Employee of the Year – Peggy Powell, Police Chief’s Administrative Assistant

For just over 27 years, Peggy Powell has served the Wylie Police Department in many roles. Peggy is often referred to as “the one who wrote the book for the police department” or as some like to call her “The Colonel.”

She is always dependable, a hard worker, and a real problem solver. Peggy’s work and work ethic are impeccable, she never leaves any stone un-turned. She is often tasked with several projects or takes projects over on her own (projects no one likes to do) and no one ever has any doubts or hesitations because they know she will go above and beyond and the end product will be greater than what they expected.

Through the years Peggy has worn many, many hats, she has even been an on-the-spot seamstress hemming pants, fixing broken zippers, sewing patches, even taking uniforms home to wash and press them so that one officer would not be without a uniform. Peggy has now taken on the task of Quartermaster in addition to her regular job duties.

She has been through many chiefs throughout her years of service and I always hear them utter the same words "if it wasn't for Peggy, I would be so lost". Peggy has served Chief Hightower, Chief Brungardt, Chief Rushing, Chief Butters, Chief Duscio and the current Chief Henderson.

One day we know Peggy will retire, but she will leave behind a legacy that will continue. We are honored to recognize Peggy Powell as our 2018 Employee of the Year!

Part-Time Employee of the Year – Stephanie Pierce, Library Youth Reference Assistant

Since the nomination period, this person has been promoted to full-time – further reinforcing the merit of the multiple nominations made for her.

Stephanie has been a go-getter from Day One. She is always full of ideas on how to improve our services. This year she spearheaded an art program for homeschool families that involves learning about new artists each month and experimenting with their different artistic styles. She is a crafting whiz, our displays always look fabulous because of her efforts. She has taken over the glass case in the lobby of the library multiple times and continues to impress with her multicultural displays. She works to be inclusive to patrons of all walks of life and ethnic backgrounds and truly wants make everyone feel at home here at the library.

With her new promotion, she has already presented new ideas for what we can do to improve our programs, marketing, and services. Peers say they are proud to work alongside her every day and excited to see what she does next.
She has bonded with the Sensory story time families and she has shared not only her talents, but her heart as well. The kids love her and look forward to seeing her every month.

She makes work fun like posting silly questions in our workroom that we all answer every month. She is so positive and upbeat that even people from other departments tell me how lucky we are to have her. Stephanie is a shining star of our team and an excellent representative of the library.

**Customer Service Employee of the Year – Joseph Garza, Recreation Building Attendant**

Within his first three months after transferring from Parks to become recreation's facilities GO TO person in October 2017, he has completed hundreds of work orders for the Recreation Division. He averages 13 requests per week that would have otherwise been delayed.

In addition to Joseph's building, equipment, and vehicle maintenance accomplishments, he has also developed a mobile work order and communication system that keeps everyone well informed and on track. Joseph has helped work special events, and makes time to connect with our division staff. It's very rewarding to look through the work order system to see all the projects he has closed plus the projects he is working on. His work is greatly enhancing the customer (including staff) experience.

**Newcomer of the Year Award – Jasmin Spencer, HR Assistant**

This award recognizes an employee who has made a significant contribution in their first year. Peers within the City say they've seen Jasmin take an active role in City business as soon as she joined the City. Just in her first year she's led one of our Administrative Support meetings. She is approachable, professional and dependable. In addition to taking over the usual administrative tasks, she is learning all she can about Laserfiche so that HR can create their own forms. She has begun our paperless personnel file system for the City – a huge task! Jasmin is excited to learn new things and streamline processes to make HR as efficient as possible. We look forward to seeing Jasmin continue to succeed!

**Excellence in Safety Employee of the Year – Mark Jones, Parks Maintenance Worker 2**

Mark Jones has a no-nonsense attitude when it comes to safety. From making sure his employees are wearing the proper protection equipment, to providing his vast knowledge of use of equipment, Mark always makes sure that both he and co-workers around him are just as protected and educated. Mark’s caring and positive attitude is easy to see every day and he is a huge asset to the City of Wylie.
**Special Awards:**

**Rachel Orozco, Library Director – Excellence in Leadership Award**

Rachel works tirelessly to keep the library as a point of pride for the citizens of Wylie.

