

FEBRUARY - 2023

HELLO FEBRUARY!

Welcome February! The possibilities are endless, and thank you for reading our employee newsletter. We hope that you find it as a way to stay informed and connected with the happenings within your departments and around the City of Anniston.



We spend a good bit of time online. So much of our daily lives is spent on the internet. We use the internet to clock-in/out for work, access personal banking information



medical information/records, and a host of other things. According to Kasper Sky, a cyber security firm, the more online accounts and devices you have the greater the scope for cybercriminals to cause you harm. It is very important to keep the following basic internet rules at the forefront of your mind when using the internet.

When you use the internet you are exposed to potential dangers. Cybercriminals are constantly devising ways to target users.

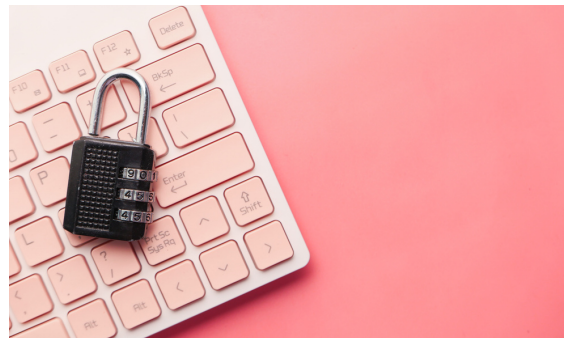
FROM THE MAYORS DESK

Thank you all for your efforts as city employees. Anniston is headed in the right direction because of you. It takes a team to accomplish what we have done over the last few years. The City Council and I are honored to be your teammates!

May God continue to bless our efforts as we strive to make the Model City all that it can be.



JONATHAN DRAPER
Mayor



ONLINE SAFETY CONTINUED...

The FBI suggests, taking the right security measures, being alert and aware when connected are key ways to prevent cyber intrusions and online crimes. We should be aware and on guard at all times. Cyber intrusions come in many forms. Everyday tasks such as opening an email attachment, following a link in a text message, making online purchases can open you up to online criminals who want to harm your systems and steal from you.

Tips for keeping your systems, data, connections, money and information safe.

- Create strong passwords and change them regularly. Using the same password across multiple accounts makes you more vulnerable if an account is breached.
- Do not open any attachments unless you are expecting the file and have verified the sender's email address.
- Be careful when connecting to public Wi-Fi networks and do not conduct any sensitive transactions on a public network.
- Be extra suspicious of any message that urges immediate action.

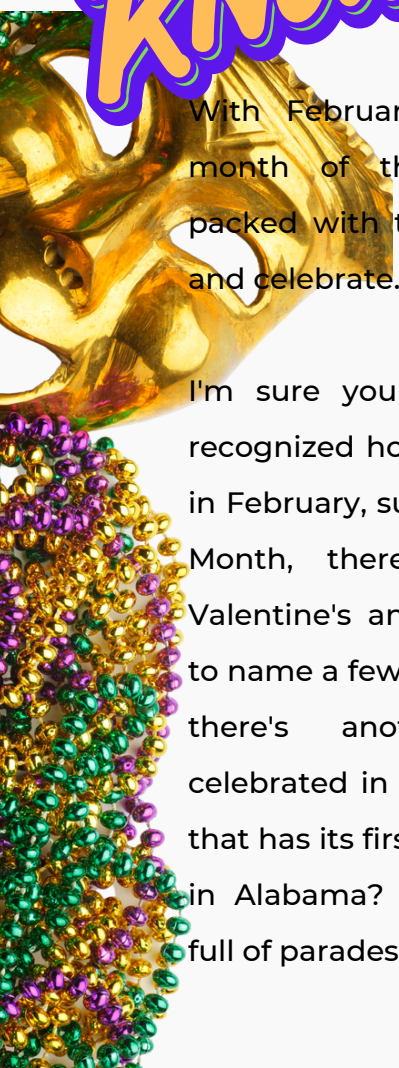
For more tips go to [FBI.GOV](https://www.fbi.gov) for [Safety Resources](#).



**ANNISTON
MUSEUM &
GARDENS
HAPPENINGS**

Please check out the Anniston Museum & Gardens [website](#) for their upcoming exhibits for the month January. Remember full-time employees have museum discounts/perks. Ask a member of HR for details.

