



# ROCK BEATS

MONTHLY EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



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



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# Operation Blue Santa Recap

City employees once again stepped up for Operation Blue Santa this year! This initiative brought joy to the season by delivering gifts to over 550 families, which included 110 senior citizens and more than 800 children.



[View the entire photo gallery on EmployeeNet!](#)

# THE HR HUB

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Paid Parental Leave now in effect**

A new Paid Parental Leave policy is effective as of **Jan. 1, 2026** that provides eligible employees paid time away from work to care for and bond with a newborn child or a newly placed child through adoption, foster care or other legal placement. A copy of the new policy and the request form are available on Human Resource's **Policies & Procedures page** on EmployeeNet.

### **Walk Around the Block initiative**

Join this Citywide walking challenge happening January through March 2026. It's open to all employees, whether you work at a desk or in the field. How it works: take a 15-minute walk around your building or worksite before work, on breaks or between meetings—and track your participation. Visit EmployeeNet or consult with your HR liaison for more information.

### **Human Resources adds new online training courses**

Up your game at work with these quick courses recently added to **Round Rock Learning**: [bit.ly/4jBMJLv](https://bit.ly/4jBMJLv)



**VIEW**  
**COURSES**

- **Working with Different Communication Styles:** Learn the four communication styles and get tips you can use right away to communicate more clearly with coworkers, supervisors and teammates.
- **Workplace Email Communication: Best Practices for Professionals:** Learn practical tips for writing clear, professional messages, avoiding common missteps, and communicating more effectively with your team.

## CITY HOLIDAYS



**MON., JAN. 19 - MLK JR. DAY**

*City holiday*

# HR SPOTLIGHT

## ► FITNESS BENEFITS UPDATE FOR 2026

Starting **January 1, 2026**, CoreSpeed fitness classes are no longer available to employees and their family members. Several other fitness options will continue to be available through City benefits, along with a new class offering beginning in January.

City employees and one immediate family member continue to have free access to the Wellness Center, located next to RockCare at 901 Round Rock Ave., with their City-issued ID badge.

A new fitness class is also available as of Jan. 5 at the Clay Madsen Recreation Center. The “Lift and Run” class will be offered **Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:15 a.m.** and is available to employees at no cost (class size is limited to the first five attendees). The class will be led by Carlos Vega, the City’s Strength and Conditioning Coach.

Additionally, City employees may receive either a free membership to the Clay Madsen Recreation Center OR a discount on the family membership. Please apply in person at the Clay Madsen Recreation Center with your City issued ID badge. Once the membership with Clay Madsen is active, employees have access to free fitness classes and discounts on additional program options.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## EMPLOYEE EVENTS

### Wednesday, January 14

- **Training for Managers and Supervisors** – 10 a.m. to noon | Bob Bennett Building Training Room, 3400 Sunrise Road | Managers and supervisors may register at [bit.ly/4qjJUkQ](https://bit.ly/4qjJUkQ).

### Thursday, January 15

- **Virtual Lunch & Learn: Estate Planning Essentials** – Noon-1 p.m. | Covering protecting legal documents, wills, trusts, and key estate planning steps to help employees prepare for the future. Register at [bit.ly/3LeOhhU](https://bit.ly/3LeOhhU).
- **Nationwide Deferred Compensation One-on-One Planning Sessions** – 9 a.m.-5 p.m. | RockCare Wellness Center, 901 Round Rock Ave. | For employees interested in optimizing their savings, tax planning, and long-term financial security. Schedule appointments online at <https://roundrock457.myretirementappt.com>.

### Wednesday, January 28

- **Maximize Your Medical Plan: United Health Care virtual meetings** – 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. | Online | Personalized guidance on understanding your medical plan, using benefits effectively, and maximizing coverage (15-minute sessions). Schedule session at [bit.ly/4jC6Wk9](https://bit.ly/4jC6Wk9)

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Saturday, January 17

- **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. 39th Annual Commemorative Walk and Celebration** – 1-3 p.m. | Walk from Eagles Nest Street to Sweet Home Baptist Church

### Saturday, January 24

- **Daddy Daughter Dance** – 6-9 p.m. | Kalahari Resorts, Kilimanjaro Ballroom, 3001 Kalahari Blvd. — Tickets required. More info: [www.roundrocktexas.gov/event/daddy-daughter-dance](http://www.roundrocktexas.gov/event/daddy-daughter-dance)

[VIEW CITY  
CALENDAR](#)



# EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION & shoutouts

## DECEMBER NEW HIRES



### FIRE

MARSELIS NELSON

### HUMAN RESOURCES

MEGHANN NOWAK

### PARKS AND RECREATION

DARRYL WOODSON

### PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

LOGAN HANEY

### POLICE

AUTUMN CROW

CHRISTINA MARROQUIN

ROSA CASTANEDA HERNANDEZ

### PUBLIC WORKS

ELDRICH ARIAS BRINGAS

JACOB O'MALLEY

JOEL WOSK

MATTHEW CHARLIE

### SPORTS MANAGEMENT AND TOURISM

ANTHONY FISHER

*Welcome*

## DECEMBER RETIREMENTS



### POLICE

DWAIN CHESHIRE (12)

ROBERTO SAUCEDO (21)

WILLIE RICHARDS (30)

— HAPPY —  
*Retirement*

## DECEMBER EMPLOYEE PROMOTIONS



### COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

CHAD HALL: Promoted to Code Enforcement

### POLICE

TOM SLOAN: Promoted to Assistant Police Chief

JADA PIEPER: Promoted to Public Safety Communications Officer

MORIAH FRIAS: Promoted to Public Safety Communications Officer

*Well,  
Done!*

▶ **Have a recognition to  
submit for our next edition?**

Submit a story or shoutout by using this QR code  
or by emailing [mguajardo@roundrocktexas.gov](mailto:mguajardo@roundrocktexas.gov).





## COMMUNICATIONS

SARA BUSTILLOZ (8)

## COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

CHRISTOPHER WALTS (1)

MARGARITA LOPEZ (23)

## FIRE

MARIA HERNANDEZ (1)

TAYLOR CHAVEZ (1)

DANIEL SWEENEY (3)

JOEL BASILE (3)

ZACHARY FLETCHER (3)

MICHAEL SHEDD (3)

KYLE BROWN (3)

CLAYTON IIAMS (3)

MICHAEL DIAMOND (3)

NICHOLAS LLORENTE (3)

DANIEL MACKAY (3)

BENJAMIN NOONAN (3)

ANDRE SHANKS (3)

MATHEW FREDERICK (3)

MICHAEL LANGFORD (3)

ROGER CONTRERAS (3)

MARK FELAN (12)

CARY MARTINDALE (12)

SCOTT NOLTE (12)

SEAN BUCKLEY (12)

CHARLES PAPENHAUSEN (12)

DARRELL WRIGHT (12)

BRANDLYN COURS (12)

AARON CAMPBELL (12)

## FINANCE

DEVON ERICSON (3)

VINCENT WADE (6)

DONNA HERNANDEZ (8)

JULI PLACE (19)

REBECCA THIBODAUX (25)

## GENERAL SERVICES

SAMUEL KIRWAN (1)

MARY ARAIZA (10)

TAMMY BROWN (17)

## HUMAN RESOURCES

SANDRA DURAN (1)

## INFORMATION

## TECHNOLOGY

PATRICK GABRIEL (2)

MELDRIKK KENDRICK (6)

## LIBRARY

LAURA DEL VILLAGGIO (2)

GABRIELLA CUSATO (3)

BRIAN SCARROW (3)

CYNTHIA HENDRICKS (7)

GABINO SALDANA (9)

RHONDA KUIPER (11)

EDWARD YOUNG (12)

MICHELLE CERVANTES (20)

## PARKS AND RECREATION

MARCELLUS MOORE (1)

HEATHER FOX (1)

JARVIER PEEPLES (1)

JOHN KILLOUGH (1)

KATIE GRANT (2)

JONATHAN HITT (9)

KATIE BAKER (13)

SELISA WOESSNER (15)

KENNETH ROGERS (19)

FREDERICK ATKINS (31)

## PLANNING AND

## DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

VERONICA TREVINO (2)

LINDSAY DARDEN (5)

JIMMY SPENCER (10)

## POLICE

MADISON TEELER (1)

TAYLOR FAST (2)

SANDRA LOZA (4)

JOSHUA SANCHEZ (4)

MICHELLE KIHURO (4)

GRAYSON DZIALO (4)

ROBERT HUDDLESTON (4)

MARCUS VALCARCEL (4)

ROGER CULP (4)

CHANTAL MONTORO (4)

CHRISTOPHER BAKAS (5)

ALICIA AUBIN (5)

NATHANIEL COX (5)

TANNER DELACERDA (5)

VINCENT HUDIBURG (5)

CODY JOHNSTON (5)

MIRANDA LACAZE (5)

NICHOLAS LUCENTE (5)