In 2018, she spearheaded a winning grant to designate the library as a Family Place Library by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission - a national model for transforming public libraries into welcoming, developmentally appropriate early learning environments for very young children, their parents, and caregivers. The grant allows us to expand our offering of educational toys for early childhood development and expand parental print resources. Additionally, it allows us to add educational sessions such as The Play and Learn Workshop series, a five-week program for toddlers and their parents/caregivers about nutrition, hearing and speech, and other development factors.

Under her management, the library also received the 2017 Library of Excellence Award this past February by the Texas Municipal Library Directors Association. Beating out over 550 other libraries, the award is given to libraries that demonstrate consistent excellence and outstanding contributions to public library services within their communities.

Rachel works to make the library a dependable partner in the community through the Wylie Economic Development Corporation to develop our business collection and redesign the library’s business center to offer better multimedia networking and training space.

Despite her busy schedule, Rachel always makes time to tend to the needs of her employees, whether through counseling, career advice, showing interest in their educational paths, or sharing a good laugh. Her positive attitude is infectious. She is a mentor, advocate for staff and the public alike, and a bold leader.

**Chris Montgomery, Building Inspector – Go Getter Award**

A gem. Exceeds all expectations. Team player. Reliable. Rock solid performer. Words used by Chris’s co-workers to describe him!

When we had staff shortages this year, our great city continued to build homes, businesses and schools. Chris stepped up and made sure all inspections were completed in a prompt and professional manner. He knows that inspections and deadlines have to be met and he was the man that made sure it all happened.

Several times a week Code Enforcement and Building Inspection’s duties cross paths. Code Enforcement may request assistance from Building Inspections. Even with all the duties and activities that Chris performs daily, he still contributes to Code Enforcement. He is always helpful and makes sure all tasks are completed.

Chris is very professional and is adamant about following the building codes as they are written. He is a big part of what makes Wylie a great place to live and work.

**LaVonte Childs, Streets Equipment Operator – Get It Done Award**
Lavonte has become a person that others in Public Works rely on. One nomination said Lavonte is the glue of the Street Department. You can always rely on him to be at work on time and willing to do whatever is needed for that day. He helps train new employees in the field, has outstanding communication skills, and is always willing to work any and all after-hours duties. He is eager to learn and grow. Lavonte has a fantastic work ethic, takes initiative, and leads by example. He always does his best to make sure that he and his peers are representing the City in a professional manner.

Lavonte always goes the extra mile to make sure that by the end of each job the residents are pleased. He serves as a role model for his peers and deserves to be awarded the Get It Done award!

Jonathan Buchanan, Parks Maintenance Worker – Park Ranger Buchanan Award

Jonathan's co-workers nominated him for this award with the unique title of Park Ranger Buchanan saying Jonathan is much like a Park Ranger - upstanding, dedicated and hardworking. Always respectful. Makes sure every job is done correctly. Kind. Considerate. Loyal.

The IT Department – Computer Chaos Wranglers Award

During 2018, Tony Driggs and Josue Pinales were a dynamic duo tackling IT issues without a manager and systems analyst – two vacant positions. They took the heat for a major network issue with patience and class. Tony and Josue were amazing, polite, very hands on, kept great attitudes and were very patient throughout the transition. Thank you so much to Tony and Josue, who helped the city pull through this challenge and made the very best of it.

Cheers could be heard from City staff as news that James Brown would be returning to the City of Wylie! Having worked in our IT department before, James knew the inner workings of IT and quickly improved a long list of employee technology needs. James has a knack for really wanting to get to the root of issues and helping his customers...the employees.

Very shortly after James’ return, we welcomed Shawn Bonner who arrived very knowledgeable and ready to go! He has already made numerous improvements and does not seem to be slowing down. Shawn, you are a great asset to our team!

Brent Stowers, Parks Manager – Jack Welch Award

The name of this award is the Jack Welch Award because of this quote, “Before you are a leader, success is all about growing yourself. When you become a leader, success is all about growing others.” – Jack Welch, former CEO of General Electric 1981-2001.

