

The City of Ozark

August 25, 2011
Volume 1, Issue 1

Employee Newsletter

Special Interest Articles

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- HR Corner
- Birthdays and Anniversaries
- Message from Mayor, Shane Nelson
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We're Back, Baby!

WOW—it's been a while, but the City of Ozark's Employee Newsletter is back! This newsletter is for you, the employees of the City of Ozark, and it is broken into several sections with different topics in an effort to appeal to everyone's interests.

You will notice the newsletter contains an article addressing ways to keep cool during these HOT summer days, Human Resources news, and employee spotlights focusing on two employees: Bob Wilslef and Beth Hodges.

Next, you will find a list of employee birthdays and anniversaries for the months of August, September, and October.

Finally, there are articles from Mayor, Shane Nelson and City Administrator, Steve Childers.

Since this is the first employee newsletter to be published in some time, we would like you to tell us what you would like to read about next time. Please send all suggestions or comments to Cara Borneman.

We want your feedback!
Send an e-mail with story suggestions to:

cborneman@ozarkmissouri.com

Your e-mail will give you a chance to win a \$25 gift certificate to Starbucks!

Thanks in advance for your input. Enjoy!



It's Like a HEAT WAVE!

Tips to Keep Cool & Healthy



Summertime is an ideal time to enjoy the outdoors and experience all the natural beauty the Ozarks has to offer. However, since we've been experiencing frequent heat advisories, it is critical for your health to stay safe and hydrated. According to the American Red Cross, the following tips will help keep your body safe as you enjoy summer-time in the Ozarks:

- **Drink Plenty of Water**—Carry water, juice, or Gatorade with you, and drink continuously even if you don't feel thirsty.
- **Avoid Drinks with Alcohol or Caffeine**—They can make you feel better briefly, but they make the heat's effect on your body worse.
- **Apply Sunscreen**—Use sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or more.
- **Eat Small Meals**—Eat frequent, small meals consisting of carbohydrates, salads, and fruit. Avoid foods that are high in protein because they increase metabolic heat.
- **Slow Down**—Reduce or reschedule strenuous activity. If you must engage in the activity, do so during the early morning hours.
- **Wear Loose, Lightweight, and Light-Colored Clothing**—Light colors reflect heat and sunlight and help you maintain a healthy body temperature.

For more heat safety tips, visit www.redcross.org.

Human Resources Corner



This section is dedicated to providing you with Human Resources updates. Whether it is an explanation of new policies, or simply reminders of old ones, please take the time to review this section.

If you have any questions, contact Chandra Hodges at chodges@ozarkmissouri.com

Employee Prices for the OC

Did you know that full-time employees receive a **FREE MEMBERSHIP** to the Ozark's Community Center (O.C.)? In addition to this great benefit, the rate for an employee's family is only \$8.00 per pay period! Please contact Chandra Hodges at chodges@ozarkmissouri.com to begin your membership.

Break Time for Nursing Mothers

In accordance with the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), employees will receive reasonable time to express breast milk for her nursing child for one year after the child's birth. For the purposes of this policy, a nursing

mother refers to any employee who has given birth within the last year and is breast-feeding her newborn child. A nursing mother should work with her supervisor to determine the best way to accommodate both her nursing needs and the responsibilities of her job.

Double-Check Time Sheets for Accuracy

Before you submit your time sheet to your manager, make sure you have recorded all information correctly, including vacation time, sick days, and the total days and hours worked.

Supervisors: Before submitting your departments time sheets to HR, make sure they are accurate and complete with your signature.

Employee Spotlight



What about Bob? Spotlight on Bob Wilslef



Bob Wilslef
Engineering Supervisor

You may have never guessed it, but Bob Wilslef raced on the Talladega speedway in 2005. He did so without being passed by the other 7 cars on the track. Yep—this easy-going grandfather has a *fast and furious* side!

One of Ozark's most respected and liked employees, Bob Wilslef, celebrates his 9-year employment anniversary for the City on October 7th. Bob began his career as a city engineer printing maps. However, his responsibilities have grown along with the City. Now, Bob is an Engineering

Supervisor in the Public Works department. One of Bob's most significant contributions to the City was his effective and timely development of guidelines and standards for the Public Works Department. This accomplishment has been critical, and has kept everyone informed and on the same page in recent years.