Did You Know?



With February being the shortest month of the year, its jammed packed with things to acknowledge and celebrate.

I'm sure you remember the more recognized holidays and celebrations in February, such as its Black History Month, there's Groundhog's Day, Valentine's and President's Day just to name a few. But did you know that there's another holiday often celebrated in the month of February that has its first North American roots in Alabama? This holiday is festive, full of parades and galas.

**FEBRUARY FUN
FACTS**

Can you guess what holiday it is?



Here's a Clue!

In other places around the world, this holiday is called Carnival. Drum roll... In America, this holiday is called Mardi Gras. That's right, Mardi Gras! The first American Mardi Gras took place on March 3, 1699. French explorer, Pierre Le Myonye d'Iberville, camped about 60 miles down river from present day New Orleans, named the spot Point du Mardi Gras, and held a small gala. Point du Mardi Gras is present day Mobile, Alabama. Mobile is THE birthplace of Mardi Gras in the United States!



The Department of Human Resources would like to spotlight employees from each department for their contributions to the day to day operations of the City of Anniston. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication!



Q: What are your hobbies or things you like to do in your spare time?

A: "I enjoy reading, long walks, working in the yard, and playing with our three cats. I also love spending time with my two precious granddaughters and traveling with my husband. This year we are traveling to Ireland."

Q: What do you enjoy most about your job?

A: "I enjoy the interaction with our visitors. I especially love seeing the excitement on children's faces as they are about to see the dinosaurs and other animals. I also feel a sense of pride when our first-time guests exit and tell us that "it is the best museum they've ever seen."



Q: What are your hobbies or things you like to do in your spare time?

A: Deer, turkey and wild hog hunting. Trout fishing and jugfishing for catfish. I enjoy whitewater rafting, camping, hiking and kayaking with my dog Opie.

Q: What do you enjoy most about your job?

A: The part of my job that I enjoy the most is helping others. Whether it be assisting a property owner with how to make their desired home addition meet building code requirements, assisting a contractor in solving a problem or performing damage assessments after a natural disaster for the Calhoun County EMA, helping others provides a lot of personal satisfaction.



LARAY WILLIAMS

Recreation Center Director

Anniston Aquatics & Fitness Center 8 years

Q: What do you like to do in your off time?

A: "I enjoy learning new trades, traveling and spending time with loved ones."

Q: What do you enjoy most about your job?

A: "When you love what you do, it's hard to consider it a job. The City of Anniston has provided a place where I can be myself, a place where I have the opportunity to touch the lives of others, and a place where I strive to be a positive influence for the next generation. Leaders "LEAD" and the City of Anniston has allowed me to do just that. I am forever grateful for the opportunity that was given to me 8 years ago, and I'll continue to put my best foot forward to represent this city with class, integrity, and honor."



LOGAN HILL

Firefighter

Fire

2 years

Q: What are your hobbies? What do you like to do in your off time?

A: "I enjoy hunting, fishing and spending time with my fiancé."

Q: What do you enjoy most about your job?

A: "I enjoy the people I work with and doing my part in making the City of Anniston better."



Congratulations to Jessica Leonard! She has been promoted to Finance Director. Jessica brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to this role.

Jessica is a native of Anniston. She attended Anniston City School system and graduated Salutatorian of her class. She went on to attend Jacksonville State University, earning her Bachelors degree in accounting. Mrs. Leonard also has her Master's Degree from Stetson University.

She's been married for 10 years, with a bonus son and two children between her and her husband. "I am big on family, which is why I chose to stay close to home. My hobbies include social gatherings with family, friends, and traveling.

We celebrate any and all events in my maternal family. I also do hair and tax prep as hobbies.

I am still in shock about becoming Finance Director. I didn't think I would be in this position; possible, definitely, but it came at a time that I wasn't expecting it. I thank God for the people who afforded me this opportunity and opened doors so that I could prove that I was capable of being Finance Director. They really sparked the confidence in me!

Leonard says, "I plan to continue to exceed expectations as Finance Director and make the best decisions for our citizens above all else."



Q: What do you enjoy most about your job?

A: "Each day always bring a new challenge."



Corporal Anthony Green is Anniston Police Department's 2023 Officer of the Year. He has been selected for officer of the quarter twice in the last two years. He is admired by many of his fellow officers and by citizens in the community. Congratulations to Corporal Green on his award.

