EMPLOYEES ON THE MOVE

NEW HIRES



GENERAL SERVICES

MAYRA MARTINEZ
TY MORLEY
LEIGHTON SHEARD

LIBRARY

EVELYN BALASURIYA
AASYA PEERA

PARKS AND RECREATION

FRANK ALVAREZ
DAKOTA JONES
CARSON SAUSEDA

PLANNING

DRASHTI TALWANI

POLICE

ZANE CARLIN

PUBLIC WORKS

MATTHEW CARPIO
ELLA JONES

SPORTS MANAGEMENT AND TOURISM

GENEVIEVE PETERS

PROMOTIONS



FINANCE

HEATHER OSBORN – Promoted to Coordinator - Utility Billing

PARKS AND RECREATION

IAN WYATT – Promoted to Recreation Shift Leader

POLICE

CHERISH MCCLINTON – Promoted to Assistant Manager - Public Safety Communications
MATTHEW STEPHENS – Promoted to Supervisor - Crime Scene

PUBLIC WORKS

TRAVIS COPELAND – Promoted to Supervisor - Treatment Plant
JAMES KILE – Promoted to Crew Leader - Utility Services
ADAM LEVY – Promoted to Engineer - Senior

RETIREMENTS



POLICE

RIGO VALLES (25)



COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

AUSTIN ELLINGTON (11)

COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

SEAN MANEY (3)

FINANCE

TAM TRAN (1)

AARON TAYLOR (1)

MAURICE SMITH (2)

DEVAN KENNEDY (2)

SHIANE YBARRA (2)

SHARLA STOVER (3)

MARTINA BRAZELL (4)

CHRISTINE VALDOVINO (31)

FIRE

JESSICA THORNTON (4)

BRANDON STRICKLAND (9)

JIMMY WADE (9)

JERIK KONDOFF (9)

BENJAMIN TUCKER (9)

KYLE ROBERTS (9)

MICHAEL AUFFANT (9)

MISTY WALDEN (9)

JAX ULLRICH (9)

THAD PUTNAM (16)

JOSEPH FRITZINGER (16)

BRADLEY SILVA (16)

JAMES FASKE (16)

GENERAL SERVICES

TRACY CRAIG (2)

AUSTIN WIRTH (2)

HUNTER CASON (3)

SABINA MALDONADO-SIBRIAN (6)

JOHN NIEVES (8)

KYLE SCOTT (8)

MARTHA GONZALEZ (8)

LIBRARY

KY-PHUONG LE (6)

THERESA FARIS (25)

PARKS AND RECREATION

CARA URREA (1)

LATISHA AGENT (3)

JACQUELYN CHEESEMAN (3)

VICTORIA SALAZAR (5)

BRANDON WESTMORELAND (5)

RODRICO WASHINGTON (8)

SANTOS VELAZQUEZ (8)

KELLY GAYDOS (16)

OSCAR FLORES (20)

JOHNNIE KEITH (30)

POLICE

MARIA RODRIGUEZ (1)

RICARDO DOMINGUEZ (2)

ROGER ZAMORA (5)

NATALIE NIMMO (5)

WAYNE PASSAILAIGUE (5)

JOE CORONADO (5)

CHRISTOPHER MORRISON (5)

SELENA CASTRO (8)

CHRISTOPHER SCHULTZ (8)

VERNON ROSSIG (9)

MATTHEW SERRANO (9)

HAYLEY MASSINGILL (10)

JOHN ESTRADA (11)

ROCCO MONTORELLO (12)

AMANDA WOOD (15)

JASON WATSON (19)

NATHAN ZOSS (28)

PUBLIC WORKS

BRANDON VASQUEZ (1)

ORRAN DAVIS (2)

NICHOLAS DEARMAN (2)

ERICA CLAUDIO RIVERA (3)

REUBEN RAMIREZ (3)

CHRISTIAN CULVER (3)

MAYSON BLEVINS (4)

