Hub City Happenings

City Employees in a Giving Mood

The City had a steep mountain to climb in order to meet our initial goal of raising $5,000 to benefit United Way of Washington County. We also started a new quarterly community wellness initiative to benefit area charitable organizations, with Humane Society of Washington County as our first beneficiary. City employees came through in a big way for both organizations!

For United Way, our donation totaled $7,463.04! This includes $6,845.04 raised via annual pledges from 36 individual contributors, plus the funds raised from the 2017 Souper Bowl and Chili Cook-Off—a truly amazing result that will have a significant impact on the work United Way is able to do in our local community. Hagerstown Light Department won the challenge of most donations from a department, and they will enjoy a catered lunch courtesy of the HR Department—congratulations!

Humane Society of Washington County received many donations from across the City. Wastewater led the charge, filling their donation bin to overflowing with food, toys, and other goodies for the animals under the Humane Society’s care. Thank you to everyone who participated in this inaugural effort! In the first quarter of 2018, we will focus our donation efforts on the Reach of Washington County Cold Weather Shelter—see page 4 for more information.
Chili Cook-Off Highlights and Winners

The 8th Annual Chili Cook-Off, held at City Hall on November 9th, was another successful event—raising $350 for United Way of Washington County. The money raised will help United Way continue to make a positive impact in our community.

This year, Employee Favorite was awarded to Delbert Horst’s Piggy Beware chili. An impressive field of creativity yielded a three-way tie for Favorite Name between Gerry Kendle’s Oh Dear God—Please Make It Stop, Jim Bender’s Vegan Delight (Made With Real Vegans), and Dani Frye’s Sir Clucks-A-Lot Makes You Farts-A-Lot. Thank you to everyone who competed and tasted to make this a successful event again!

Holiday Potluck Highlights and Winners

The Human Resources Department celebrated the holidays with another friendly ugly sweater competition and a delicious potluck lunch. Tamara Owens won the day with her creative ensemble, besting the competition of Ashley Newcomer, Dani Frye, and Danelle Hayer.

However, Ashley did win the guess-the-lifesavers contest by coming within 2 of the actual total, and made room for the jar of candy on her desk. Brian Smoot was the lucky winner of the Christmas Trivia contest, earning a $10 gift card to Chick-fil-a.

Thank you all who attended and made this event another festive success!

Welcome New Hires!

David Trumpower—Human Resources
Aaron Schroyer—Water
Christopher Martin—Fire Department
Danelle Hayer—DCED
Kitty Clark—DCED

*New hires since October 1

Test your knowledge

You receive a call from a City resident who wants to have a bonfire at an outdoor event. Where should you transfer the call?

A. Public Works  
B. Community & Econ. Development  
C. Hagerstown Fire Department  
D. Planning & Code Admin.

Answer on Page 3
Valerie Means, City Administrator believes “overall employee wellness must be a top organizational goal...the employees are the number one City asset that will allow us to move forward”. The health and wellness of our workforce is important to us, so we offer programs throughout the year for employees to stay fit in every way. Aside from the quarterly challenges, employees can also receive up to $100 reimbursement for participating in approved recreation programs or activities, such as yoga classes, personal training or Weight Watchers. For ideas, log onto:

City of Hagerstown Recreation: http://www.hagerstownmd.org/145/Parks-Recreation
Washington County Parks and Rec: http://www.washcorecfit.com/
Weight Watchers: https://www.weightwatchers.com/us/

Contact Susan Delauter at ext. 107 to request your reimbursement or for questions related to the Wellness Programs.

Stay Connected through HRconnection.com

The Human Resources department offers employees and their family members a one stop shop with 24 hour access to policies, benefits, forms, wellness programs, holiday schedules and a variety of resources through HRconnection. By logging onto this website, employees can find detailed information and forms related to their employment with the City of Hagerstown. To sign in, use the following:

Website: www.hrconnection.com
Username: cityofhagerstown  (all lower case)  Password: Benefits1  (capital B)
United Healthcare Nurse Line

When you need care, you should call your primary care physician first. But when seeing your regular doctor is not possible, it is important to be aware of your quick care options to find the place that is right for you and avoids financial surprises. If you participate in the United Healthcare medical plan, there are several options available to you at varying out-of-pocket costs.

