

As the year comes to a close, we, the HR Team couldn't let this holiday season pass without thanking you for your relentless effort and dedication to the City of Anniston and its citizens. Special thanks to all of you who attended this year's Employee Health & Wellness Fair at the City Meeting Center this past month. With your diligence, we were able to get more than half of our employees' benefit elections completed on the first day of Open Enrollment.

At our Employee Health & Wellness fair we had many vendors attend. Anniston Museum and Gardens, RMC, PNC Bank, AOD Credit Union, Colonial Life, and McGriff. This year during the fair we gave out some amazing door prizes to some lucky employees whose names were drawn. Here's a list of the winners:

*Congratulations!*

Kevin Baker won a goodie bag.

Jonathan Evans won a Ghirardelli cocoa gift set.

Shay Manley won a mum.

Donald McGraw won a mum.

Amy Roberts won a mum.

Alan Robison won a turkey fryer.



## HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATES

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### Benefit Election Changes

#### Qualifying Event Rule

Making changes to your benefits outside of your initial new hire window or the open enrollment period, changes to your benefits can only be made throughout the year within 30 days of a qualifying life event.

Examples of the most common events include:

- Marriage or divorce
- Birth or adoption of an eligible child
- Death of a covered dependent
- Change in your or your spouse's work status that affects your benefits
- Change in residence that affects your eligibility for coverage
- Change in your child's eligibility for coverage
- Receipt of a Qualified Medical Child Support Order (QMCSO)

**Remember, if you have a qualifying life changing event, notifications to HR with supporting documented proof must be made and received within 30 days of the event. Otherwise, no changes will be allowed unless there are qualifying reasons.**





Oh sweet December! December is the 12th month and final month of the Gregorian calendar. “December” comes from the Latin word decem, meaning ten. In the Roman calendar, it was the 10th month. There were only ten months in the Roman calendar, and March was the first month! Since it was a time of little military activity, agricultural activity, or civil life, the winter season was not even given a set number of months.

December had been a month of thirty days at first. Around 700 BCE, January and February were added to the calendar, reducing December to 29 days. Subsequently, December was extended by two days to 31 days in the Julian calendar.

Other fun December facts:

- Birthstones: Zircon, Tanzanite and Turquoise
- Zodiac signs: Sagittarius and Capricorn
- National Bingo Month, National Fruitcake Month, Safe Toys and Gifts Month, World Food Service Safety Month and Write a Friend Month
- World AIDS Day, December 1st
- International Day of Persons with Disabilities, December 3rd
- Hanukkah, December 7th - 15th
- Gingerbread House Day, December 12th
- National Ugly Christmas Sweater Day, December 15th (3rd Friday in December)
- Los Posadas, December 16 - 24th
- First Day of Winter, December 21st
- Christmas Eve, December 24th
- Christmas Day, December 25th
- Boxing Day, December 26th
- Kwanza, December 26th - January 1st



### Important Dates

#### **Holiday Employee Appreciation Luncheon**

Thursday, December 14, 2023 at the  
Anniston Regional Training Facility  
11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

\*Lunch will be served at 11:30 AM

### City of Anniston Holidays

City of Anniston offices will be closed on the following days in observance of the December and January holidays:

December 22nd and 25th  
December 29th and January 1st






**STEVEN FOLKS**  
City Manager

Photo Credit: Jackson Hodges

## FROM THE DESK OF STEVEN FOLKS, CITY MANAGER

Greetings to our Dynamic  Team Staff!

Thanksgiving is behind us and I pray everyone experienced a festive and enjoyable time with family and friends!

We now enter into December, which is a month for reflection and transition as we celebrate the Christmas season and the start of a New Year.

In our celebration of the Christmas Holiday, let us not trivialize or over commercialize the true REASON for the SEASON. We have so much to be thankful for, and this is an opportunity to share joy and love for and with others! Thanks to you and your dedication, we have achieved so much this year and it has greatly improved the quality of life in this City, County and Region. However, as servants, our work is not done! Therefore, let us also take this opportunity to spend time with family, regenerate our spirits and let's make 2024 an even better year for our deserving Citizens!

Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year to each of You Mighty Warriors.

Sincerely yours.



Steven D. Folks, Sr.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE CITY OF ANNISTON?