Bob and his wife, Mary Ann, have been happily married for over 40 years. For the past 11, they have called Ozark home.

Prior to settling in Ozark, they lived in the Florida Keys, Fort Carson Colorado, and Eastern Iowa, where they met. A couple weeks ago, Bob and Mary Ann hosted their family-- all 16 of them, including 8 grandchildren-- to catch-up and spend some time at Table Rock Lake. Bob is continually fascinated by watching his grandchildren grow and mature. He encourages each of them to discover what they like to do, and then pursue an education in that field. In his free time, Bob enjoys fly-fishing and target-shooting.

"I am grateful to the people of Ozark, who always treat me with warmth and acceptance."
-Bob Wilslef

Welcome to the Parks Department, Beth Hodges!



Beth Hodges
Facilities Clerk & Front Desk Supervisor (O.C.)

Beth Hodges began her career as a Facilities Supervisor at the O.C. on April 11th this year, and she is the newest Ozark employee. Before working here, Beth worked as the Administrative Manager for Dent Magic Tools in Nixa.

After living in cities all over the U.S., from Chicago to Nashville, Beth discovered the Ozarks was her favorite place to be. Beth likes the small community- feel and the

low crime and violence in our community.

Beth's office is a hub of activity—she is responsible for daily deposits, renewing client memberships, and processing nearly all work for the O.C. before sending it to City Hall.

Beth looks forward to each day at the OC...

"Working for Ozark is fun because of my coworkers—we all have a good time together."

In her free time, Beth enjoys the outdoors. She maintains a flower garden, spends weekends on Table Rock Lake, and has bonfires with her friends and family in the backyard.

Welcome Beth to the City!

Birthdays and Anniversaries: August, September, and October



Birthdays		Employment Anniversaries		
Name	Birthday	Name	Anniversary	Years of Service
Fred McHaffie	August 4 th	David Overcast	August 1 st	4
Derek Hill	August 8 th	Dave Collignon	August 2 nd	7
Ryan Barton	August 10 th	Cara Borneman	August 10 th	2
Olin Hicks	August 12 th	Juli Highley	August 10 th	2
Jeffrey Wilson	August 12 th	Mary Edna Wilson	August 13 th	4
Rob Hodges	August 13 th	Tim Fielden	August 14 th	5
David Southard	August 17 th	Lana Wilson	August 15 th	17
Steve Childers	August 20 th	Don Duncan	August 23 rd	16
Juli Highley	August 21 st	Olin Hicks	September 10 th	16
Corey Sigman	August 22 nd	Justin Arnold	September 25 th	6
Nick Conner	August 24 th	Sam Wagner	September 27 th	1
Don Bilyeu	August 27 th	Derek Hill	September 27 th	5
John McCart	August 27 th	Shara Poynor-Step	September 27 th	5
Ken Johnson	August 30 th	Larry Martin	September 29 th	8
Robert Weter	August 30 th	Kevin Boyce	October 2 nd	6
Jared Roderick	September 1 st	Kane Northcutt	October 5 th	8
Rodney Robison	September 4 th	Danny Keene	October 7 th	9
Mary Edna Wilson	September 4 th	Bob Wilslef	October 7 th	9
Steve Norman	September 6 th	Tim Auchtung	October 31 st	17
Amber Klemish	September 7 th			
Lana Wilson	September 9 th			
Shane Nelson	September 10 th			
Bruce Stafford	September 14 th			
Cindy Maloney	September 20 th			
Scott Stopka	September 23 rd			
Chandra Hodges	October 1 st			
Melissa Gibson	October 2 nd			
Cody Balisle	October 3 rd			
Icy Snook	October 12 th			
Tommy Wade	October 13 th			
Tim Fielden	October 24 th			
Don Duncan	October 28 th			

The City of Ozark: Community Events

August

- *Ozark Booster Club Bull Ride*
August 26th & 27th from 6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. at Ozark's Finley River Park

September

- *Ozark Mule Days*
September 2nd, 3rd, and 4th @ 8:00 p.m. at Ozark's Finley River Park
- *Utopia Club's Annual Arts & Crafts Show*
September 30th - October 2nd, 10:00 a.m. at Ozark's Finley River Park

October

- *Forest of Fears at the O.C.*
October 14th & 15th and October 21st & 22nd from 5:00 p.m.-midnight.
(Call 581-7002 for details.)