Since Brent Stowers returned to the City of Wylie's parks division as Parks Manager, he has continually implemented new processes and dedicated himself to the parks employees. He established a leadership team with each leader "owning" a specific area such as safety, tools, or inventory. Brent is creating a mentoring program where each leader formally mentors every employee on their team on a monthly basis – a model for other departments to adopt.

Brent led his leaders to create department SOPs to document processes for every aspect of the parks operation.
Brent researched and trained his staff on using the already purchased PubWorks software that tracks inventory, job cost, man hours and just about every detail of each parks project.

Brent started out here as a maintenance worker, graduated from ICAN and college, only to be recruited by another city. Now he is back in Wylie making a difference every day.

**All Crossing Guards – Walkway Warriors Award**

We all know the saying about mail carriers, "Neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet, nor hail shall keep the postmen from their appointed rounds". Those same words can be said for our 18 crossing guards!

Our crossing guards arrive at their school posts well before any child arrives and stay until the absolute last child leaves. All of this while dodging kids and cars! Patience. Command presence. Grit. Heat tolerance. All are critical traits a crossing guard must possess. Thank you for your continued service!

**Wesley Brown, Streets Maintenance Worker – Above and Beyond Award**

Wesley Brown is an outstanding employee in the Streets Division that we feel has gone above and beyond his required duties and should be recognized. Wesley was asked to teach commercial driver's license education for public works staff trying to obtain their class A commercial driver’s license within the required 6 month window. Wesley put together a curriculum that he teaches in a classroom setting as well as pre-trip walk around and driving instruction in the field. Wesley's outgoing personality allows him to get along with anybody, making him a perfect fit for this program. Wesley made an immediate impact by shortening the time it takes for our new employees to obtain their license.

**Linda Beth West, Utility Billing Clerk – The Wylie Spirit Award**

The Wylie Spirit is a way of saying amazing leadership, attitude and service! Please join me in honoring Linda West for her Wylie Spirit.

Co-workers say Linda is very dedicated to our customers – the good, the bad and those that are regularly a bit ugly to the utility billing staff. Linda makes sure to call every single customer back and treats all customers with the highest respect and cheerfulness. Every customer that she deals with at the window leaves with a smile. Through good times and rough times, Linda she has never shown a bad attitude or disrespect towards customers. She always comes into work ready to address customers' needs. She is an asset to utility billing as well as an asset to our customers. We are lucky to have her as a coworker and a friend!

**Brandon Stovall, Library Technician – Swiss Army Knife Award**

Brandon Stovall is said to be able to DO IT ALL, just like a Swiss army knife!

The library's Brandon Stovall has been busy this year! He started out with the library as a reference assistant, quickly becoming a patron favorite. However, Brandon very soon went on to
bigger things. This year he was promoted to the technical services position and began working in cataloging.

Brandon also played a huge part in the children's department this past year. With his fantastic editing and filmmaking skills, he helped Stephanie Pierce create an Introduction to the Library video for Wylie ISD elementary schools and assisted in the production of our annual summer reading video advertisement. Brandon is absolutely SHARP and VERSITILE, and our Swiss Army Knife award winner!

Cheryl Smith, Fire Department Admin Assistant – Heart and Hands Award

Cheryl Smith can be said to be the Energizer Bunny of Wylie! She is tireless in her desire to contribute her time, money, actions, talents, and dedication to the Wylie community, and of course Wylie Fire Rescue. Cheryl is a role model for compassion, service, and striving to make the world a better place. She has a deep passion for helping anyone.

Earlier this year, Cheryl saw an elderly man outside city hall before we opened. His electricity had been turned off and he thought this was the place to get it turned back on. He was very upset and was having a hard time breathing. She first called 911 to assist his medical concerns, she then contacted his electric company to get his electricity turned back on. After discovering that his credit card was shut off, Cheryl followed the gentleman to the bank. While at the bank she helped him pay a credit card and then get his electricity back on. She escorted him back to his house to make sure that the electricity was on and that he had everything he needed. Cheryl has visited with this gentleman several times, called to check on him several times, and has even cleaned his home and found someone to mow his yard regularly. Cheryl went above and beyond and showed exemplary customer service and human kindness. This is just one example of the service Cheryl shows to so many, all while never seeking praise or recognition.

People like Cheryl are what makes Wylie a great place to work and live.