# HOLIDAY NEWS & EVENTS

DECEMBER 2023

DECEMBER <b>1</b>	<b><u>ANNISTON CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY!</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><u>When:</u> 5:30PM on December 1, 2023</li><li><u>Where:</u> 1129 Noble St, Anniston, AL 36201</li><li><u>Questions:</u> 256-231-7633</li></ul>	
DECEMBER <b>1-19</b>	<b><u>ANNISTON POLICE TOY DRIVE!</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><u>When:</u> Dec. 1, 2023 through Dec. 19th!</li><li><u>Where:</u> 174 W. 13th St, Anniston, AL 36201</li><li><u>Questions:</u> 256-238-1800</li></ul>	
DECEMBER <b>5</b>	<b><u>2023 DOWNTOWN ANNISTON CHRISTMAS PARADE!</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><u>When:</u> 6:30PM on December 5, 2023</li><li><u>Where:</u> Noble Street from 18th Street to 9th Street</li><li><u>Questions:</u> 256-231-7633</li></ul>	
DECEMBER <b>8</b>	<b><u>MAIN STREET ANNISTON CHILI COOK-OFF!</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><u>When:</u> 5:30 PM on December 8, 2023</li><li><u>Where:</u> 26 W. 10th Street, Anniston, AL 36201</li><li><u>Questions:</u> 256-231-7633</li></ul>	
DECEMBER <b>16</b>	<b><u>WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><u>When:</u> 11:00 AM on Dec. 16, 2023</li><li><u>Where:</u> 540 Goode Rd, Anniston, AL 36205</li><li><u>Questions:</u> 256-453-3840</li></ul>	
DECEMBER <b>15-16</b>	<b><u>FINAL 2023 DISPOSAL DAYS</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><u>When:</u> 8:00 AM until 5:00 PM from Dec. 15th to 16th</li><li><u>Where:</u> Carver, Hodges, South Highland, &amp; Pelham Park</li><li><u>Questions:</u> 256-231-7742</li></ul>	

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE CITY OF ANNISTON?

# December



### ANNISTON MUSEUMS *and* GARDENS



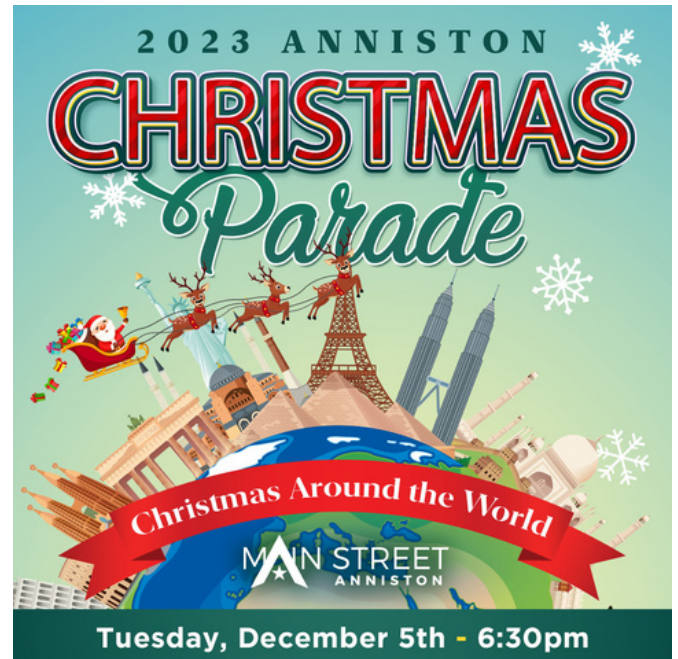
Check out these  
amazing events and  
exhibits at the  
Anniston Museums  
and Gardens.





## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE CITY OF ANNISTON?

# MAIN STREET ANNISTON





## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE CITY OF ANNISTON?



**The Anniston Police Department's**

# Christmas Toy Drive



The Anniston Police Department is excited to announce the kickoff of its annual Christmas Toy Drive!

We hope you can help us make some little ones smile this holiday season by dropping off toy donations at the Anniston Police Department (174 W 13th St, Anniston, AL 36201).

We will be accepting donations from November 17, 2023 until Tuesday, Dec. 19th! Afterwards, we will host the Toy Drive give-away at the Station near Christmas time!

Any one with questions may feel free to contact us anytime at: (256) 238-1800. Thank you!



## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE CITY OF ANNISTON?



**2023  
CITY OF ANNISTON  
FREE DISPOSAL DAY SCHEDULE**

Citizens of Anniston, below you will find our 2023 Free Disposal Day Schedules. During the dates listed below, one roll-off dumpster will be located at each of the four locations listed at the bottom of this sheet. During these disposal days, citizens may freely dispose of their items. Please note, some items are not accepted and those items are listed below under our disposal day locations.