Happy Birthday!!

Message from Mayor, Shane Nelson



Mayor Nelson
Pictured with wife,
Carrie and daughter, Sophia

"I simply choose not to live pessimistically—my natural attitude is to be positive and friendly, and my goal is to lead the City of Ozark in that direction."

Ozark Employees:

Hello! Because this is the first newsletter since my April election, I would like to take this opportunity to tell you about my life, my personal philosophy, and my positive experience with the City of Ozark's employees.

A Little about Me

I grew up on a dairy farm south of Cabool, Missouri, which gave me an appreciation of hard work and the outdoors. In my free time, I enjoy any type of hunting, but my specialty is bow hunting.

Still, the most important aspect of my life is my family: my lovely wife, Carrie, and my beautiful daughter, Sophia—spending time with them is, by far, my favorite past-time.

Always Positive, Always Professional

Always Positive, Always Professional—that was the slogan from my campaign, but it is also the approach I take in my daily life. Positivity is universal and contagious... I have found that *nothing* can stunt the flow and progress of an organization like a negative outlook. I simply choose not to live pessimistically—my natural attitude is to be positive and friendly, and my goal is to lead the City of Ozark in that direction.

The Value of Ozark City Employees

During the past few months, I have had the privilege of getting to know many of you. As I observe you in action, I am grateful to be around such a

capable and dedicated group of individuals—your expertise and capability allow me to do my job as mayor. I never worry about work not getting done. It is your commitment that makes my job so enjoyable and rewarding, and it gives the community a sense that real progress can be accomplished by their home-town government.

Summer 2011 Employee BBQ: Join Us Sept. 24th

The Ozark Birthday Bash on August 17, 2011, was the essence of Ozark—exceptional ideas and people coming together to enjoy an inexpensive, family-oriented, and fun evening. In the spirit of that *community- feel*, you are all encouraged to attend our first-annual **Employee BBQ**. A flyer with details is enclosed. Come out and enjoy an afternoon of BBQ and visitation.

I look forward to seeing you all at the BBQ!

O.C. Events



Kids Night In

Kids, grades K-6, are invited to hang out at the O.C. for a night *in* while parents enjoy a night *out*. *Kids Night In* includes dinner, games, swimming, and rock wall climbing. A maximum of 60 kids is allowed—so sign up early!

Dates:

- * Friday, September 9th
- * Friday, October 7th
- * Friday, November 11th
- * Friday, December 9th

Girl's Basketball (K-7th)

The goal of the program is to provide a positive activity for children. The season begins in early October and ends by Christmas break. The registration deadline is September 20th. Register online or at the O.C.

Men's Basketball

Games are on Tuesday and Thursday from September 6th-29th.

Team Fee: \$275

Registration Deadline: August 26th

The Last Word with Steve Childers

It has been a challenge, to say the least, maneuvering our organization throughout the worst economic downturn in recent history. However, I consider myself lucky to be among such a great team of professionals who have risen to the challenges of staying positive in the face of adversity. This determination is what makes us effective at serving our customers and citizens.

As employees of the City of Ozark, your commitment to providing quality service to your community does not go unnoticed. Each of you continue to work hard to push through these difficult times with unwavering enthusiasm and high moral character—you make this city a great place to live and work.

While difficult (yet necessary) budgetary and organizational structure decision have affected us all, it is YOUR willingness to stand together as a team and represent Ozark in a positive and supportive way that has proven essential. We must maintain this hard work, continue supporting each other, and remember our belief in the greater purpose of serving the public.

As we look forward and continue to create a sustainable community, our road will be met with hurdles and challenges. However, with a positive attitude and the ability to see the "big picture," we can achieve success.

You are not alone in facing the tough decisions in the years ahead—I stand committed to you and the community, and I will work tirelessly to keep Ozark pointed in the right direction.

-Steve Childers



Steve Childers,
City Administrator

"As employees of the City of Ozark, your commitment to providing quality service to your community does not go unnoticed".

For story ideas & additional information, contact:

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