One useful resource available at no additional cost is the 24/7 Nurse Line. The Nurse Line can be reached from the number on your health plan ID card and can help with choosing where to get medical care, finding a doctor or hospital, answering questions about medication, and offering advice on general health and wellness. Learn more about your care options and average costs at uhc.com/checkchoosego.

Winter Wellness Programs

The City of Hagerstown Employee Wellness Program has been updated for Winter 2018. The updated posters will be placed in various locations throughout the city.

Last quarter, we had a successful campaign to raise donations for the Humane Society of Washington County. This quarter, our selected organization is the Reach of Washington County Cold Weather Shelter. Their wish list is available at https://reachofwc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Winter-Shelter-Needs-List-1.pdf and each department will have a collection area for donated items. Let’s make a difference together!

Still going strong are the “Life on the Move” and Real Appeal wellness programs—contact Susan Delauter at ext. 107 for more information.

January Seminars: PNC is offering a financial planning seminar on January 18th—class information is located at H:\Shared\HumanRes\Handouts\Wellness. Lisa McCoy from the UMD Extension Office is offering a lunch-and-learn series on mindfulness. Classes are scheduled for January 17, 24, and 31 at noon. Call Tamara Owens at ext. 298 to sign up.

Employee Assistance

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is available to all benefits-eligible employees, and it provides more than just confidential counselling. Some of the other services offered by the EAP include:

- Financial planning
- Legal resources
- Child care and elder care arrangements
- Pet care arrangements
- College planning
- And more...

Access the EAP 24/7 by phone or online:
- Call: 800.272.7255
- Online: guidanceresources.com
- City of Hagerstown ID: COM589

Did you know...?  

You can rent the Fit Room at Fairgrounds Park for private events! From business meetings to birthday parties, the multipurpose space will fit many needs. Rental fees include:

- Ample parking
- Accommodates up to 144 people
- Tables and chairs provided
- Restrooms available

For just $35/hour plus a $25 administrative fee, the Fit Room may be your perfect fit.

Find out more at: http://www.hagerstownmd.org/1135/Fit-Room
Second Annual Souper Bowl

Cold weather giving you a chill? Looking for a way to warm up? Come out for the second annual Souper Bowl Contest!

Date: Thursday, February 15, 2018
Time: 11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.
Location: City Hall—Second Floor
Cost: $5 minimum donation

In our inaugural competition, Favorite Soup was awarded to Sgt. Eric Knodle’s Crocktoberfest and Favorite Name went to Let’s Give Them Something to Taco-bout Soup by Emily McFarland.

To compete, fill out an entry form and return it to Dani Frye in Administration. Each competitor will need to provide one full crock pot of soup and any desired toppings. Winners will receive prizes!

Don’t want to compete? No problem! Join us at City Hall and taste your way through the competition before casting your votes. All proceeds go toward the City’s campaign to benefit United Way of Washington County.

Please contact Dani Frye at ext. 112 with any questions.

Upcoming Events

There is always something to do in Hagerstown! Stay connected through www.hagerstownmd.org under ‘Community Calendar’, or through facebook.com/CityofHagerstown.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

* January 13th—1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.
  Hub City 100 Miler Kick-Off at Fairgrounds Park (Free)

* Beginning February 2018
  Gametime Kickball Leagues Forming (www.hagerstownmd.org/gametime)
  10 weeks of friendly competition ($35/person, $350/team up to 12 players)

* Beginning March 10th—12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m.
  Turbo Kick Class at the FIT Room at Fairgrounds Park ($17/4 weeks, $5 drop in)

Feedback or suggestions on Employee Newsletter? Feel free to call, email, or drop in to share your ideas for the next issue!  Heather Dennie, HR Department  hdennie@hagerstownmd.org  301.739.8577  x828