GRANT BOLANDER (4)

STEVEN THORPE (4)

JOSHUA WILLETT (4)

ALEX FABIAN (4)

JULIAN ANGON (4)

AMY ESQUIVEL-AYALA (5)

STEPHEN ONTIVEROS (7)

SAUL MAYEN (8)

GORDHAN BADHIWALA (20)

TONY DOVE (21)

JUSTIN MARSHALL (21)

ANDRES PEREZ (26)

★ MEET YOUR COWORKER

★ Juan Benitez ★

Crew Leader - Facility Maintenance



With City of Round Rock since: April 2023

Job Responsibilities: I help lead my crew to ensure that the downtown area remains clean, safe and welcoming for everyone who lives, works and visits there.

Favorite Food: Pizza is my favorite food; it's my top choice every time.

Favorite Hobbies: Working out and playing basketball

Typical weekend activity: There's always something that needs to get done, so I usually spend my weekends taking care of household chores.

Tell us something interesting about yourself: I have seven dogs, so it's safe to say I'm a big animal lover!

Strategic Plan in Action: Downtown Round Rock

Keeping Historic Downtown Round Rock clean, safe and welcoming is a strategic priority for the Round Rock City Council. While many City departments play an important role in creating a vibrant Downtown, the General Services Department has spent the last decade building a dedicated six-member Downtown Maintenance Technician team focused solely on keeping Downtown looking its best.

Led by Crew Leader Juan Benitez, the team maintains sidewalks, streetscapes, public spaces and downtown amenities, removes litter and graffiti, supports special events and responds to the day-to-day needs of one of the City's busiest destinations.



Their work often begins before most businesses open and continues long after events end. While visitors may never notice the team itself, they notice the results: a downtown that's clean, inviting and ready to welcome residents and visitors every day.



PETS of the MONTH

Name: Lucky Grey

Owner: Hannah Ager, Sports Management and Tourism

Age: 25(ish)

Breed: American Quarter Horse

Meet Lucky! Lucky is my childhood horse that my grandpa got for me when I was in the third grade in 2008. He is my best buddy! I was able to get him back in February of 2025 after 6 years; we had to rehome him after my grandpa passed in 2019. One of my off days from the MPC is usually dedicated to going to hang out with him in College Station! He doesn't have much left of his front teeth, but that does not stop him from eating all day or shaking you down for snacks. He loves carrots, apples, bananas, peppermints or really anything else he is able to digest. When I'm not bothering him with a trail ride or a bath, he likes to spend his day eating, sunbathing and hanging out with his pasture mates. He is the calmest, sweetest, most gentle horse you will ever meet!



Name: Tina

Owner: Jany Bravo, Information Technology

Age: 1

Breed: Yellow Labrador Retriever

Whether she's racing after a toy, exploring on a long walk, or showing off her impressive catching skills, Tina is always ready for action. But once the fun is over, she has one priority: getting as much attention as possible before curling up with her favorite toy for a cozy nap. Energetic, loving and endlessly loyal, Tina knows how to make every day a little brighter.

Want to submit your pet to be featured?



Email mguajardo@roundrocktexas.gov
or use the QR code on the back page!

Summer in full swing

Round Rock Public Library has been making stops in neighborhood parks through its pop-up Library on the Go program. Library staff and volunteers were at Frontier Park on Saturday, June 27. Future stops at Frontier Park are scheduled for July 25 and Aug. 22.

Library on the Go, meant to reach community members who may not have access to the library, will also be at Meadow Lake Park on July 11 and Aug. 8.



Round Rock Sports Center camp counselors take a break from a backyard sports camp on June 16. With classes out for the summer, Round Rock Sports Center staff has been busy leading a series of summer camps. Backyard sports, basketball and volleyball summer camps continue throughout July.



▶ **Want to submit info to be included in future issues?**

Submit a story or shoutout by using this QR code or by emailing mguajardo@roundrocktexas.gov.