Q: What do you like to do in your off time?

A: "I enjoy spending time with my children. My son is active and enjoys numerous sports so attending sporting events is always a bonus. My daughters love popcorn and Disney movies on the couch. When we are home, family time is big thing in our house. When I have a moment to myself, I enjoy working on my car and installing upgrades to it."

Q: What do you enjoy most about your job?

A: "I enjoy helping people. It is indeed the most rewarding experience when people remember you for what you have done. It may be as simple as helping with a stranded car to assisting a drug addict with rehabilitation services. Public recognition isn't necessary, but the knowledge you have helped someone at the end of the day is an amazing feeling."



FROM THE HUMAN RESOURCES TEAM

Many thanks to February's Employee Spotlight participants. We appreciate you taking the time to complete this process with us and look forward to including other employees in the future. Thank you for representing your departments well and being a valuable member of the City of Anniston team.

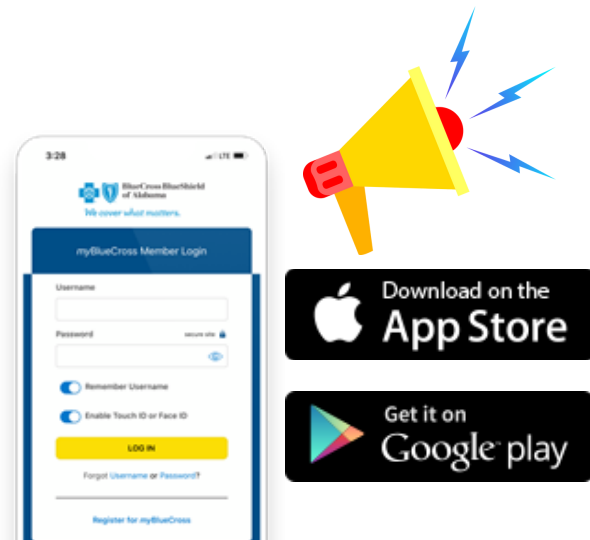
Bersheba Austin, HR Director
Kimberly Hines, Payroll Clerk
Gemini Sigler, HR Clerk

HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATES



Employee Anniversaries

Micah Bozeman, 19 yrs	Jessie Ennis, 6 yrs
Myra Bushard, 18 yrs	Mark Lloyd, 3 yrs
Joshua Kitchens, 16 yrs	Jaylen Parker, 2 yrs
Jonathan Dougal, 16 yrs	Sharonda Ball, 2 yrs
Cody Mangum, 14 yrs	Kolby Burgess, 2 yrs
Beverly Johnson, 9 yrs	James Hill, 2 yrs
Kelley Rhoades, 9 yrs	Caleb Robertson, 1 yr
Sarah Woolmaker, 8 yrs	Beau Barkley, 1 yr
Sterling Firing, 7 yrs	Kimberly Hines, 1 yr
Christopher Williamson, 7 yrs	Evan Wilson, 1 yr
Jon Hamilton, 6 yrs	



To access your claims, benefits and coverage information other must have tools.

Birthdays

Mark Burnhart	Pamela Chapman
Calvin Prince	Ciara Smith
Brian Pankey	David Clark
Daryn Smith	Mikkalina Spann
Kristin Smith	Mitchell Bonds
Lateshia Carr	Christopher Willis
Clinton Pangburn	Jason Hawkins
Justin Sanford	William Graves
Valentino Halog	Gemini Sigler
Beverly Johnson	Lee Bullock
Taylor Oblinger	Rosemary Rice
Jeff Waldrep	Philip Snyder

25+ Years of Service Club

John Dryden, 48 yrs
Vivian Hill, 35 yrs
Katherine Meherg, 34 yrs
Curtis McCants, 30 yrs
Jeff Waldrep, 29 yrs
Daniel Spaulding, 28 yrs
Steven Folks, 27 yrs
Paul Young, 27 yrs
Charles Bush, 27 yrs
Bernadette Mack
Burroughs, 27 yrs
Johnita Roberts, 27 yrs
Shavon Bush, 26 yrs
Paul Wade, 26 yrs
Joseph Hoffman, 25 yrs
Timothy Suits, 25 yrs