↓ **2023 FREE DISPOSAL DAY SCHEDULE** ↓

- FEB.17TH & 18TH | 8:00 AM TO 5:00 PM BOTH DAYS
- MARCH 17TH & 18TH | 8:00 AM TO 5:00 PM BOTH DAYS
- MAY 19TH & 20TH | 8:00 AM TO 5:00 PM BOTH DAYS
- JUNE 16TH & 17TH | 8:00 AM TO 5:00 PM BOTH DAYS
- AUG. 18TH & 19TH | 8:00 AM TO 5:00 PM BOTH DAYS
- SEPT. 15TH & 16TH | 8:00 AM TO 5:00 PM BOTH DAYS
- NOV. 17TH & 18TH | 8:00 AM TO 5:00 PM BOTH DAYS
- **DEC. 15TH & 16TH | 8:00 AM TO 5:00 PM BOTH DAYS**

↓ **2023 FREE DISPOSAL DAY LOCATIONS** ↓

- WARD 1 - PELHAM PARK PARKING LOT
  - ADDRESS: 349 CAVE ROAD, ANNISTON, AL 36206
  - DIRECTIONS: [HTTPS://BIT.LY/3WVZDEH](https://bit.ly/3WVZDEH)
- WARD 2 - CARVER COMMUNITY CENTER PARKING LOT
  - ADDRESS: 720 W. 14TH ST, ANNISTON, AL 36201
  - DIRECTIONS: [HTTPS://BIT.LY/354317G](https://bit.ly/354317G)
- WARD 3 - SOUTH HIGHLAND COMMUNITY CENTER PARKING LOT
  - ADDRESS: 229 ALLEN AVE, ANNISTON, AL 36207
  - DIRECTIONS: [HTTPS://BIT.LY/36DTSD](https://bit.ly/36DTSD)
- WARD 4 - NORWOOD HODGES COMMUNITY CENTER PARKING LOT
  - ADDRESS: 3125 SPRING VALLEY RD, ANNISTON, AL 36207
  - DIRECTIONS: [HTTPS://BIT.LY/3QUNZNW](https://bit.ly/3QUNZNW)

**PLEASE NOTE, THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED:**

1. HAZARDOUS WASTE OF ANY KIND (I.E. BATTERIES, CORROSIVES)
2. PAINT
3. ELECTRONICS
4. TIRES
5. FREON APPLIANCES (I.E. REFRIGERATORS, FREEZERS)

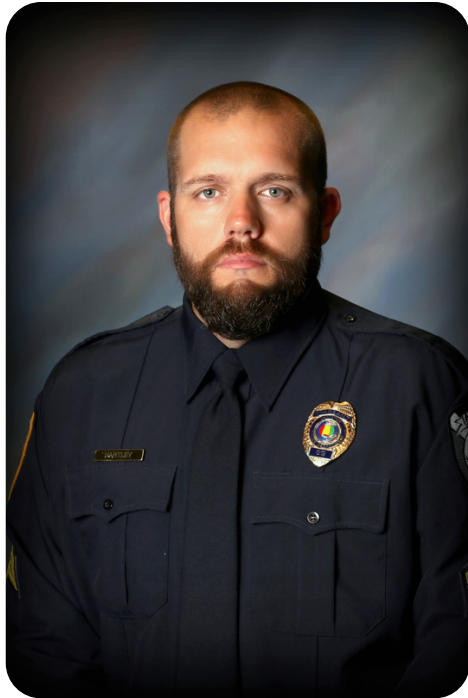


**CITY OF ANNISTON**  
MODEL CITY  
**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT OUR PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. AT: 256-231-7742 | M-F: 7:00AM - 4:00 PM**



# Employee Spotlight



**Justin Hartley**

Police Sergeant

18 Years

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

**A:** "I spend time at the softball field with my daughter, watch Star Wars with my son, and relaxing around the house."

**Q: What do you enjoy most about your job?**

**A:** "Over the last 18 years I have enjoyed making lifelong friends with those I have had the opportunity to work with. I have also enjoyed having great friendships with those in the community I have met over my career."



**Kyle Yancy**

Fire Lieutenant

11 years

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

**A:** "I enjoy spending time with my wife and 8-year-old son traveling and camping. In the Spring, I enjoy spending as much time turkey hunting as I can."

