

#iamCityofAbilene



The Latest News, Information, & Celebrations at the City of Abilene



2020: A Pivotal Year for the City and Our Community

We are beginning what will be a year of growth and change for the City of Abilene. New growth brings new opportunities, and challenges. And while you have to take the good with the bad, I also want to make sure you know the City is listening.

The 2019 employee survey has proven to be a good tool for self reflection. I've had several meetings with employee groups, and we are in the process of implementing some of the things that have been requested. Feedback is important - both formal and informal. Have the courage to ask questions and provide input. Nothing ever improves if folks don't let people know something is broken.

One of the things we heard that needed improvement was our internal communication. This newsletter will help serve to educate and inform folks on what is going on throughout the City. If something happens that is worth telling, make sure you let Mari Cockerell know so we can celebrate it as a family. Email her directly, or at communications@abilenex.gov.

Finally, I'll celebrate my five year anniversary this year with the City of Abilene. I tell this to the Director team often, but I don't get to tell each of you often enough; *I have never worked with a more dedicated and capable group of public servants in my entire career.* It's an honor and a pleasure to serve alongside you. From top to bottom, this organization is filled with people who care about Abilene. Let's never forget that we work to help make people's lives easier, whether that be through parks and recreation programs, or water distribution.

All that we do as an organization deserves to be done with excellence because we are doing it for the benefit of our families, our friends, and our neighbors. -RH



[Hear what's in store for Minter Park](#)



[Search MyABI TV on YouTube and subscribe to our new channel!](#)



[Miss City Hall's Feast of Sharing? Linda's got ya covered!](#)

MyABI TV is the City's new YouTube channel that goes beyond just the City; we've launched it as a resource to connect folks to events, celebrations, and information from across our community. We'd love for you to be one of the first subscribers!

Parks & Rec ready for winter fun

There's several events and activities to enjoy from Parks and Recreation this winter and early spring!

The ever-popular Daddy Daughter Dance will take on a Winter Fantasy theme this year (i.e. more FROZEN in your life), Under Armour presents the Jr. NBA Skills Challenge, and it's just the time to start planning (or training) for the 27th annual Steam 'n' Wheels Bike Race.



And don't forget, City employees can join City recreation leagues for free; just check your email for the promo codes sent out Friday, January 10th.



Your W2 and more online

If you've enrolled in the City of Abilene's Document Self-Service, your W2 should be available online in the coming days. Just log on through the City Intranet page, and click Document Self-Service under Logins. Per IRS regulation, you must opt-in to receive digital access to your W2.

Logins

- [AssetWorks](#)
- [CivicClerk](#)
- [Document Self-Service](#)
- [Kronos](#)
- [Lawson](#)
- [Neogov](#)



Keep an eye out for communication from Human Resources in the coming days for more on tax related information and resources!

Why #iamCityofAbilene? We've given the newsletter this name with several intentions; sure, hashtags are (hopefully still) hip and help us categorize or find content online. But we chose "i am" as this is primarily a space for us to share and celebrate our work as a City family. However, we also invite you to use #iamCityofAbilene as a hashtag beyond this space to show the public that when they say "the City," it's us they're talking about. #iamCityofAbilene, and I am your friend, neighbor, or family member, committed to working toward the greater good of our community!



Call for medical professionals & first responder volunteers

The Greater Abilene Medical Reserve Corps (GAMRC) is looking for members of Abilene's medical and first responder community to join their ranks!

GAMRC is a part of the national Medical Reserve Corps, which works to help local communities during a public health emergency. GAMRC volunteers would be called upon to support the Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District during such an event, and would help with things like manning Point of Dispensing (POD) sites to support mass prophylaxis efforts.

If you or someone you know would like to join the GAMRC, visit texasdisastervolunteerregistry.org and register an account. You can also email questions to zachary.glowczwski@abilenex.gov or call 325.676.6356.

More information can also be found at abilenex.gov.

Welcome, new APD cadets!

The City would like to extend a big hello and welcome to the Abilene Police Department's 7 new cadets.

They are beginning what will be a 29-week Police Academy, with a projected July 23rd graduation date.

Keep the cadets and their families in your thoughts as they embark upon the rigorous journey toward becoming police officers. We are all grateful for their willingness to serve our community!



Safe travels to our Abilene Police and Fire Department members who will be in Lubbock to help honor the police officer and fire fighter killed in the line of duty last weekend. Links to fundraisers supporting all three men affected and their families can be found at www.everythinglubbock.com.



City Hall at the Mall & the Mayor's State of the City Address

We're trying something new around this year's State of the City address, and we'd love for the public along with City employees and their families to join us the evening of February 10th, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Mall of Abilene for City Hall at the Mall.

At 7 p.m., Mayor Williams will present his State of the City address from inside the South Branch Library, which will also be shared through our usual streaming services and digital platforms.



During City Hall at the Mall, departments and groups within the City will have booth displays and activities available from the Dillard's courtyard down to the South Branch Library, each sharing what that department or group does, and how citizens can become more involved.

We hope City Hall at the Mall is a time where we can not only make ourselves available to the public, but also encourage folks to #loveyourcity #serveyourcity!



The new abilenetx.gov

The City's new website has launched! A big thank you to everyone who worked to move, collect, and configure content for our new digital home.

Our goal with the new site has been to clearly and concisely lay out City services and information for all users. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, don't hesitate to email Webmaster Jill D'Entremont directly, or at webmaster@abilenetx.gov.

If you receive an 'Error' message while trying to log on for the first time, a quick clearing of your browser history should do the trick (on a related note; did you see the custom 404 Error page artwork Jill created? Grackles! Hah! #itsanAbilenething).



Audria joined the City April 2006 as a secretary for Community Development. She was promoted in 2007 to City Manager's secretary, and again in 2012 to Customer Relations Manager.

Let's give a **BIG APPLAUSE** to Audria Hammond!

The BIG APPLAUSE is where we put our virtual hands together every month for folks who make the City of Abilene great.

To kick this off, there's no better person to stand up and cheer for than Audria Hammond, and her fourteen years of service to the City of Abilene!



Audria is surprised with a special thank you from Abilene's VFW Post 6873 at the December 19 City Council meeting

The only person surprised to learn two gentlemen from Abilene's VFW post were at a recent Council meeting to present a special thank you to Audria Hammond, was Audria Hammond. Anyone who's had the pleasure of working with Audria (or even just interacting with her on a phone call or quick stop by City Hall) knows what a blessing she is to us all. There's not a situation she can't diffuse, a budget she can't balance, or a reception she can't whip up with the greatest of ease, grace, and style. Thank you for all you do, Audria!

Give a BIG APPLAUSE to a City employee! Send your nomination to communications@abilenetx.gov, subject: BIG APPLAUSE



First snow of 2020: City Secretary Shawna Atkinson captured this beautiful sunrise shot the morning of January 11th. It's just the kind of snow day we love; Saturday morning minimal traffic, no ice, and melted by noon!

Have something for the City newsletter? Email it to communications@abilenetx.gov!

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