BRYAN MANTHEY (5)

LAUREN MARTIN (5)

SYDNEY REUTER (5)

KATHLEEN ERB (7)

GAVIN CARMODY (9)

DYLAN TROOP (9)

JUSTIN GRIFFITH (9)

DALLAS JENNINGS (14)

JOSH MACKEY (14)

CHRISTOPHER COX (14)

KIMBERLY RENDON (18)

CHERISH MCCLINTON (20)

BARRY GAMACHE (29)

## PUBLIC WORKS

DAVID CORONADO (1)

CAMERON CHAPMAN (2)

RENE GALINDO (3)

MARCO ZUNIGA (3)

JUAN CARDOZO-OVIEDO (5)

JOSEPH DALEY (7)

JOEL GRAHAM (9)

JULIAN SANCHEZ (10)

ABEL REYNAGA (17)

NATALIE ABITAGO (18)

JOE CAMARDA (18)

LUIS VENCES (18)

JONAS CABILLAN (19)

ANJA THISSEN (20)

SEAN BEDNER (24)

You're  
awesome

**With CORR since:** Late 2018, about 7.5 years

**Job Responsibilities:** Park Rangers act as ambassadors while safeguarding City property and promoting safety, convenience and enjoyment for all park patrons. The nature of the Senior Ranger position is to assist the Ranger Supervisor in providing leadership and support to the Park Rangers in the field. We also work with the Fire and Police Departments on planning and safety for special events.

**Favorite Hobbies:** Fishing, hiking, biking, working out, bowling and gardening

**Favorite Movies/TV Shows:** “The Pursuit of Happyness,” “Friday,” “Shrek,” “Blood Sport,” “Dumb and Dumber,” “Harlem Nights,” “Game of Thrones,” live college sports (track/ football/basketball), U.S. Open (tennis), documentaries

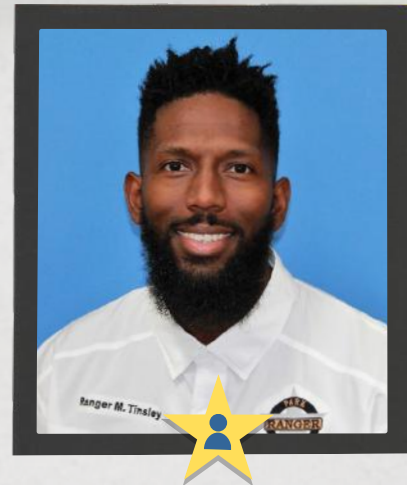
**Favorite Food:** Steamed cabbage, sweet potatoes, fried pork chops and corn bread

**Tell us something interesting about yourself:**  
*Michael captured an Olympic silver medal in the 400-meter hurdles at the 2012 London Olympic Games, and also represented the United States at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games. Here's what he had to say about the experience:*

In 2012, I was full of excitement that I had secured the silver medal, but my eyes were locked on the Jumbotron looking for my time. I was hoping for a personal best — and when the times popped up, I had done just that by setting a new personal record of 47.91! All the hard work and sacrifices paid off, on the biggest stage of my career.

I felt so much pride wearing the American flag. I was living a moment I had dreamt of on many occasions. It wasn't just my moment, but for all my friends and family who supported and believed in me, and for the coaches who poured their time and knowledge into me over the years, helping to develop my talent. We all won the silver medal that night, as a team and as a family. I gave a shout-out to Round Rock (where I trained) as well as my college and hometown as I basked in the moment.

## MEET YOUR COWORKER



★ **Michael Tinsley** ★  
*Senior Park Ranger*



# PETS of the MONTH



**Name:** Miss Heidi

**Owner:** Addi Villegas, Parks and Recreation

**Age:** 16

**Breed:** Shorkie (Shih Tzu and Yorkshire Terrier)

Miss Heidi is a stubborn little thing! I grew up with her and she is the sweetest old lady. She loves to chase birds and rabbits, but mostly she lays around like a true queen. Since my mom's foot surgery, she has enjoyed the occasional trip in the basket of a mobility scooter (as pictured).

**Name:** Annie (aka Anna Banana)

**Owner:** Tiffany Hall, Police

**Age:** 3

**Breed:** Blue Heeler

Meet Annie, a spirited 3-year-old Blue Heeler living her best life on a cattle farm in Thrall. She loves rounding up cattle and even playing baseball with her two human brothers! When she's not on the go, you'll find her napping peacefully on the front porch, keeping company with the chickens.



▶ **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](mailto:mguajardo@roundrocktexas.gov).