**Q: What do you enjoy most about your job?**

**A:** "I believe being a firefighter is not just a job or even a career choice, it is a lifestyle choice. The Anniston Fire Department still exudes pride and tradition and also has a rich history. We are not just coworkers; we are a large family and I thoroughly enjoy being a part of that family. I enjoy being put in positions to solve problems and assist people solve theirs."



# Employee Spotlight



## Mike McKinney

Recreation Aide

9 years

Mr. Mike has worked at the Cane Creek Golf course for a little over 9 years. He enjoys working with his coworkers down at the golf course. They are like a family and take care of one another. He enjoys fishing, hunting and spending time with his family. He has been married to Mrs. Pat over 30 years. They have 2 children and 4 grandchildren.



## Derwin Perry

Recreation Leader - Carver Center 3 years

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

**A:** "I enjoy fishing on my off time or visiting family in my home town of Nashville TN."

**Q: What do you enjoy most about your job?**

**A:** "The kids always give me something just about every day that makes me want to do it more. Teaching them how to become responsible citizens. "

# Employee Spotlight



## Patricia Pickens

Recreation Center Director - Carver 5 Years

Patricia is the Recreation Director of the Carver Community Center. She is an Anniston High School graduate and an Alum of Hunting College in Montgomery Alabama. She returned to Anniston to serve in her community through Parks and Recreation. Patricia is a valuable employee in our parks and recreation department and is a joy to be around.



## Stephen Graham

Recreation Leader 5 years

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

**A:** "In my off time I like cooking, coaching sports and just enjoy spending time with my family."

**Q: What do you enjoy most about your job?**

**A:** "What I enjoy most about my job is that I get the chance to shape and change young kids' lives."

# Employee Spotlight



## Shaquilla Garlington

Probation Officer

8 Years

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

**A:** "Photography, purchasing shoes, ordering from Amazon, traveling, listening to music, and eating junk food."

**Q: What do you enjoy most about your job?**

**A:** "The fact that everyday every person I come in contact with creates a different challenge; Challenges that are hard but rewarding."



## Sam Bean

Equipment Operator

3 years

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

**A:** "I enjoy spending time with my family and doing work around my house. I find that doing that work is very fulfilling in my life. I also enjoy traveling and fishing as well as witnessing to as many people as possible."

**Q: What do you enjoy most about your job?**

**A:** "I love being able to interact with my co-workers and be able to be the person that they feel most comfortable to talk to in any situation. Seeing them being happy and joyful makes my days go by so much easier."



# Employee Spotlight



## Roger Hammock

Equipment Operator

11 years

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

**A:** "I enjoy spending time with my family. Especially my 10 grandkids. I also enjoy going to church and participating in local and foreign mission adventures."

**Q: What do you enjoy most about your job?**

**A:** "I really like working and interacting with the citizens of Anniston. Being able to fellowship with my co-workers everyday is also a joy."

# THANK YOU!

## FROM THE HUMAN RESOURCES TEAM

Many thanks to the December 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**

**Shelby Shiflett, HR Clerk**

**Gemini Sigler, HR Specialist**

## HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATES

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### December Birthdays

Mike McKinney  
Cameron Bearden  
Shaquilla Garlington  
Cathy Stanton  
Ashley Garcia  
Jasmine Smith  
Dylan Grubbs  
Allen Alexander  
Brett Lloyd  
Eugenia Lockridge  
Shelby Shiflett  
Mark Wynn  
Lisa Bridges  
April Jones  
Sean Jones  
Jackson Pugh  
Jon Hamilton

Chris Leach  
Frazier Burroughs  
William Poole  
Kenneth Coppock  
Jeff Beason  
Derwin Perry  
Sam Bean  
Timothy Kent  
Jacob Gann  
Benjamin Brown  
Samuel Mills  
Joey Rollins  
Nathan Jackson  
Michael Yocum

## HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATES



### December Anniversaries

Dwight Pembroke	19 Years
Christopher Willis	17 Years
Nicholas Maguire	13 Years
Rex Newton	10 Years
Rhonda Pope	9 Years
Stephen Hudson	8 Years
Skyler Bass	6 Years
David Arnett	4 Years
Daniel Henry	4 Years
Jackson Hodges	4 Years
Jessica Leonard	4 Years
Reed Hill	3 Years
Trevekio Roberts	3 Years
Austin Hubbard	2 Years
Blake Noah	2 Years
Jackson Stubbs	2 Years
Keith Brown	1 Year
James Cullen	1 Year
Matthew Martin	1 Year
Lawrence Mercer	1 Year
Nikita Wood	1 Year
William Graves	1 Year
Kam Thomas	1 Year